

Daily Devotions for the Week of May 3 - 9, 2020

Theme of the Week: *He Lives to Be My Good Shepherd*

1 Begin with the **INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2 Say the **APOSTLES' CREED**

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
I believe 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 there 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. Amen.*

3 Pray the **LORD'S PRAYER**

*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. Amen.*

4 Read the **LESSON** (see weekly lessons)

5 Say the **THIRD COMMANDMENT** and its explanation

*Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy. **What does this mean?** We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his Word, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.*

6 Pray the **PRAYER** of the **WEEK**

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

7 Pray for **OURSELVES** and **OTHERS**

Theme of the Week: *He Lives to Be My Good Shepherd*

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Jesus as the Good Shepherd is one of the most well-known and beloved descriptions of Jesus for the believer. As you listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd in this week's readings, marvel again at the Shepherd's love for his sheep.

Sunday

John 10:1-10

Jesus is the only gate for the sheep. There is no other. Christ is the only Savior. There is no other. The voice of Jesus in his Word and Sacraments calls sheep into his fold, keeps the sheep in his fold and protects them from the danger of thieves, robbers and false shepherds.

Monday

Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

See the sharp contrast between true shepherds and false shepherds. Stephen holds to Christ and his words, no matter the consequences. How true Jesus' words were about false shepherds: they come only to kill and destroy.

Tuesday

1 Peter 2:19-25

No doubt the church was rocked by the martyrdom of Stephen...Peter as well. St. Peter reminds us that not even suffering and tragedy can remove us from the care of the Good Shepherd. This Shepherd who suffered and died for us, we now follow, even if it means we suffer for doing good.

Wednesday

Psalm 23

This beloved psalm is a song of thanks in which the Christian heart praises and thanks God for protecting him in every danger through his holy Word.

Thursday

1 Samuel 17:34-37

Long before he was shepherd of the kingdom of Israel, David shepherded his father's flock. David knew what he spoke of when he extolled the comfort of the Shepherd's rod and staff. His words are fulfilled in great David's greater Son.

Friday

Hebrews 13:20-21

Only one gate leads to eternal life because only Christ provided the blood of the eternal covenant. As we sheep stand looking back at the Easter miracle, we are empowered and equipped to follow our Shepherd wherever he may lead.

Saturday

John 10:1-10

As you hear this week's Gospel again, ponder the emphasis the Good Shepherd places on hearing his voice. Those who listen to his voice follow him and receive all of the blessings this Good Shepherd died to win. Christ is risen!