

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



The Shepherd's Voice

Lord God,
let me know and hear clearly
the voice of the Shepherd
who calls me by name.
May his voice resound
in my mind and my heart,
so that I may follow
where he leads me.
When I am lost, feeling tired,
or wounded, may the Shepherd
lift me up and
carry me on his shoulders,
to lead me safely home,
and rejoin the flock.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sunday, May 12, 2019
My Sheep Hear My Voice

Today's Readings: Acts 13:14, 43–52; Psalm 100:1–2, 3, 5; Revelation 7:9, 14b–17; John 10:27–30. The few sentences that make up the Gospel on Good Shepherd Sunday portray intimacy. First, we hear of the closeness that Jesus has to his followers. The sheep, Jesus says, “hear my voice” and “follow me.” Jesus knows the sheep, and no one can take them from him. Then we learn of the even more intimate relationship that Jesus has with the Father. “The Father and I are one,” he says. The relationship of the shepherd to the sheep corresponds to that of the Father and the Son.

The words of this parable reflect John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that every-

one who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” The Shepherd will provide eternal life to those who follow and believe.

In reflecting on this Gospel, you may want to imagine the sound of the Good Shepherd's voice. Do you imagine that it is soft, loud, firm, or gentle? To which type of voice would you listen? How far do you think his voice reaches? Consider spending time in quiet this week listening for the Shepherd's voice in your life. It may take practice of sitting in the quiet before you and your family truly enjoy the stillness. What can you do for your family this week to create a culture of silence?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 13

The Sheep Gate

At the beginning of the parable of the good shepherd, Jesus describes himself as the gate through which the sheep need to go to be saved. Through this gate, the sheep find pasture and will receive eternal life. The relationship that exists between the shepherd and his flock is the covenant relationship that God establishes with us. God is in search of us and we respond to him. Write a prayer in response to the image of the Shepherd and the sheep. *Today's Readings: Acts 11:1–18; Psalm 45:2–3, 43:3, 4; John 10:1–10.*

Tuesday, May 14

Feast of St. Matthias

Today's First Reading tells of the selection process to replace Judas Iscariot as one of the Twelve. Matthias, who was nominated along with a man named Joseph, was selected by lot. Both men had been in the company of Jesus from the baptism of John until the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus. How does your life give witness to the Risen Lord? *Today's Readings: Acts 1:15–17, 20–26; Psalm 113:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 7–8; John 15:9–17.*

Wednesday, May 15

Choices

Jesus proclaims that the words he speaks both save and condemn. The mystery of our faith is filled with contrary declarations. Jesus is the Word, he is our salvation that has come into the world. He offers a path that leads us to the light of the Father. Any other direction will lead us into darkness and destruction. Jesus pleads with us to choose the path of light and life. What direction do you plan to take? *Today's Readings: Acts 12:24–13:5; Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8; John 12:44–50.*

Thursday, May 16

Messengers of Love

Following the washing of the feet, Jesus prepares his disciples with an understanding of how they are to live a life of love and service and put into practice what they have just received from the Lord. They are to love and serve God, each other, and those strangers they have yet to meet. It is easier for us to dismiss those we do not like or discount those who are different from us. How can our accepting attitude toward others show Christ's love? *Today's Readings: Acts 13:13–25; Psalm 89:2–3, 21–22, 25, 27; John 13:16–20.*

Friday, May 17

A Dwelling Place

As Jesus prepares his followers for his leaving them, he offers consoling words. He assures them that his Father's house will have a place for them, as it has "many dwelling places." What does it mean to you that Jesus would prepare a place for his followers? *Today's Readings: Acts 13:26–33; Psalm 2:6–7, 8–9, 10–11; John 14:1–6.*

Saturday, May 18

Shook the Dust from Their Feet

Paul and Barnabas are preaching fearlessly to large crowds, almost the entire city! However, the disciples are expelled after they note that the Jews have rejected the Word of God. Paul and Barnabas "shook the dust from their feet" and left filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. Are you able to trust in the Lord and depart with a light heart when your message is rejected? *Today's Readings: Acts 13:44–52; Psalm 98:1, 2–3, 3–4; John 14:7–14.*

