



# Daily Prayer For Individuals and Families

Adopted from *The Lutheran Service Book* (p. 294)

**April 30, 2023 A.D.**

**Good Shepherd Sunday**

*This brief service is intended as a simple form of daily prayer for individuals and families. When more than one person is present, the psalm and responses may be spoken responsively, with one person reading the words in regular type and the others responding with the words in bold type. The Creed and Prayers that are in bold type are to be said by all.*

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

## Invocation

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

**Amen.**

## Psalm

(Psalm 23) KJV

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

He restoreth my soul:

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

**thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

**and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

*For those with access to the internet, you may now play today's worship video, located on Bethany's website ([www.bethanycr.org](http://www.bethanycr.org)) under the Worship Resources tab and then continue with the Apostles' Creed. Everyone else may continue the service as printed....*

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## Scripture Lesson

(John 10:1-10)

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup>This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the door.

If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

**Sermon** – † *Sheep* † (*A copy is included at the end of this service.*)

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### **Athanasian Creed**

- P** Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith.
- C** **Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally.**
- P** And the catholic faith is this,
- C** **that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance.**
- P** For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another.
- C** **But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.**
- P** Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit:
- C** **the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated;**
- P** the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite;
- C** **the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.**
- P** And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal,
- C** **just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinities, but one Uncreated and one Infinite.**
- P** In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty;
- C** **and yet there are not three Almighty's, but one Almighty.**
- P** So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God;
- C** **and yet there are not three Gods, but one God.**
- P** So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord;
- C** **and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord.**
- P** Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so also are we prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords.
- C** **The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone.**
- P** The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone.
- C** **The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding.**
- P** Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.
- C** **And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another;**
- P** but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be worshiped.
- C** **Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.**

- P** But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** **Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.**
- P** He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age:
- C** **perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh;**
- P** equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.
- C** **Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ:**
- P** one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God;
- C** **one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.**
- P** For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ,
- C** **who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead,**
- P** ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
- C** **At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds.**
- P** And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.
- C** **This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.**

### 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.**

### Bethany's Prayer List

#### **Thanksgiving**

- Confirmation student examination
- Bonnie Breiholz - recovered after surgery
- Kim Neuhaus - recovering at home after surgery

### **Entrusting into God's Care**

- Ellen (relative of Karl Hoech) - hospice care
- Persecuted Christians and refugees
- Those suffering after storms and during the pandemic
- Peace in Europe and throughout the world
- Project 24 students, Yvonne and Lorine

### **Healing**

- Margaret (relative of Karl Hoech) - recovering after fall
- Karen Schmidt - upcoming surgery 5/1
- Colton Keldgord - upcoming surgery 5/5
- Dave Johnson - recovering after surgery
- Stephen Stepanek - brain cancer treatment
- Mickie Sjullie - recovering after broken ankle
- Janelle Dunbar - recovering after surgery
- Doug Knutson - immunotherapy treatment
- Bonnie Bubke - personal issues
- Chuck Stoelting - recovering at Garnet Place
- Rick Foreman - recovering at home after fall
- Deb Heitland - health issues
- Ethel Doehrmann - cancer treatment
- Abi Clark - health issues

### **Homebound**

- Darlene Eckert - at home

### **Mourning, friends and family of**

- Aiden (cousin of Kierra Penney) - died 4/16
- Michele (sister of Melissa Loney) - died 4/10
- Don (father of Angie Pfeil) - died 4/8

### **Serving Our Country**

- Ben (son of Kroemers) - serving IA National Guard
- Devin (friend of Kroemers) - serving IA Army National Guard
- Mitchell & Benjamin (relatives of Schoens & Smiths) - US Navy
- Harrison (son of Siecks) - US Army, deployed to Poland

### **Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.....

**Amen.**

## Concluding Prayers

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scripture to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Together we pray... **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. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



✠ *Sheep* ✠

Grace, Mercy, and Peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ – the Good Shepherd. Amen.

In our Gospel lesson Jesus is once again talking about sheep. The beginning of the tenth chapter of John is filled with references to sheep. But it is not only in John's Gospel that we find Jesus talking about these woolly creatures. We have the lost sheep of Israel in Mathew. Jesus sees a large crowd and has compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd in Mark 6. Luke 15 tells us that Jesus says we should leave 99 sheep to go look for the lost one. And it's not just Jesus in the Gospels talking about sheep, we find them in Acts, Romans, Hebrews, I Peter, and Revelation, just to mention the New Testament. So, what's the deal with all this talk of sheep?

Well, in our Gospel lesson, as in many other places in God's Word, sheep are used to describe the situation in which we find ourselves in this life. And while our first reaction might be one of flattery, as most think of sheep to be rather cute and cuddly, to be honest we really shouldn't be all that flattered. Sheep after all are not the brightest of creatures – easily getting themselves into all sorts of trouble. They are always getting lost as they wander about looking for food. With their thick wool they easily become entangled in bushes. Sometimes they even drown themselves if they are not careful when they get a drink water.

