

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Listening for God's Voice

Almighty Father,
you who have given us life and love,
whose creation we are,
whose Son redeemed the world,
lead us home.

We are like sheep listening for your voice,
turning to you for guidance.

May our hearts find in you an open gate
and open arms of love
even when we stumble and fall,
and hear other voices beckoning.

May your voice be clear and calm,
and welcome us home to your Kingdom,
Through Christ, your Son and
our Shepherd,

who lives with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

May 7, 2017

The Sheep Gate



Today's Readings: Acts: 2:1, 4a, 36–41; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4; 5, 6; 1 Peter 2:20b–25; John 10:1–10. Sheep know their shepherd's voice, and follow him where he leads them. In looking out for his sheep, the good shepherd, the responsible shepherd leads them through the gate. A flock of sheep instinctively trust those who raise them. Sheep recognize, through sound and smell, even more than sight, their shepherd. The relationship between sheep and shepherd is built on the nurturing the shepherd has provided. The sheep know who provides shelter, food, and protection for them, and who finds them when they are lost.

So it is with Christ. The flock finds its way through him. Not only do we know his voice, not only do we trust

him to care for us—he is the gate through whom we know our way. When we are lost, he opens the path for us. Many distractions get in our way of following the Good Shepherd. A number of obstacles cross our path to woo us in another direction. In today's Second Reading, we hear, "For you were going away like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls." By Christ's wounds we have been healed. Whenever we stray, he is there for us, eager for our return to him. Through Christ, we find solace for our self-doubts and security for our missteps. Through Christ, we find the one sure way.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 8

I Know Mine and Mine Know Me

In the middle of the Easter season, it is time to revisit the Creed and the beliefs we state each week. The readings today are a reminder of the Trinity. Acts addresses Baptism in the Holy Spirit, while the Gospel stresses knowing both the Father and the Son. As we profess, so do we live. We know and believe in the Triune Godhead who knows and loves us. *Today's Readings: Acts 11:1–8; Psalm 42:2–3, 43:3, 4; John 10:11–18.*

Tuesday, May 9

Being Christian

The last line of today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles reminds us that Antioch is where "the disciples were first called 'Christians.'" What an astounding fact. Do you ever think about what that meant in the first century? And do you consider the implications of your Baptism, when you were first called Christian? Our identity with Christ, our identity of being Christ for others, is a result of being marked through Baptism. *Today's Readings: Acts 11:19–26; Psalm 87:1b–3, 4–5, 6–7; John 10:22–30.*

Wednesday, May 10

St. Damien de Veuster, Priest

Risking his health, as well as his ties to family, friends, and the Church, Fr. Damien de Veuster committed himself to caring for Hawaii's lepers on the island of Molokai. He treated each leper with dignity, building houses for them, as well as a hospital, a church, and a school. While much of the world dismissed anyone who had set foot on the island, Fr. Damien embraced each person as Christ. *Today's Readings: Acts 12:24–13:5a; Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8; John 12:44–50.*

Thursday, May 11

Words and Actions

We are used to the saying "Actions speak louder than words." In today's Scripture passages, we are reminded that both are necessary. It is not enough for Jesus to simply wash his disciples' feet; Jesus must repeatedly exhort his disciples that receiving him is the same as receiving the Father. Paul, in the First Reading, reminds the first Christian Jews that what they have been waiting for has already happened. Salvation is present and active in the world. *Today's Readings: Acts:13:13–25; Psalm 89:2–3, 21–22, 25, 27; John 13:16–20.*

Friday, May 12

Witnesses of the Way, the Truth, and the Life

In the Gospel, we hear Jesus say, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." Members of the early Church took seriously the need to proclaim that, for in the Second Reading, Paul tells of how those who followed Jesus "are now his witnesses." We too are challenged to proclaim the Good News. As witnesses to the redeeming Christ in our lives, we are to proclaim that truth in all that we are. Each action, gesture, word, and motive of a Christian should be proclaiming the Resurrection to others. *Today's Readings: Acts 13:26–33; Psalm 2:6–7, 8–9, 10–11am; John 14:1–6.*

Saturday, May 13

Take Delight in the Lord

Gather the family for an Easter Time activity. Engage the children in acting out your favorite Gospel Resurrection account. Adults and children can all have a role not just in the play but in writing the script. Or perhaps the family would like to see how many words they can make from the letters in the word Resurrection. Ask the family to try to see if every phrase they utter today is worthy of adding an alleluia to it. *Today's Readings: Acts 13:44–52; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; John 14:7–14.*

