

HOW TO USE THIS PLANNER

Have you ever sat in church and watched your son's eyes light up when he recognized the Gospel reading? Or noticed that your daughter sang a little louder when the Sermon Hymn was one that she knew? Then you know exactly why this planner was created!

Each week of this planner is focused on preparing your family for the upcoming Sunday. By taking time to understand and discuss the lectionary readings in advance, your family will get more out of the worship service when Sunday arrives.

Here are a few of the other features of this book:

Memory Verse

Each week on Monday, you will have a memory verse taken from the Gospel lesson. Every month (except during Advent) your family will learn a verse from the hymn of the year, "If God Himself Be for Me."

What to Look for in Church This Sunday

This weekly feature, found in the side column each Friday, gives children a chance to learn more about the things they see in the sanctuary. It might be the color of the paraments, the importance of a certain symbol on a stained glass window, or the difference between the lectern and the pulpit.

Saint and Sinner

There is much to be learned from Christians who came before us! This feature spotlights men and women of faith whose lives can inspire us.

"Think about It" and "Fun Together"

Jump start conversations and create memories with these scripture-centered questions and activities.

Journaling Space

Throughout the book we have included plenty of space to record your own family's discussions, insights, and prayer requests.





Preparation for
Third Sunday of Easter
Misericordias Domini- Good Shepherd
St. Mark, Evangelist

MEMORY VERSE

"I am the good shepherd.
I know my own and my own know
me, just as the Father knows me
and I know the Father;
and I lay down my life
for the sheep."
John 10:14-15

"If God Himself Be for Me"
LSB 724, review verses 1-4

PRAISE HIM IN SONG

"By All Your Saints in Warfare"
LSB 518, verses 1, 15, and 3

OTHER RESOURCES FOR TODAY

Celebrating the Saints
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SAINT AND SINNER:
Saint Mark

Today the church celebrates Saint Mark, who is sometimes referred to as John Mark. Mark's Gospel is the shortest of the four gospels. It is quick-paced and makes frequent use of the word "immediately." Like Saint John, who is historically depicted with an eagle, Saint Mark is historically associated with an animal. Saint Mark is associated with the lion.

Discuss why you think St. Mark is the lion and St. John is the eagle. (Keep in mind the pacing and the content of their Gospels.)

fun together

† Download and color Saint Mark's coloring page or draw your own lion.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

GOSPEL READING

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the

FOR THIS
SUNDAY

This coming Sunday is the third Sunday of Easter. It is known as Misericordias Domini Sunday. Misericordias Domini is translated as the "mercy of the Lord," from the Latin translation of Psalm 33:5b. Sunday is also celebrated as Good Shepherd Sunday. It's a favorite of many families because the readings and hymns are words of trust and comfort.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Preparation for
Third Sunday of Easter
Misericordias Domini- Good Shepherd

"The King of Love
My Shepherd Is"
LSB 709

Jesus, My Good Shepherd

WEDNESDAY
April
27

Preparation for
Third Sunday of Easter
Misericordias Domini- Good Shepherd

OLD TESTAMENT READING

FOR THIS
SUNDAY

Ezekiel 34:11-16

The Lord God Will Seek Them Out

"For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. 12 As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by

the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. 14 I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

think about it _____

Sheep are stupid. There are hundreds of Youtube videos depicting how stupid sheep can be. Last year, a newly rescued sheep proceeded to joyfully leap right back into the same ditch in a viral video. Throughout this lectionary journey, you've read about Israel's lack of trust in God and their attempts to forge a different path without God. This cycle begins in the first chapters of Genesis, where Eve ignores God and trusts herself. It continues today as our faith wavers, panic ensues, and we do something stupid (i.e. sin). How comforting to have a Shepherd who protects us, not just from vicious predators, but from ourselves.

PRAISE HIM IN SONG

"Shepherd of Tender Youth"
LSB 864

[illegible]

Preparation for
Third Sunday of Easter
Misericordias Domini- Good Shepherd

"Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"
LSB 711

FRIDAY
April
29

Preparation for
Third Sunday of Easter
Misericordias Domini- Good Shepherd



What to look for in church this Sunday

How many sheep and shepherd references can you find in your church? Do you see staffs or a picture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd? Look at the stained glass, the artwork on your bulletin, the decorations on the altar, and your pastor's stole or chasuble. You might even be attending a church called Good Shepherd.

PRAISE HIM IN SONG

"How Sweet the Name
of Jesus Sounds"
LSB 524

ARCH BOOKS

Twelve Who Followed Jesus

EPISTLE READING FOR THIS SUNDAY

1 Peter 2:21-25

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When 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. 24 He 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. 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

think about it _____

This Good Shepherd Sunday, we also celebrate two of God's under-shepherds. Pastor comes from the Latin word for shepherd. On Sunday, May 1, the church remembers and honors Saint Philip and Saint James the less. Philip was one of the first disciples and missionaries. His witness brought Nathaniel to Jesus. James is known as James the Less probably because he was either younger or shorter than James the Great, the brother of John. These two under-shepherds preached the Gospel and were believed to be martyred for their faith in Phrygia (Philip) and Egypt (James).

fun together _____

†Download and color Philip's and James's shields

Philip's shield is a simple gold cross because tradition states that he was crucified for his faith. On either side of the cross is a silver loaf of bread because of his statement, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite" at the feeding of the five thousand in John 6:7.

James's shield is a saw with a golden handle and silver blade. Tradition holds that James was thrown from the temple, stoned, and then sawn in half for his faith. Both shield backgrounds are traditionally red.

SERMON NOTES

WEEKEND
April/May
30&01

Third Sunday of Easter
Misericordias Domini- Good Shepherd
St. Philip and St. James, Apostles



OTHER RESOURCES
FOR TODAY

Celebrating the Saints
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