

MAY 8, 2022
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Jesus is our shepherd.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 10:22-30	Jesus promises life to his sheep
Monday	Acts 9:36-43	Peter brings Dorcas back to life
Tuesday	Revelation 7:9-17	The multitude from every nation
Wednesday	Hebrews 13:20-22	Final prayers
Thursday	Isaiah 40:6-11	Encourage God's people
Friday	1 Peter 5:1-7	Helping Christian leaders
Saturday	Psalm 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 13:31-35	Love one another

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me."
John 10:27 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, give us faith to trust Jesus, our good shepherd, and to faithfully follow him into the world and do your will. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God, we thank you for preparing this table and food before us that we may be strengthened in faith and in service to others through Christ Jesus, our shepherd. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus the Good Shepherd hold you in eternal care.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
Shepherd Me, O God



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When you talk with others, who are the voices you trust? Explain.
- Think about or tell a story when you were aware of God's presence in your life.

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 10:22-30.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally the Good Shepherd Sunday. The most recognized of all the psalms, Psalm 23, reminds us that the Lord is our shepherd. In John 10:11, Jesus identified himself as the good shepherd. As the Messiah, Jesus has followers he refers to as "my sheep." His sheep recognize his voice and follow the good shepherd as the Messiah (a translation of Christ). Today, we, too, serve as the voice of Jesus in the world that others may follow the good shepherd and recognize Jesus as the Christ. 1 Peter 5:4 alludes to this when Jesus is named as the "chief shepherd." Not only pastors but everyone, including parents and other trusted voices, shepherd one another in faith and life. As followers of Jesus, as sheep of the good shepherd, we all carry the voice and message of Jesus into the world. Shepherding is a way of life for disciples that guides, protects, and serves others that they may hear and recognize Jesus.

Discuss: How has someone helped you hear the voice and message of Jesus Christ?

Pray: **Comforting and gracious God, help us to hear and trust the message of Jesus, the good shepherd, that we may care for and shepherd one another in faith, hope, and love. Amen**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you shepherd someone who needs to feel the love of Jesus?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Today is Mother's Day. It is a time to be thankful for the women in our lives who have cared for us and others. Reach out to a woman you know with a special thank you card, with a phone call, or a visit. Use this prayer: **Lord God, thank you for (name). May she know how grateful I am to have her in my life. Bless her this day and each day with your love and care. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org