

This year's advent devotionals feature readings from publications by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary faculty members. Today's reading comes from the *Interpretation Bible Studies Series on Psalms* written by Professor Jerome Creach, Robert C. Holland Professor of Old Testament. It is published by Geneva Press. For information on ordering the book, visit [Cokesbury.com](http://Cokesbury.com).

The reading is found on page 37:

The shepherd image appears not only as part of the Old Testament but as a vital part of the New Testament as well. For Christians, Psalm 23 foretells the words of Jesus, "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11), and the writer of 1 Peter who declares that Jesus is the "shepherd and guardian" of souls who leads believers when they are "going astray like sheep" (2:25). Jesus is indeed the "chief shepherd" (1 Peter 5:4) for the church. As Mays appropriately notes (119), seeing Jesus as the supreme shepherd calls Christians to look to God's guidance for the future, as well as the present. In the age to come, the Lamb of God will become king and shepherd, and in that day, the redeemed will discover in their hearts the full meaning of the phrase, "I shall not want" (see Rev. 7:15-17).

## Prayer

As we pray together today, let us pray from these words of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm:

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters; \*

<sup>3</sup> he restores my soul. \*  
He leads me in right paths \*  
for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the darkest valley, \*  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup>Surely \* goodness and mercy \* shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long. \*