

St. Sebastian, Milwaukee

4th Sunday of Easter, May 3, 2020

readings from U.S. Bishops' website: www.usccb.org - click on the date on the calendar.

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 [23: 1-3A, 3B4, 5, 6](#)

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

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

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.**

or:

R. **Alleluia.**

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.

or:

R. Alleluia.

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.

or:

R. Alleluia.

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.

or:

R. Alleluia.

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.”

Notes from Fr. Peter Patrick's Homily

Good Shepherd Sunday

The fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Good Shepherd Sunday. Jesus liked to give example to his listeners they could best relate to and understand. During his time, a shepherd always went before his flock, and the sheep always listened to his voice and followed. The shepherd knew his sheep by name and protected them from any danger.

Today's readings have a common theme of Jesus as shepherd, and we are called to imitate him. He wanted to differentiate between a shepherd (hired worker) and a good shepherd (owner). “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.” (Jn. 10:11-13).

Jesus is the good shepherd. We are the sheep, and we need to ask ourselves if we are listening to his voice. The disciples of the risen Christ had gone back to their former lives because they thought death was the end of Jesus, but Jesus never gave up on them. Despite their back sliding, he called them for a second time. In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter

addressed the people with confidence about the risen Christ and instructed them to repent. Remember Peter denied Jesus three times, but that did not stop Jesus from appointing him to be the leader of other disciples. Peter listened the voice of the good shepherd, repented his sins and was forgiven.

As a forgiven sinner, Peter continues to encourage us to follow the footsteps of the good shepherd. In the second reading, Peter says we should forgive each other: “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.” (1 Pet. 2:23-25).

Just like the shepherd knows his sheep by name, Jesus knows each one of us, even our weaknesses and sins. Let us repent and return to him and we forgive others.