



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
EASTER 4 — YEAR C**

INVOCATION

L: In the name of the Father
and of the Son +
and of the Holy Spirit.

G: Amen

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 23

**A: The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

L: The LORD is my shepherd,

G: I shall not be in want.

L: He makes me lie down in green pastures;

G: he leads me beside quiet waters.

L: He restores my soul;

**G: he guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.**

L: Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,

**G: for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

L: You prepare a table before me in the presence of
my enemies.

**G: You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.**

L: Surely goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,

**G: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.**

**A: The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever!

READING & MEDITATION *see next page*

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

**A: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

VERSE OF THE DAY

**A: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!
Alleluia. I am the good shepherd; I know my
sheep and my sheep know me. (John 10:14)**

BENEDICTION

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

A: Amen

READING AND MEDITATION:

Fourth Sunday of Easter: On Good Shepherd Sunday God's Word shows us our Shepherd, Jesus, who leads his flock to safe pastures and his eternal fold.

As you study this week, seek to find the *connecting theme* in all the lessons by using Luther's Four Big Barber Questions to ponder and discuss each individual reading:

1. *What is God saying to me in this lesson?*
2. *For what does this lesson lead me to give thanks?*
3. *What sins does this lesson lead me to confess?*
4. *For what does this lesson lead me to pray?*

THE GOSPEL: JOHN 10:22-30

Christ's words to his enemies were as simple as they were stark: You do not believe that I am the Christ because you are not my sheep. As a shepherd dividing goats from the sheep, Jesus drew a sharp distinction between these unbelievers questioning him and the believers who followed him. They did not know him, would not follow him, and would be lost forever. But for his disciples, for us, Christ said they knew him, they hear him, they follow him, and they will live forever. All this can only be true because our Good Shepherd is God in the flesh.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: ACTS 13:15, 16A, 26-33

Paul preaches an "encouraging" message of Biblical proportions and eternal consequences. The Good News is that the Messiah has come. He is the Savior sacrificed for sinners, the conqueror of death witnessed by his followers. Jesus of Nazareth was the Son of God, verified by the Father himself. He has the power and authority to shepherd his people Israel.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: REVELATION 7:9-17

The paradox of Christ is that he is both Lamb and Shepherd. He saves his flock, by shedding his blood as the Lamb sacrificed for sin. This is the Good Shepherd we needed: God in the flesh, sacrificed for our atonement. But now, washed in his blood, the white robed host is led by the Shepherd-Lamb to the springs of living water and a life where everything that once was wrong is made right forever.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: EZEKIEL 34:25-31

See what it means to have God as a shepherd! Not just protection from wolves or finding plenty of pasture. God as Shepherd means peace and showers and fruit and crops! Security and broken yokes, safety and freedom from famine! Why would God do all this? Simply so that we might know that he is our God, and we are his people. See what it means to have God as a shepherd!

My takeaways:

What major theme(s) connect(s) all the lessons?