



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

*Daily Devotion at Zion + June 21, 2020 AD + **Pentecost Season***

Welcome to “The Shepherd’s Voice”

“They too will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd” (John 10:14, 16). So says our Lord Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd and King of creation. He promises that we, His sheep, will hear His voice, the same voice that corrects, comforts, and leads us to eternal life.

How shall we listen to that voice each day?

He has shown us how. God promises to speak to us through His Word (Romans 10:17). We hear that Word at worship in proclamation and the sacraments, as He says: “He who hears you, hears me” (Luke 10:16). We also hear it day by day in our personal lives and households through Christian *devotion*.

Devotion is daily immersion in the Word of God and prayer. By turning our heart, body, and mind to holy conversation with God, daily devotion sets us in the Shepherd’s flock. Securely in His keeping, we may face the world with courage and peace.

Each week, this “Shepherd’s Voice” pamphlet will provide you with devotional resources for that life of faith. The Church has experienced 3000+ years of conversing with God! As we draw more and more from that heritage, we will find ourselves joined by countless believers across the ages in following our good and faithful Shepherd to green pastures.

About the Cover Art

The image on the front cover is an anonymous painting of the conversion of St. Paul (feast day, June 29). Originally a lay member of the Jewish faith who longed for strict observance of the law, Paul was born “Saul,” named after the first king of Israel, and he persecuted Christians. But then he met the risen Lord Jesus face-to-face, leading him to adopt the name “Paul” (“little one”) and begin preaching the Gospel. Here, he touches his eyes, reminding us that seeing Jesus momentarily blinded him, only to prepare him to “see things for real” by faith.

First Things First: What is Daily Devotion?

Daily devotion is simple: it's the use of God's Word in the home or personal life. God calls every Christian to live each day in the fellowship of His Word and prayer—it is part of our vocation as “a royal priesthood” (1 Peter 2:9)—and devotion is our faithful response to that call.

It begins with God: “Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise” (Lutheran Worship, Introduction, 1982).

This rhythm, beginning with God and His gifts, leads us to the daily use of Holy Scripture. Below, you will find daily readings for this week. On the back page is a brief overview of good resources for using the Bible. In the coming weeks, we'll unpack other elements of daily devotion and how you may treasure them.

Daily Readings for the Week of June 28 (Pentecost 4)

S Ecclesiastes 6:1-12
Acts 10:9-23
Luke 12:32-40

M Ecclesiastes 7:1-14
Galatians 4:12-20
Matthew 15:21-28

T Ecclesiastes 8:14-9:10
Galatians 4:21-31
Matthew 15:29-39

W Ecclesiastes 9:11-18
Galatians 5:1-15
Matthew 16:1-12

Th Ecclesiastes 11:1-8
Galatians 5:16-24
Matthew 16:13-20

F Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:14
Galatians 5:25-6:10
Matthew 16:21-28

Sa Numbers 3:1-13
Galatians 6:11-18
Matthew 17:1-13

For those using the For All the Saints books, these readings correspond to pages 126-155 in Volume IV. To learn more about For All the Saints and other devotionals, please see the back page.

Devotional Helps for Reading and Hearing Scripture

The Church, true to form, is like a child: it speaks as it hears, and it hears as its Father speaks.

Immersion in Holy Scripture gives us the language of our Father and equips to speak to Him, to each other, and to our neighbors with words that are true, beautiful, and good.

The daily readings in Scripture listed on page 3 of this pamphlet come from our green hymnal, the Lutheran Book of Worship. They almost always include readings from both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Over the course of two years, they cover much of the Bible.

- There is a four-volume set of devotional books that contain all of these readings, organized for the appropriate day, called For All the Saints. In addition to these three readings, the volumes also include a fourth reading that reflect on the other three, drawn from Church history, as well as the psalms and other prayer helps. Zion has funds to help you purchase this set; please contact Pr. Gjerde if you are interested.
- Zion's online morning devotion (Facebook, 8:30 AM, and subsequently posted on our website) usually employs one of the readings for the day, with a reflection by the pastors.
- Other devotional helps, not based on these readings but commonly used within the Lutheran church, include:
 - The pamphlet, "Portals of Prayer," located for free at the church office (just ask the church office to have a copy sent to you), or
 - the Treasury of Daily Prayer, published by Concordia Publishing House.

Grant us, O Lord, so to read and hear Your holy Word that we may also believe and cherish it; for truly Your Word is eternal life, and for this life we give You all thanks and praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen