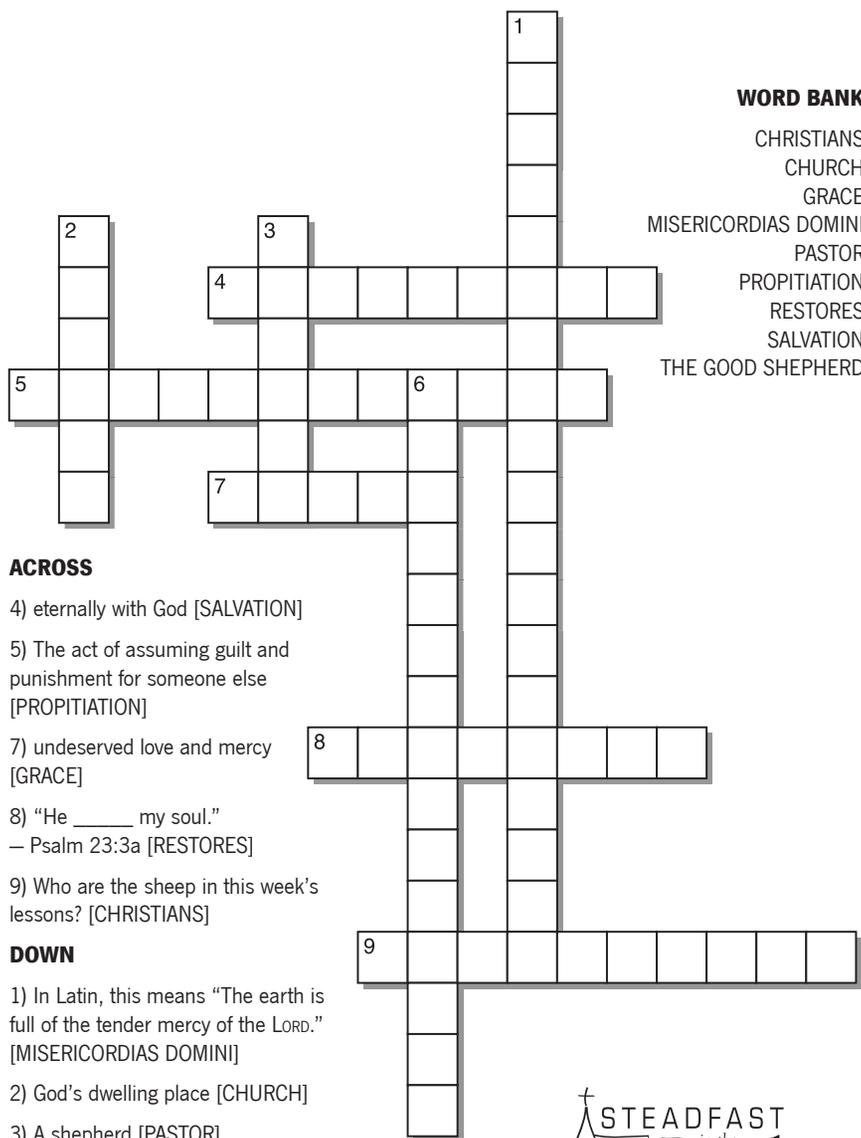


Lambs at Pasture™



Misericordias Domini – The Third Sunday of Easter

2017



WORD BANK

- CHRISTIANS
- CHURCH
- GRACE
- MISERICORDIAS DOMINI
- PASTOR
- PROPITIATION
- RESTORES
- SALVATION
- THE GOOD SHEPHERD

ACROSS

- 4) eternally with God [SALVATION]
- 5) The act of assuming guilt and punishment for someone else [PROPITIATION]
- 7) undeserved love and mercy [GRACE]
- 8) “He _____ my soul.”
— Psalm 23:3a [RESTORES]
- 9) Who are the sheep in this week’s lessons? [CHRISTIANS]

DOWN

- 1) In Latin, this means “The earth is full of the tender mercy of the LORD.” [MISERICORDIAS DOMINI]
- 2) God’s dwelling place [CHURCH]
- 3) A shepherd [PASTOR]
- 6) Another name for the Lord [THE GOOD SHEPHERD]



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INTROIT

Psalm 33:1, 18–20; antiphon: Psalm 33:5b, 6a

The earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD. Alleluia.

