

LITANY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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Good Shepherd Sunday is the Second Sunday after Easter, and therefore the third Sunday in Eastertide. It is so called owing to its theme as elaborated both at the Epistle and the Gospel of this day. Epistle: “you were as sheep going astray, but you are now converted to the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls” (I Peter 2. 25). Gospel: “I am the Good Shepherd: and I know my sheep, and they know Me” (St. John 10. 14). The Second Alleluia and the Communion Versicle of the Mass also reflect this same theme, and so does the Antiphon at the Magnificat for Vespers of this day. Some churches display a statue of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. This has, for centuries, been an accepted practice but statues of the Sacred Heart have been much more popular in recent times. However, today, there has been a revival of the image of the Good Shepherd, and some churches take the title of the Good Shepherd.

God, the Father of the Lamb, *have mercy on us.*

God the Son, sacrificial Lamb, *have mercy on us.*

God the Holy Ghost, Life of the Lamb, *have mercy on us.*

O good Jesus, Shepherd of the just, *hear us.*

Vigilant Finder of lost sheep, *guide us.*
Fervent Hope of the fallen lamb, *guide us.*
Constant Gatherer of a broken flock, *guide us.*

O good Shepherd, *hear Thy sheep.*

Purest Shelter of the yearning heart, *feed us.*
Perpetual Feast of the hungry soul, *feed us.*
Lasting Bread of everlasting life, *feed us.*

O good Shepherd, *hear Thy sheep.*

Patient Tamer of rebellious wills, *shear us.*
Loyal Teacher of all kind commands, *shear us.*
Tender Purger of all blemish of sin, *shear us.*

O good Shepherd, *hear Thy sheep.*

From the lures of false shepherds, hiding in Thy guise,
protect us.
From the mirages of richer fields, distracting our minds,
protect us.
From diseases of the soul, separating us from Thy flock,
protect us.

Let us pray.

O good Shepherd, at once the Guard and the Lamb, Who knows well the sheep He leads: deign to guide us, feed us, shear us, and bid us come unto Thee, delighting in Thy Heavenly pasture, and praising Thee forever and ever. *Amen.*