

## **Responsive Reading**

Psalms 100:3-5; John 10:27-28; Matt. 28:20

**Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

**For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.**

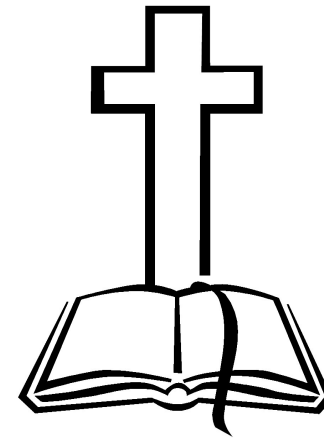
My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

**And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.**

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

**Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.**

# **Worship Service**



## **Jesus Never Fails**

# Order of Worship

Opening Prayer

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Devotion

"Jesus Never Fails"

Poem

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Closing Prayer

## Deeper

by Betty Harrington

Deeper, deeper, deeper with Thee,  
Deeper, deeper into Calvary.  
There I am safe, cleansed and free  
O Lamb of God in Your Victory!

The Victory of the cross Christ bore,  
The suffering of the crown He wore.  
The shame, the suffering He embraced  
Was so that I could behold His face.

Now He calls me to follow Him.  
To die to self that I might win  
A prize of the high calling of His Name  
Jesus, You are forever the same.

You will not fail me in the test of time,  
When the winds blow off this chaff of mine.  
It will fall before You as ashes and dust.  
All men will then know that in You I trust.

Trust, I will trust You with all my heart,  
I'll not trust my ears for they hear in part.  
With spiritual eyes I will look above  
To see my King and to walk in His love.

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# "Jesus Never Fails"

**Opening Prayer:** Our Father in Heaven, we bow our hearts before You today in humble praise and thanksgiving. Without You, we have no hope. Our faith rests in Your everlasting loving-kindness. Forgive us of our sins for Your mercy endures forever! In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Devotion:

**Text:** *For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."* Heb 13:5b (NKJV)

JESUS NEVER FAILS! "Never" is a big word. What a comforting thought that our Savior will never leave us. He will never forsake us. No one but our loving Lord Jesus can make such a promise. We may have struggles. We may fail Him sometimes. Circumstances and other people may have let us down many times. Even family members can fall short of our expectations. Jesus, the Redeemer of our soul, is always faithful. He always hears our prayer.

Many of you probably remember the "balloon man" at the park. What a gorgeous bouquet strains at the ends of the strings he holds in his fist! The colors of the balloons are so bright and beautiful - yellow, red, blue, green, purple. They have a brilliant, translucent glow when the sun shines through them. And little boys and girls just have to have one, right?

So Daddy parts with his money and his little Mary proudly grasps the string of her pretty balloon. But what happens to Mary's prized possession? If she forgets and lets it go before Daddy can tie it to her wrist, it is gone, floating helplessly ever higher out of sight into the clouds. If, not thinking, she walks too close to the holly tree - POP! And if the lovely rubber orb makes it to her room, to be tied so carefully to the foot of her bed, in a few days little Mary wakes to find it slumped onto the floor all wrinkled and dark.

How many of you used to like bubble gum? Do you remember that

## "Jesus Never Fails" continued

sweet joyful flavor bursting in your mouth as you vigorously chewed and chewed? Such happiness...for just a penny at the corner store! Every pop bottle found in the ditch was quickly redeemed for the deposit and converted into this highly coveted delight.

But, do you remember what happened? This childhood delicacy didn't last very long, did it? Every strategy you could contrive to make that confectionery treat last longer ended the same way: the flavor and the sweetness always disappeared in far less time than you wanted! In short order, you were left with a tasteless, laborious wad of rubber to gnaw on until your cheeks got tired.

Jesus is not like the balloon - He will not float away, never to be seen again, if you make a mistake. He won't pop on you when things get difficult. He will not deflate over time, after the glow wears off. His love endures...His kindness is everlasting...the life He gives is eternal!

Neither is Jesus like the bubble gum - He is not fickle and fading as He walks with us through life's trials and struggles. As an old hymn puts it, life with Jesus is "sweeter as the years go by. Richer, fuller, deeper, Jesus' love is sweeter...sweeter as the years go by!"

Dear child of God, consider the promises of your Heavenly Father. Do not let circumstances or difficult relationships distract you from the unwavering truth that He will never leave you, nor forsake you. No one can keep this promise but the Lord. If you do not know Him, call on Him. He will answer. If you do know Him, trust Him, love Him, for He ever cares for you.

**Closing Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we are weak, but You are strong. We are Your sheep, often wandering, but You are our Shepherd. Hold us, lead us, guide us. See us safely home to Heaven. Thank You. We pray in the precious name of Your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.