

4th Sunday of Easter Time - Year A

This is the Easter Season – so our Church gives us 1st Reading from ACTS

We hear about 1c Church and how they lived and grew as a community after the Resurrection

Today Peter speaks to the people – PETER, OUR 1st POPE & SHEPHERD

He tells the crowd “Jesus, who you crucified, has been raised up as Lord and Christ”

Crowd: “What should we do?”

Peter: “Repent and be baptized – Receive the HS”

What did J the B preach?

REPENT

What did Jesus preach after 40 days in desert?

REPENT

What does Peter, the 1st Pope preach?

REPENT

2nd Reading from 1Peter – he says “like sheep gone astray you have now returned to your shepherd”

Sheep gone astray can come home on their own HOW?

REPENT

Can you hear the voice of the Shepherd?

You’ve heard me speak of my uncle’s farm

Henry would go out and call “Come On” 5x and Cows would come

I was sent to call the cows – NOTHING – Henry came out & in they came

THEY KNEW THEIR MASTER’S VOICE

Now sometimes, a few stragglers would stall and not come when called – now what?

Henry would send the dog – if you don’t listen, and don’t obey – you get the dogs

There a big difference between my uncle Henry and the Good Shepherd

a. Good Shepherd calls His sheep BY NAME

Henry called the herd –

Shepherd calls each by name - and they know Him

THIS MEANS SHEPHERD KNOWS HIS SHEEP

AND THE SHEEP ARE LISTENING FOR HIS VOICE

(NOT like my children watching TV)

If the shepherd speaks and nobody is listening what good is that?

J the B Jesus Peter (all have the same message)

Are we listening?

b. Jesus is the Good Shepherd and He says “I am the gate” – NOW THIS IS IMPORTANT

i. Shepherds would take flocks to mountains to get the best grass

ii. All the shepherds would come together and build a common corral

iii. They would sleep in the gate

iv. Shepherd was literally the gate – for a wolf to get the sheep, Shepherd would die

v. BUT to get OUT sheep also have to pass through the Shepherd

- It is through the shepherd they get food, water, comfort, healing

FOR US – IT IS ALSO THRU THE GOOD SHEPHERD WE ARE BLESSED

- It is through Christ – peace that passes understanding
- It is through Christ – joy of the Lord that is our strength
- It is through Christ – salvation through the forgiveness of sin.
- It is through Christ – Abundant Life

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Reading 1 Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed:
"Let the whole house of Israel know for certain that God has made both Lord and Christ,
this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and they asked Peter and the other apostles, "What are we to do, my brothers?" Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call." He testified with many other arguments, and was exhorting them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 23: 1-3a, 3b4, 5, 6

R. (1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side.
With your rod and your staff
that give me courage.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for years to come.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Reading 2 [1 Pt 2:20b-25](#)

Beloved: If you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps. *He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.*

When he was insulted, he returned no insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten; instead, he handed himself over to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Alleluia [Jn 10:14](#)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel [Jn 10:1-10](#)

Jesus said:

"Amen, amen, I say to you,
whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate
but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber.
But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.
The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice,
as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.
When he has driven out all his own,
he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him,
because they recognize his voice.
But they will not follow a stranger;
they will run away from him,
because they do not recognize the voice of strangers."
Although Jesus used this figure of speech,
the Pharisees did not realize what he was trying to tell them.

So Jesus said again, "Amen, amen, I say to you,
I am the gate for the sheep.
All who came before me are thieves and robbers,
but the sheep did not listen to them.
I am the gate.
Whoever enters through me will be saved,
and will come in and go out and find pasture.
A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy;
I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."