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made. Alleluia.

Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous!

Praise befits the upright.

Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,

on those who hope in his steadfast love,

that he may deliver their soul from death

and keep them alive in famine.

Our soul waits for the LORD;

he is our help and our shield.

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.

The earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD. Alleluia.

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made. Alleluia.

DAILY READINGS & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

An answer key is available for download at www.stluth.org/lap

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 24:35b, John 10:14

Alleluia. [The Lord] was known to them in the breaking of bread. Alleluia. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. Alleluia.

HYMN OF THE WEEK: LSB #709 – The King of Love My Shepherd Is

CATECHISM CONNECTION: First Article of the Creed with Explanation

COLLECT OF THE WEEK

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

DID YOU KNOW?

Misericordias Domini comes from the Latin translation of the first line of the introit (*Misericordia Domini plena est terra*), meaning “The earth is full of the tender mercy of the LORD.”

The word “pastor” comes from the Latin noun *pastor* which means “shepherd” and the verb *pascere* which means “to lead to pasture, set to grazing, cause to eat.”

Pastors are under-shepherds of Christ, they are instructed to feed (administer the Holy Sacraments) and preach the Gospel to their sheep (congregation) according to Christ’s example.

MONDAY — THE PSALM

Read Psalm 23

Describe how the LORD is like a shepherd. (verses 1–3)

The LORD tends to His flock, like a shepherd cares for his sheep. He provides for all our physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. It is through His mercy and goodness that my sins are forgiven. The LORD guides and nourishes me, restoring my soul by giving me eternal life and salvation.

Why should we fear no evil? (verse 4)

Like a shepherd, God will not lead us to places He will not go. He protects us with His rod and staff, using all evil for our good.

What is the “table” in verse 5 referring to?

Christ’s body and blood given and shed for us in the Lord’s Supper

Where is the LORD’s dwelling place?

The church is God’s dwelling place. It is where the gospel is publicly preached, the holy Sacraments are given, and where His saints gather for worship.

TUESDAY — THE OLD TESTAMENT

Read Ezekiel 34:11–16

Who is the good shepherd? And, what does he do?

Christ. It is through His blood we were purchased and redeemed, and by whose Holy Word we are nourished and sustained continually.

The Lord provides everything we need (daily bread) for our good. He is always on guard (protects us from evil) and will not sleep (God is continually taking care of us and does not rest).

Who are the sheep?

Christians, believers in Christ.

WEDNESDAY — THE GOSPEL

Read John 10:11–16

What does the Good Shepherd do?

Christ, the Good Shepherd, cares for His sheep. He leads them to good pasture and provides for all their needs. He protects them and will give His life for His sheep.

What does a hired hand do?

A hired hand tends to the sheep, but does not care for them in the same manner as a good shepherd does. He will not protect them from danger, but instead will flee for his own safety.

What distinguishes a good shepherd from a hired hand?

“A good shepherd lives according to God’s Word, and demonstrates his doctrine with good examples of his life, enters into marriage, receives the food provided by God and gives Him thanks, guards himself from offense, and does what is right. A wicked shepherd and hired hand, however, teaches the opposite of God’s Word, lives in manifest sin, make many rules and keeps few, ties all his works to specific times, places, persons, vestments, foods, and with false doctrine and ungodliness makes all men stumble.” (Spangenberg, *The Christian Year of Grace*, page 182–183)

Review *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation*, question 169 (pages 157–158)

THURSDAY — THE EPISTLE

Read 1 Peter 2:21–25

Why did Jesus die on the cross?

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. (verse 24)

It is through God’s grace (undeserved love and mercy) He sent His begotten Son to justify (save) us. Through Jesus’ death on the cross, we are now seen as holy (without sin). It is our faith in God’s promise, not works (things that we do), that gives us salvation (eternally with God).

Review *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation*, question 135 (page 135) and question 296 (pages 237–239)

CATECHISM CONNECTION

What is the connection of the First Article of the Creed with Explanation and Misericordias Domini?

God provides us everything we need. He freely gives us our daily bread (everything we need: food, drink, clothing, house, home, etc.), His Word, and His gifts (Baptism, Confession, and Sacrament of the Altar). He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me.