

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

Third Week of Easter

April 14, 2024, through April 21, 2024

Patristic Quote for the Week : AMBROSE (333-397AD): How often have you heard Psalm 23 and not understood it! See how it is applicable to the heavenly sacraments: “The Lord feeds me, and I shall want nothing; he has set me in a place of pasture; he has brought me on the water of refreshment; he has converted my soul. He has led me on the paths of justice for his own name’s sake. For though I should walk in the midst of the shadow of death, I will fear no evils, for you are with me.... Your rod is power, the staff suffering, that is, the eternal divinity of Christ, but also corporeal suffering; the one created, the other redeemed. You have prepared a table before me against them that afflict me. You have anointed my head with oil; and my chalice that inebriates me, how goodly it is!” ON THE SACRAMENTS 5.3.13.¹

Life Thoughts-- The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep (John 10:11-16). Herein lies our assurance that our Shepherd does not abandon His sheep. He loves them too much. He paid too much for them to forsake them. We live our lives, not in the absence of suffering, but in the presence of the Good Shepherd. *Good Shepherd, thank You for laying down Your life for me. Amen.*

Stewardship Thoughts-- John 10:14 – “I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.” What does it mean to know the Lord? It starts with being known by the Lord: He claims us as His own and calls us by name. Then, once we are His, we learn to know Him, and in knowing Him, we learn to imitate Him. That is how the Christian life of good works and generosity grows from the Lord’s grace.

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 dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: John 10:14-15

“I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.”

Read or Chant Psalm 23

Day	Bible Stories for Daily Devotions	Second Reading
Sun., April 14	Gospel Lesson, Third Sunday of Easter—John 10:11-16	Ezekiel 34:11-16
Mon., April 15	Take up your pallet and walk—John 5:1-9	Micah 2:12-13
Tues., April 16	He...called God his father.—John 5:10-18	Isaiah 30:19-26
Wed, April 17	The Scriptures bear witness to me.—John 5:31-47	Jeremiah 3:11-19
Thurs, April 18	It is I; do not be afraid—John 6:16-21	Ezekiel 34:1-11
Fri., April 19	I am the bread of life.—John 6:30-40	Ezekiel 34:12-22
Sat., April 20	He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood.—John 6:30-40	Ezekiel 34:23-31
Sun., April 21	Gospel Lesson, Fourth Sunday of Easter—John 16:16-22	Isaiah 40:25-31

¹ Blaising, Craig A., and Carmen S. Hardin, eds. 2008. [Psalms 1–50](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Pray the Collect for Third Sunday of Easter:

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Personal Prayers and Petitions

Lord's Prayer

Hymn of the Week

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

LSB 709

- 1 The King of love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine forever.
- 2 Where streams of living water flow,
My ransomed soul He leadeth
And, where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth.
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid
And home rejoicing brought me.

- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before 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

Text: Public domain

Looking forward to Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

HYMNS: 480, 483, 629, 920

Isaiah 40:25-31

1 Peter 2:11-20

John 16:16-22