



Saint Athanasius at Prayer

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

The Third Week of Easter †
April 20-25, 2026

2025-26 School Year Theme Verse

I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

~ Philippians 1:6

This Week: *Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!* Right in the middle of the Easter season every year on the Fourth Sunday of Easter is Good Shepherd Sunday. We hear beautiful words of how our Lord cares for us and shepherds us in the midst of a sinful and evil world. But not only here and now in this sinful and evil world - Jesus is our Good Shepherd because He shepherds us through death to life again. Life *eternal!* He is the only one who could. This is why He died and rose for us. Therefore Jesus is the door into heaven and eternal life. Only in Him can we enter into Paradise. And in Baptism, He has promised that you will! For *Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

On Saturday, the Church also commemorates St. Mark the Evangelist, or Gospel-writer. Mark was not one of the twelve disciples of Jesus, but accompanied Paul and Barnabas on their missionary journeys and was chosen by Jesus to write one of the Gospels.

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 23 *(see next page)*

Scripture for the Week to Read and Discuss

Monday	Psalm 23	<u>Who</u> is the "goodness and mercy" of God who follows you? Why? What <u>has</u> He done for you? What <u>will</u> He do for you? How can you be sure?
Tuesday	Ezekiel 34:11-16	What does God promise to do? Why? What do His sheep need? Why haven't they received it? How will God fulfill this word? With <u>who</u> will He fulfill it?
Wednesday	Isaiah 52:7-10	What good news brings us peace, happiness, and salvation? How would God provide this? What does Isaiah say He will do? Where will everyone see the salvation of God? Where did God "hang" this for all to see!?
Thursday	Acts 2:42-47	In what four ways were the early Christians devoted to God and to one another? Could we be this way today? Should we? Why? How?
Friday	1 Peter 2:19-25	Why was Christ called on to suffer? How did He suffer? What did He not do? Why? Why might <u>you</u> be called on to suffer as well? How can we follow Jesus' example here? Who has been given to us to help us do this?
Saturday	John 10:1-10	What does it mean that Jesus is the <u>door</u> ? The door to where? How is that door open to us? how do we pass through it? What does Jesus want for us?

Learn by Heart

Scripture: John 10:9a – [Jesus said:] "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved."

Catechism: **Confession - What is Confession?** Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing, that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

Hymn for the Week: 709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

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



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul He lead - eth And, where the ver - dant
love He sought me And on His shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, Thy rod and staff my



I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid And home re - joic - ing brought me.
com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.

- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever!

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77
Tune: Irish, c. 18th cent.
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Acknowledgments

Liturgy sections from Lutheran Service Book

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