



## Saint Athanasius at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer in the homes of our families.*

Pentecost 25 + Nov 20-25, 2023

## 2023-24 School Year Theme Verse

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

~ Romans 12:2

This Week: The Last Sunday of the Church Year reminds us that the Lord who is returning as judge is also the one who came to be our Good Shepherd by searching for us, laying down His life for us, and now returning for us. He knows His sheep and His sheep know Him. So when the judgment begins, He shows this by first separating His own, then pointing to how His own have lived their lives of faith. This is what makes all the difference. Knowing this, we can greet Him with joy when He returns, secure in His love.

Note: Thursday is our National Day of Thanksgiving. We shouldn't need such a day! We should give thanks to our good and gracious Lord every day, but how often we forget or overlook His gifts. So this day we are reminded of His goodness and love and all that He provides for us everyday. And as we give thanks this day, we pray this will lead us to living lives of thanksgiving every day.

## The Order of Meditation and Prayer

*Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages permit. Learn by heart the verse and catechism for the week, as well as the theme verse (above) for the year.*

### Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Confess the Apostles' Creed

*(Consult the "Companion Sheet" for the words of this Creed.)*

### Read Psalm 28 *(see second page)*

### Scripture for the Week to Read and Discuss

<b>Monday</b>	Deuteronomy 8:1-10	<i>How did God provide for His people in the wilderness? What was He teaching them? How is He teaching and providing for you, too?</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	Philippians 4:6-20	<i>How does thanksgiving lead to joy? How does thanksgiving lead to generosity? How does thanksgiving lead to peace in your heart?</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	Luke 17:11-19	<i>The one leper "turned back" to Jesus. How does Thanksgiving call us to "turn back" to Jesus, too? Why might we not?</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	<i>What happens to sheep who are left on their own? Who will come and be our shepherd? What kind of shepherd will he be?</i>
<b>Friday</b>	1 Corinthians 15:20-28	<i>How did sin and death come into the world? How did life come into the world? What did Jesus do to bring us life? How long will this life last?</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	Matthew 25:31-46	<i>How does what we do come from who we are? How does Jesus show this? What does He do first? Then what does He point to second? Why is the order important?</i>

### Learn by Heart

Scripture: Matthew 25:40 - *And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'*

Catechism: *The Second Article:* [Pre+] And [I believe] in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

*What does this mean?* [1st+] I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death,

[2nd+] that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

### Prayers

Collect for the Week: Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Pray for Marcus, Bryana, Vivian, and Lilian.

Pray for all people to have a good and safe thanksgiving, filled with peace, joy, and thankfulness, and for safe travel to all who will be visiting family and friends.

Pray the Lord's Prayer, and either the Morning or Evening Prayer.  
(Consult the "Companion Sheet" for the words of these prayers.)

### Hymn for the Week: 516 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

(Go to our website for a link to the music to listen to and sing along with this hymn)



1 "Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing," The watch - men on the  
2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing, And all her heart with  
3 Now let all the heav'ns a - dore Thee, Let saints and an - gels



heights are cry - ing; "A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!"  
joy is spring - ing; She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.  
sing be - fore Thee With harp and cym - bals' clear - est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es And at the thrill - ing  
For her Lord comes down all - glo - rious, The strong in grace, in  
Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, Where, join - ing with the



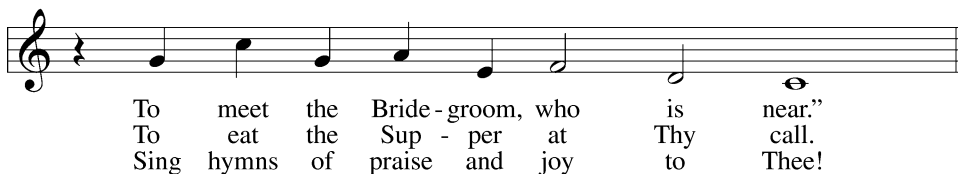
cry re - joic - es: "Oh, where are ye, ye vir - gins wise?  
truth vic - to - rious; Her star is ris'n, her light is come.  
choir im - mor - tal, We gath - er round Thy ra - diant throne.



The Bride - groom comes, a - wake! Your lamps with glad - ness take!  
Now come, Thou Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son,  
No eye has seen the light, No ear has heard the might



Al - le - lu - ia! With brid - al care Your - selves pre - pare  
Hail! Ho - san - na! We en - ter all The wed - ding hall  
Of Thy glo - ry; There - fore will we E - ter - nal - ly



Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
 Text and tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Psalm 28



<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I call;  
 my rock, be not | deaf to me,\*  
 lest, if you be silent to me,  
 I become like those who go down | to the pit.

<sup>2</sup>Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy,  
 when I cry to | you for help,\*  
 when I lift up my hands  
 toward your most holy sanctu- | ary.

<sup>3</sup>Do not drag me off with the wicked,  
 with the workers of | evil,\*  
 who speak peace with their neighbors  
 while evil is | in their hearts.

<sup>4</sup>Give to them according to their work  
 and according to the evil | of their deeds;\*  
 give to them according to the work of their hands;  
 render them their | due reward.

<sup>5</sup>Because they do not regard the works of the LORD  
 or the work | of his hands,\*  
 he will tear them down and build them | up no more.

<sup>6</sup>Blessèd | be the LORD!\*

For he has heard the voice of my pleas for | mercy.

<sup>7</sup>The LORD is my strength and my shield;  
 in him my heart trusts, and | I am helped;\*  
 my heart exults,  
 and with my song I give | thanks to him.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD is the strength of his | people,\*  
 he is the saving refuge of his a- | nointed.

<sup>9</sup>Oh, save your people and bless your | heritage!\*

Be their shepherd and carry them for- | ever.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
 and to the Holy | Spirit;  
 as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
 is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

## **Acknowledgments**

Liturgy sections from Lutheran Service Book

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