



Saint Athanasius at Prayer

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

The Week of Easter 3

✠ May 5-10, 2025

2024-25 School Year Theme Verse

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

~ Colossians 3:16

This Week: *Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!* This coming Sunday is a special one in the life of the Church - Good Shepherd Sunday. Jesus as our Good Shepherd is one of the dearest pictures of our Lord in all of Scripture. Yet Jesus is not only our Shepherd, He is the Lamb who has taken our place as the lamb who was sacrificed for the sins of the world. All human shepherds will let us down, but Jesus never will. He will do what He has promised and provide for all our needs for both this life and the next. That doesn't mean we won't have any problems! We will. Our enemies are still out there, and death looms. But we are not alone! Jesus is with us, will see us through, and bring us to His home, where we will live with Him forever

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	<i>What does Jesus do for His sheep? What does Jesus do when His sheep face enemies and death? What promise are we given? What comfort and confidence does this give us for life now?</i>
Tuesday	Ezekiel 34:11-16	<i>What are all the things God promises to do for His sheep? How has He done these for you? What kind of sheep are you? What has happened to you? What comfort do these verse give?</i>
Wednesday	1 Peter 2:21-25	<i>What did Christ do for you? How have we been healed? What did we need healing from? How is Jesus the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls?</i>
Thursday	Acts 20:17-35	<i>Where was Paul going? What was going to happen to him? So what did Paul tell the Ephesian elders (pastors) to do? How had Paul himself done this? Why was this important?</i>
Friday	Revelation 7:9-17	<i>How is Jesus both the Lamb of God <u>and</u> the Good Shepherd? Why do we need Him as both? Because of what He did, what is the future like for His flock?</i>
Saturday	John 10:22-30	<i>How does Jesus describe the sheep in His flock? What do they do? Who is not in His flock? What do they <u>not</u> do? Where do Jesus' sheep follow Him to?</i>

Learn by Heart

Scripture: John 10:27-28 – “[Jesus said:] My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.”

Catechism: **The Sacrament of the Altar:** *What is the Sacrament of the Altar?* It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.

Where is this written? The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.” In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying, “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is

the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Prayers

Collect for the Week: Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Pray for Etta, Willian, Eloise, Edmund, and Clara

Pray in thanksgiving that the Lord is your Shepherd, watching over you, and providing for all your need.

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

Psalm 23



¹The LORD is my | shepherd; *
I | shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green | pastures. *
He leads me beside still | waters.

³He re- | stores my soul. *
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his | name’s sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are | with me; *
your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my | enemies; *
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup | overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days | of my life, *
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD 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.

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.
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Liturgy sections from Lutheran Service Book

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