In addition to getting themselves into trouble, sheep are rather helpless creatures when they do. There have no sharp teeth or claws to fend off predators and they are unable to outrun even the slowest of hunters. Is it any wonder then, that whenever we hear of sheep, there usually is a shepherd somewhere nearby? After all sheep need someone to keep them from getting into trouble. They must have someone to protect them when their enemies come around.

If this is how sheep really are, I'm sure that many of us would not really want to be sheep. Most of us enjoy the fact that we can take care of ourselves, and when we can't it can be devastating. Just think about how hard it is for people to give up their driver's license when it is no longer safe for them to operate a motor vehicle. Not only do they lose much of their freedom, but they also will now have to rely on other people to help them. Other people to take them to the doctor, grocery store, or even for a hair cut.

Many times as someone becomes sick or older we often hear them say, "I don't want to be a burden to anyone". They don't want others to have to feed them, take care of them, or protect them. What they are really saying is, "I don't want to be a sheep".

The only problem with thinking this way, is that we miss so much if we don't remind ourselves that, while we may relish our independence and bask in the glory of our accomplishments, the reality is that in God's Kingdom we are sheep. We all have a tendency to get into trouble and when we do, there is nothing we can do to help.

God knew that we were like sheep, and so He gave us some guidelines to follow to keep us safe. These guidelines are known as the Law, summarized nicely for us in the Ten Commandments. Just think for a moment, how different the world would be if, not only those around us, but also if we ourselves obeyed God's Law. Doesn't life seem to go just a little bit easier for us when we don't steal, covet, commit adultery, or murder. God tells us not to do these things not to burden us, but to protect us, so that we may enjoy the lives He's given to us. But more often than not, we don't listen. We break the Commandments, we break God's Law. We often think that by distancing ourselves from what God wants we become free – little gods ourselves, when the fact of the matter is, is that we break the commandments, we become slaves to sin.

Perhaps it is similar to eating salty potato chips. We might use our freedom to buy a bag of potato chips, despite knowing that they are not very healthy for us. And as we open the bag, we may even tell ourselves that we'll just have one or two – which then quickly becomes one or two handfuls or bowlfuls. How many times have we said, once I started eating potato chips or some other snack, I just couldn't stop! And in a small way we find there is no more freedom and no more pleasure in eating our snack, and it becomes terribly hard to stop.

Sin works the same way. But unlike overindulging in our favorite snacks, there is absolutely nothing we can do to rid ourselves of this terrible condition. Knowing our sin, knowing that we do indeed break God's law, we know that we are sheep. And as sheep, the only place to find comfort, to find peace is with the Shepherd. And so we turn to God's Word that shows us Christ, our shepherd, and we listen to His voice.

There is a well known story that has probably happened a million times if it has ever happened once. A man was traveling through a time and place where shepherds were bringing their sheep to a well to be watered. There were numerous shepherds and of course, numerous flocks, so with no pens or fences around all of the sheep quickly became all mixed up as they gathered around the well. However, when the man stopped to see how long it would take the shepherds to sort out this woolly mess, an interesting thing happened. All the shepherds had to do was to call their sheep. And when the sheep heard their shepherd's voice they followed him and no one else.

In our Gospel lesson we hear Jesus' voice telling the Pharisees, the religious leaders of that time, that He is the gate through whom all people must pass to enter into the safety of the sheep pen. It is only those who come through this gate, that is, put their faith and trust in Jesus, that will be saved. It is not our own work, our own strength, our own independence or freedom to do what we want that we look to, but to Christ on the Cross, dying as a sacrifice for every sheep in the

world. Our Shepherd laid down His life for us. We cannot be the gate for ourselves or for anyone else for that matter. But Christ alone is the one true gate. And the sheep who pass through this Gate will be forgiven their sins. Instead of death, these sheep are given life. Instead of being bound, they will have freedom. With Christ as our shepherd we don't have to fear our sin. We don't have to fear our weaknesses. The weakness of our bodies, or our lives as husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, or children. We don't need to fear the our shortcomings as neighbors, as workers, employers, or as students; Our gracious Father in Heaven knows our weakness, and sent His Son to the cross for the single purpose that our weaknesses, our shortcomings, our sin, may be gone. As the prophet Micah says, *"He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea."*

As sheep in God's flock, listen to the voice of our Good Shepherd. You can hear it calling each one of you by name as we read God's Word in the Bible and come to the Baptismal Font and our Lord's Table. Apart from Christ, our Shepherd, there is only death and slavery to sin. But with Jesus as our Good Shepherd we not only have life, we have it abundantly. We can enjoy all that God has given to us here in creation. And we can look forward to life with Him and all of His sheep into eternity. Amen.

And now may the peace of God that surpasses all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Amen

