

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

Fourth Week of Easter

April 21, 2024, through April 28, 2024

Patristic Quote for the Week : BEDE (672-735 AD): But this discourse of the Lord is also appropriate to all believers who are striving to arrive at eternal joys through the tears and distress of the present [life]. They rightly lament and weep and are sorrowful during the present [time], since they are not yet capable of seeing him whom they love. As long as they are in their body, they recognize that they are on a journey and [absent] from their fatherland and kingdom. They have no doubt that they must reach their crown by labors and contests. Their sorrow will be changed to joy when, after the struggle of this present life is over, they receive the prize of everlasting life, about which it is said in the psalm, “Those who sow in tears will reap in joy.” HOMILIES ON THE GOSPELS 2.13.¹

Life Thoughts-- The joy that comes from the risen Christ cannot be taken away (John 16:22). This is not a feel-good happiness dependent upon circumstances. It is a fruit of Christ’s Spirit, the joy of our salvation in Christ that circumstances cannot change or diminish. Many of the life issues we deal with today are “joy robbers” and present opportunities to share the joy of the resurrection. Gracious Savior, fill my words with the comfort and hope of resurrection to everlasting life with You. Amen.

Stewardship Thoughts-- 1 John 3:2 – “Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.” This is the essence of our sanctification: becoming like our Lord. As St. John notes, this will only be completed in the Resurrection. But until then, we are called to trust His grace and to grow into His image more and more.

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: 1 John 3:1a

“See what kind of love the Father has given to us that we should be called children of God; and so we are.”

Read or Chant Psalm 147

Day	Bible Stories for Daily Devotions	Second Reading
Sun., April 21	Gospel Lesson, Fourth Sunday of Easter—John 16:16-22	Isaiah 40:25-31
Mon., April 22	It is the spirit that gives life—John 6:60-65	Ezekiel 36:1-15
Tues., April 23	For fear no one spoke openly of Jesus—John 7:10-13	Ezekiel 36:16-24
Wed, April 24	I am speaking on my own authority—John 7:14-24	Ezekiel 36:33-38
Thurs, April 25	The Father sent Jesus—John 7:25-36	Haggai 2:2-9
Fri., April 26	He who believes in Jesus—John 7:37-53	Zechariah 2:1-13
Sat., April 27	Sin no more—John 8:1-11	Zechariah 11:1-17
Sun., April 28	Gospel Lesson, Fifth Sunday of Easter—John 16:5-15	Isaiah 12

¹ Elowsky, Joel C., ed. 2007. [John 11–21](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Pray the Collect for Fourth Sunday of Easter:

Almighty God, You show those in error the light of Your truth so that they may return to the way of righteousness. Grant faithfulness to all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Church that they may avoid whatever is contrary to their confession and follow all such things as are pleasing to You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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

With High Delight Let Us Unite

LSB 483

1 With high delight
Let us unite
In songs of great jubilation.
Ye pure in heart,
All bear your part,
Sing Jesus Christ, our salvation.
To set us free
Forever, He
Is ris'n and sends
To all earth's ends
Good news to save ev'ry nation.

2 True God, He first
From death has burst
Forth into life, all subduing.
His enemy
Doth vanquished lie;
His death has been death's undoing.

Text: Georg Vetter, 1536–99; tr. Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76
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“And yours shall be
Like victory
O'er death and grave,”
Saith He, who gave
His life for us, life renewing.

3 Let praises ring;
Give thanks, and bring
To Christ our Lord adoration.
His honor speed
By word and deed
To ev'ry land, ev'ry nation.
So shall His love
Give us above,
From misery
And death set free,
All joy and full consolation.

Looking forward to Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

HYMNS: 901, 556, 816

Isaiah 12

James 1:16-21

John 16:5-15