

As We Gather

The closing prayer of the funeral service begins with these words: “Lord God, our shepherd, You gather the lambs of Your flock into the arms of Your mercy and bring them home.” Describing Jesus as a Shepherd is a special image used in prayers, hymns, and Christian artwork. The believer receives a sense of assurance in knowing that the One being followed throughout life is Jesus, the Good Shepherd. The fact that our Lord chooses to repeat the words “I am the Good Shepherd” more than once indicates its importance to Him and to us. As we follow Jesus, we can be confident that He will lead us into that place where goodness and righteousness are eternal.

666 O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe



1 O lit - tle flock, fear not the foe Who mad - ly
 2 Be of good cheer; your cause be - longs To Him who
 3 As true as God's own Word is true, Not earth nor
 4 A - men, Lord Je - sus, grant our prayer; Great Cap - tain,



seeks your o - ver - throw; Dread not his rage and pow'r.
 can a - venge your wrongs; Leave it to Him, our Lord.
 hell's sa - tan - ic crew A - gainst us shall pre - vail.
 now Thine arm make bare, Fight for us once a - gain!



And though your cour - age some - times faints, His seem - ing
 Though hid - den yet from mor - tal eyes, His Gid - eon
 Their might? A joke, a mere fa - cade! God is with
 So shall Thy saints and mar - tyrs raise A might - y



tri - umph o'er God's saints Lasts but a lit - tle hour.
 shall for you a - rise, Up - hold you and His Word.
 us and we with God— Our vic - t'ry can - not fail.
 cho - rus to Thy praise For - ev - er - more. A - men.

Tune and text: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

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

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Exhortation

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

- P** Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Confession of Sins

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- C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Prayer for Forgiveness

- P** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 95:1–3, 6–7a; antiphon: John 10:14, 15b

- P** I am the good shepherd.
I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.
- C** Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- P** Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
- C** For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
- P** Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
- C** For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- P** I am the good shepherd.
I know my own and my own know me, and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Kyrie

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- C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis

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C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

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.

C Amen.

First Reading

Acts 2:42–47

P The Old Testament Reading is from Acts, chapter 2.

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Peter 2:19–25

P The Epistle is from 1 Peter, chapter 2.

¹⁹This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered,

he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

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C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

John 10:1–10

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹[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. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

C **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 sits 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. Amen.**

709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul He lead - eth And, where the ver - dant
love He sought me And on His shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, Thy rod and staff my



I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid And home re - joic - ing brought me.
com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever!

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

P Bidden by our Shepherd, let us come before His throne of grace in prayer on behalf of all people according to their needs. *Brief silence*

Blessed Shepherd, You established Your Church with Your sacrificial death and mighty resurrection. Grant us devotion, that we may abide in the teaching of the apostles and honor the fellowship of the Church. Guard us against all enemies of Your Word, and keep us within the care of Your flock and staff forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Mighty Shepherd, You hold in Your hands all the might of man, and You hold accountable those who would govern Your people. Grant to us good government and good leaders who will honor Your purpose, protect Your people, serve the cause of justice and defend our liberty against all threats. Give them wisdom and moderation in their pandemic response. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Loving Shepherd, You loved the world enough to shed Your blood, and You desire that all would be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Inspire and equip Your Church and her ministers to speak faithfully and boldly Your Word, and bless all those who serve us on Your behalf. Bless us especially when we are persecuted for the faith or suffer for the sake of the good that honors You and is obedient to Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** Holy Shepherd, You have clothed us with Christ's righteousness and taught us to love all that is good, right and true. Bless all artists and artisans, composers and musicians, and craftsmen and writers, that they may employ all their skills for Your glory and in service to the Gospel and that the arts may testify to Your saving death and resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Merciful Shepherd, Your wounds are our healing and Your voice calls us to You in time of need. Hear us on behalf of all those who suffer in body or mind, who grieve those whom they love, and to whom death draws near. We pray especially for those we name in our hearts. Grant them healing according to Your will, grace to sustain them in the day of trouble, and hope of the new and everlasting life to come. Be with the unemployed and the distraught, and return them to health and livelihood. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Gracious Shepherd, You seek out those who have fallen and restore the sinner to repentance. Send forth Your Spirit to rekindle faith in the hearts of those who have fallen away from the truth or who have been overcome by temptation and sin. Bring good from ill and increase in all the hunger for Your Word and a recognition of our need, that many may be gathered into Your flock when church doors are opened wide again. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Giving Shepherd, You have not withheld anything from us but emptied Yourself fully upon the cross that we might be saved. Move our hearts to such devotion and teach us such generosity, that we may bring to You the tithes and offerings of a grateful heart and serve our neighbor in need with the resources You have supplied to us so abundantly. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Good Shepherd, You set Your table among us in the presence of our enemies. Hear us because we are beset by so many false voices and tempted by so many false gospels. Help us to hear Your voice and to abide safely in Your Word that remains forever. Equip us with Your Spirit so that we may receive Your body and blood with faith and a repentant heart. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O great Good Shepherd, we pray You to hear Your sheep and answer our prayers with mercy, granting us those things profitable for us and our salvation and keeping from us all things harmful; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- C** **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.**

Collect for the Word

- P** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures 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.
- C** Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

597 Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying



1 Wa - ter, blood, and Spir - it cry - ing, By their wit - ness
2 In a wa - t'ry grave are bur - ied All our sins that
3 Dark the way, yet Christ pre - cedes us, Past the scowl of
4 Though a - round us death is seeth - ing, God, His two - edged
5 Spir - it, wa - ter, blood en - treat - ing, Work - ing faith and



tes - ti - fy - ing To the One whose death - de - fy - ing
Je - sus car - ried; Christ, the Ark of Life, has fer - ried
death He leads us; Spreads a ta - ble where He feeds us
sword un - sheath - ing, By His Spir - it life is breath - ing
its com - plet - ing In the One whose death - de - feat - ing



Life has come, with life for all.
Us a - cross death's rag - ing flood.
With His bod - y and His blood.
Through the liv - ing, ac - tive Word.
Life has come, with life for all.

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