

MAY 3, 2020 - 4th Sunday of Easter

Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

#### Scripture Readings

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

Gospel - John 10:1-10

#### Suggested Hymns

They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

#### Call to worship

We gather here, listening for the voice of the giver and guardian of our lives.

God comes to us as a good shepherd, calling us by name.

We gather here, longing to follow in just paths of life.

God comes to us as a good shepherd, leading us in right ways.

We gather here to follow and praise God,

Whose good and steadfast love abounds in all of our lives.

We need a Shepherd, someone to protect us, and that Shepherd is Jesus.

He shepherds us. He protects us by giving us His Word which defends us from Satan's attacks. He walks ahead of us and leads us around the dangerous traps that threaten our lives and salvation. He is the Shepherd of our souls, so He is the one who walks with us through the valley of the shadow of death. He's the one who leads us to still waters. His voice speaks words of peace that remind us of His promises. And while, He has billions of sheep around the world, He knows each and every one of us as if we were His only precious lamb.

Jesus says, "The sheep hear His voice, and He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice." He knows everything about us. He knows our names, our fears and sorrows, our struggles and pains. He doesn't push us through the things we face, He leads us through them. Take to heart when He promises us, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior." He is the Good Shepherd and no matter what dangers threaten us, He will always be with us.

#### Prayer of the Day

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.