

709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

- 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

*Prayer
Requests*



The Congregation at Prayer

Daily Devotions

2026

A Daily Devotional

St. Paul LCMS, Ida Grove, IA



Fourth Week of Easter

April 26-May 3, 2026

Start Every Day

*"In the Name of the Father, and + of the Son, and
of the Holy Spirit. Amen"*

recite **APOSTLE'S CREED**

VERSE: 1 Peter 2:9 ***"You are a chosen race, a
royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for
(God's) own possession, that you may proclaim
the excellencies of him who called you out of
darkness into his marvelous light."***

Read/Chant **Psalm 23**

CATECHISM—Confess—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.

Sunday, April 26

- Read **1 Peter 3:1-7**
- *Secondary reading: Leviticus 8:1-36*

BEDE: (1 Peter 3:2) Note how Peter wants good and honest women to be submissive to their husbands, so that not only will they not fail to heed their commands but also that they will be so firm in their pure behavior that their example will be communicated to their husbands as well. ON 1 PETER.¹

Monday, April 27

- Read **1 Peter 3:1-7**
- *Secondary Reading: Leviticus 9:1-24*

SEVERUS OF ANTIOCH: (1 Peter 3:7) The pure and united marriage of a man and woman speeds on toward the gates of heaven. For if they bear the image of conjunction by which the church is mystically conjoined to Christ as his bride, they can pray that they will be elevated to a position equal to that of the church. Peter enjoins obedience on wives and tells husbands to bear patiently with them.... He also shows that there is another reason

¹ Bray, Gerald, ed. 2000. [*James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude*](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

End Every Day

Pray the Collect for 4th Sunday of Easter

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.

Personal Prayers

pray **LORD'S PRAYER**

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Luther's Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

blessed, so too he was able to liberate those in hell who believed and acknowledged him, by his descent there. However, the souls of those who practiced idolatry and outrageous ungodliness, as well as those who were blinded by fleshly lusts, did not have the power to see him, and they were not delivered. CATENA.⁶

Saturday, May 2

- Read **1 Peter 3:1-22**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Leviticus 19:9-37**

CYPRIAN: (1 Peter 3:21) Peter showed and vindicated the unity of the church by commanding and warning that we can be saved only through the baptism of the one church. Just as in that baptism of the world by which the ancient iniquity was purged, the one who was not in the ark could not be saved through water, so now anyone who has not been baptized in the church cannot be saved, for the church has been founded in the unity of the Lord, as the sacrament of the one ark. LETTERS 74.11.⁷

Sunday, May 3

- Read **1 Peter 4:1-11**
- *Second Reading:* **Leviticus 20:1-27**

⁶ Bray, Gerald, ed. 2000. [James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

⁷ Bray, Gerald, ed. 2000. [James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

for being patient, which is so that their prayers will not be hindered. For nothing hinders the work of God like trouble in the home. CATENA.²

Tuesday, April 28

- Read **1 Peter 3:1-7**
- *Secondary Reading:* **Leviticus 10:1-20**

HILARY OF ARLES: (1 Peter 3:7) The head can easily corrupt the members of the body, but Peter addresses himself to the latter first, lest it be thought that the lesser might somehow despise the greater. But then he goes on to exhort the greater to treat the lesser members properly. This means, first, husbands must respect the times set aside for prayer and fasting and not demand their marital rights if these are going to be a distraction from other things. Second, men must accept that they are stronger than their wives and therefore have a duty to protect them. Third, both parties are heirs of eternal life which God gives by grace, not by any merit which we may possess, and we do well to remember that “It depends not on man’s will or exertion, but on God’s mercy.” INTRODUCTORY COMMENTARY ON 1 PETER.³

Wednesday, April 29

- Read **1 Peter 3:8-22**

² Bray, Gerald, ed. 2000. [James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

³ Bray, Gerald, ed. 2000. [James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

- *Secondary Reading: Leviticus 16:1-24*

DIDYMUS THE BLIND: (1 Peter 2:11) Those who are worthy of love because of their godliness are called “beloved” not because they are that way by nature but because they have received love. The writer of this letter urges such people to abstain from carnal desires which attack the soul. The flesh and the soul have different natures. A soul which is uncorrupted and immortal will desire that kind of thing, whereas the flesh, which is both corrupt and dissolute, desires things which are wicked and vile. But when the two are joined together, the soul naturally feels the passions of the flesh. When it distances itself from bodily passions, it is preserved pure and glorious, with a saving understanding of the way it should act, with a will to behave in that way, with a love for God and with a desire to know him. COMMENTARY ON 1 PETER.⁴

Thursday, April 30

- Read **1 Peter 3:8-22**
- *Secondary Reading: Leviticus 17:1-16*

AUGUSTINE: (1 Peter 3:13) If you love the good, you will suffer no loss, because whatever you may be deprived of in this world, you will never lose God, who is the true Good. SERMONS 335c.5.⁵

⁴ Bray, Gerald, ed. 2000. [James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

⁵ Bray, Gerald, ed. 2000. [James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Friday, May 1

- Read **1 Peter 3:8-22**
- *Secondary Reading: Lev. 18:1-7, 20-19:8*

CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA: (1 Peter 3:19) Here Peter answers the question which some objectors have raised, namely, if the incarnation was so beneficial, why was Christ not incarnated for such a long time, given that he went to the spirits which were in prison and preached to them also? In order to deliver all those who would believe, Christ taught those who were alive on earth at the time of his incarnation, and these others acknowledged him when he appeared to them in the lower regions, and thus they too benefited from his coming. Going in his soul, he preached to those who were in hell, appearing to them as one soul to other souls. When the gatekeepers of hell saw him, they fled; the bronze gates were broken open, and the iron chains were undone. And the only-begotten Son shouted with authority to the suffering souls, according to the word of the new covenant, saying to those in chains: “Come out!” and to those in darkness: “Be enlightened.” In other words, he preached to those who were in hell also, so that he might save all those who would believe in him. For both those who were alive on earth during the time of his incarnation and those who were in hell had a chance to acknowledge him. The greater part of the new covenant is beyond nature and tradition, so that while Christ was able to preach to all those who were alive at the time of his appearing and those who believed in him were