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# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

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*Daily Devotion at Zion + May 2023 AD + Season of Easter*

### **Rogation: Ask!**

*They gathered around Him and asked Him, "Lord, are You at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6)*

The disciples had lots of questions for our Lord Jesus Christ after He rose from the dead. He tends to have a rather large amount of patience for questions, and even encourages it. "Ask, and it will be given to you" (Matthew 7:7). "I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that My Father may be glorified" (John 14:3). Our Lord loves it when we ask.

So we ask, and ask, and ask. Every worship service, we pray to God, asking His blessing, and we learn to pray as individuals and households, too: morning, evening, and every meal. We have even inherited certain days and seasons of intensified asking within the Church's life. One such season is called *Rogationtide*.

*Rogate* is Latin for *ask*. Lutherans have long observed Rogation Days (we call them "Mercy Days") on the three days prior to the Ascension (May 18 this year). Why? It's a way of celebrating the promise of the Ascension: because Jesus carried our crucified and risen flesh into the presence of His Father, we now have an advocate praying for us at God's right hand. Therefore, we are bold to pray, trusting Him to unite our prayers with His own.

So on those three days (this year, May 15-17), the Church gathers to ask, and ask, and ask: on behalf of the Church, the neighborhood, and the whole world. Zion will hold those services at 12:15 PM each of those days. Come and join your hearts and voices as one with Christ's own!

### **About the Cover Art**

This photograph portrays the Rogation Days procession of a Protestant church in Kent, England, in 1967. Rogationtide (or "Mercy Days") often have included outdoor processions in which the local congregation and its minister call on God to rid the neighborhood of evil and bless the land with a fruitful seedtime and harvest. It's a meaningful way to confess that the Church, like Christ, prays for the whole world, and that faith isn't locked inside a church. The God to whom we pray cares for the whole world.

### Daily Readings for the Week of Easter 4 (April 30)

*Note: Those using For All the Saints have readings from an inter-testamental book, Wisdom, rather than Jeremiah.*

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| <b>S</b> Genesis 18:22-33<br>1 Peter 5:1-11<br>Matthew 7:15-29    | <b>Th</b> Jeremiah 31:1-14<br>Colossians 2:8-23<br>Luke 6:39-49                               |
| <b>M</b> Jeremiah 30:1-9<br>Colossians 1:1-14<br>Luke 6:1-11      | <b>F</b> Jeremiah 31:15-22<br>Colossians 3:1-11<br>Luke 7:1-17                                |
| <b>T</b> Jeremiah 30:10-17<br>Colossians 1:15-23<br>Luke 6:12-26  | <b>Sa</b> Jeremiah 31:23-25<br>Colossians 3:12-17<br>Luke 7:18-35                             |
| <b>W</b> Jeremiah 30:18-22<br>Colossians 1:24—2:7<br>Luke 6:27-38 | <i>These readings correspond to pages 1074—1106 in Volume I of <u>For All the Saints</u>.</i> |

### Daily Readings for the Week of Easter 5 (May 7)

*Note: Those using For All the Saints have readings from an inter-testamental book, Wisdom, rather than Jeremiah/Deuteronomy.*

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| <b>S</b> Isaiah 32:1-8<br>2 Thessalonians 2:13-17<br>Matthew 7:7-14 | <b>Th</b> Jeremiah 33:1-13<br>Romans 14:1-12<br>Luke 8:26-39                                  |
| <b>M</b> Jeremiah 32:1-15<br>Colossians 3:18—4:18<br>Luke 7:36-50   | <b>F</b> Deuteronomy 31:30—<br>32:14<br>Romans 14:13-23<br>Luke 8:40-56                       |
| <b>T</b> Jeremiah 32:16-25<br>Romans 12:1-21<br>Luke 8:1-15         | <b>Sa</b> Deuteronomy 32:34-41<br>Romans 15:1-13<br>Luke 9:1-17                               |
| <b>W</b> Jeremiah 32:36-44<br>Romans 13:1-14<br>Luke 8:16-25        | <i>These readings correspond to pages 1106—1139 in Volume I of <u>For All the Saints</u>.</i> |

### Daily Readings for the Week of Easter 6 (May 14)

<b>S</b> Deuteronomy 15:1-11 1 Timothy 3:14—4:5 Matthew 13:24-34a	<b>Th</b> Ezekiel 1:1-14, 24-28b Hebrews 2:5-18 Matthew 28:16-20
<b>M</b> Deuteronomy 8:1-10 James 1:1-15 Luke 9:18-27	<b>F</b> Ezekiel 1:28—3:3 Hebrews 4:14—5:6 Luke 9:28-36
<b>T</b> Deuteronomy 8:11-20 James 1:16-27 Luke 11:1-13	<b>Sa</b> Ezekiel 3:4-17 Hebrews 5:7-14 Luke 9:37-50
<b>W</b> Deuteronomy 19:1-7 James 5:13-18 Luke 12:22-31	<i>These readings correspond to pages 1139—1167 in Volume I of <u>For All the Saints</u>.</i>

### Daily Readings for the Week of Easter 7 (May 21)

<b>S</b> Ezekiel 3:16-27 Ephesians 2:1-10 Matthew 10:24-33, 40-42	<b>Th</b> Ezekiel 18:1-4, 19-32 Hebrews 7:18-28 Luke 10:25-37
<b>M</b> Ezekiel 4:1-17 Hebrews 6:1-12 Luke 9:51-62	<b>F</b> Ezekiel 34:17-31 Hebrews 8:1-13 Luke 10:38-42
<b>T</b> Ezekiel 7:10-15, 23b-27 Hebrews 6:13-20 Luke 10:1-17	<b>Sa</b> Ezekiel 43:1-12 Hebrews 9:1-14 Luke 11:14-23
<b>W</b> Ezekiel 11:14-25 Hebrews 7:1-17 Luke 10:17-24	<i>These readings correspond to pages 1167—1199 in Volume I of <u>For All the Saints</u>.</i>