

**Intro** - 1<sup>st</sup> and PS – English

2<sup>nd</sup> & Gospel – Spanish

2 words seem to dominate in today's scripture readings – Shepherd and Peace

When we hear the word Shepherd we think of the Good Shepherd – **THUS THE ICON**

The Good Shepherd takes care of His flock and, because of Him, they rest in peace.

- Can we relate to that in the NSJ?
- What is the source of our peace? Is it even possible here?
- We're like the people in the 1<sup>st</sup> reading – Jer speaks to the pastors of Israel not providing peace.
  - The people had been allowed to go off on their own – sin was rampant, there was no peace.
  - The people didn't want to hear a prophet telling them to repent.
  - They liked their corrupt lifestyle, they liked their sin
  - BUT – Jer's message is not just repent – it includes a promise that **WILL** bring peace
    - Despite the corruption, God promises a righteous one – that will save Judah
    - Despite **OUR** corruption, God promises **WE** can have that same peace – in NSJ **LUP**

### **JER**

I already set this up when we began – Israel was corrupt and those in authority do nothing about it  
NB – God will **NEVER** abandon His people **READ IT**

Despite everything that's gone wrong - Here's God's promise:

The days are coming when I will raise up a righteous one – He will do what's just and right

In His day Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in security **PEACE** **TRUE PEACE**

We know about His salvation

We know about this righteous one

We know about the salvation He brought

We know him as the Good Shepherd who truly cares for His flock

So we have the **23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm** – listen to the characteristics of the Good Shepherd as we pray **READ IT**

- He ensures we have green pastures restful waters leads us to the right paths  
protects us in times of darkness
  - Even tho I walk in the dark valley **YOU ARE BY MY SIDE**
  - Jer prophecied that despite the dark times Israel was enduring
    - He would send a righteous one
    - He would not abandon His people

PS 23 says 'even though I walk in the dark valley You are by my side HE will not abandon His people  
Here we are in NSJ – **KNOW** – He will not abandon His people

**EPH** – starts 'You who were far off have become near by the blood of Christ'

No matter how far off we have gone – He will not abandon us **READ IT**

### **GOSPEL**

Last week we heard JC send off his apostles 2x2 – today they come back

JC says 'come away and rest awhile'

Time to take a break and rest – get some peace and quiet

But the crowds persist – they get no break – they press upon them

(Fr. Murray's mother retreating to the car) What does JC do?

He teaches them – **He will not abandon His people** (pity for sheep w/o shepherd)