

THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

The Good Shepherd Cares for His Sheep

Ezekiel 34:11–16; 1 Peter 2:21–25; John 10:11–16

Our Lord Jesus is the Good Shepherd (John 10:11–16). He is not like the hireling who cares only for himself and nothing for the sheep, who flees when he sees the wolf coming. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who seeks out His scattered sheep to deliver them (Ezekiel 34:11–16). He



gathers them and feeds them in a rich pasture. He binds up the broken and He strengthens the sick. He lays down His life for wandering and wayward sheep. On the cross, Christ bore in His body the attacks of the predators of sin and death and the devil for you that you might be saved. He now lives to restore your soul in the still waters of Holy Baptism, to lead you in the paths

of righteousness by the voice of His Gospel, to prepare the table of His Holy Supper before you, that you may dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Psalm 23). **“For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls”** (1 Peter 2:25).

✠ MISERICORDIAS DOMINI ✠

INVOCATION *(make the sign of the holy cross and say)*

In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

THE APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the ✠ life everlasting.

PSALMODY *(sing or read out loud each day)*

Psalm 23

LEARN BY HEART LUTHER’S SMALL CATECHISM: The Lord’s Prayer

The Second Petition

Thy Kingdom come.

What does this mean?

The Kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

DAILY READINGS

Sunday:	Psalm 140	Numbers 25	Isaiah 61-62	2 Thessalonians 1
Monday:	Psalm 141	Numbers 26	Isaiah 63-64	2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
Tuesday:	Psalm 142	Numbers 27	Isaiah 65	2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5
Wednesday:	Psalm 143	Numbers 28-29	Isaiah 66	2 Thessalonians 3:6-18
Thursday:	Psalm 144	Numbers 30	Obadiah 1-14	1 Timothy 1
Friday:	Psalm 145	Numbers 31	Obadiah 15-21	1 Timothy 2
Saturday:	Psalm 146	Numbers 32	Joel 1	1 Timothy 3

HYMN OF THE WEEK

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

LSB 709

PRAYERS

The following suggestions are offered as an aid in developing the habit of praying for ourselves and others each week:

Sunday: For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by Word and Sacrament.

Monday: For faith to live in the promise of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.

Tuesday: For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.

Wednesday: For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to God's Word; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

Thursday: For the Church and her pastors; for deacons, teachers, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

Friday: For faithful preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

Saturday: For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors as they prepare to administer and for people as they prepare to receive Christ's holy gifts.

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

O Lord, look down from Heaven. Behold, visit, and relieve Your servants who stand in need of our prayers: **[insert the names of family members, friends, church members, government officials, those in need, etc.]** Look upon them with the eyes of Your mercy. Grant them comfort and sure confidence in You. Defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but ✠ deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.

Morning

I thank You, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your Dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

Evening

I thank You, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your Dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit ✠ be with us all.

Amen.

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT SUNDAY: *Jubilate*

Isaiah 40:25–31

Psalm 147

1 Peter 2:11–20

John 16:16–22

Hymn of the Day

With High Delight Let Us Unite

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