

## **Jesus, Our Good Shepherd**

As we gather on this Fourth Sunday of Easter, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday, we are invited to reflect on the profound relationship between Jesus, our Good Shepherd, and us, His sheep. The readings today beautifully illustrate this theme, reminding us of the care, protection, and guidance that Jesus offers to each of us.

In the Gospel of John (10:27-30), Jesus declares, “My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” This statement encapsulates the essence of our faith. It emphasizes that our relationship with Jesus is not merely transactional; it is deeply personal. He knows us intimately, and we are called to recognize His voice amidst the cacophony of life.

In our busy lives, filled with distractions and noise, how often do we take the time to listen for the voice of our Shepherd? The world around us clamors for our attention—social media, news, and even our own worries can drown out the gentle whisper of Christ. Yet, it is in the silence and stillness that we can truly hear Him. We must seek moments of quiet to connect with him.

Jesus assures us that “I give them eternal life, and they shall not perish. No one can take them out of my hand” (John 10:28). This promise is a source of great comfort. It reminds us that, despite the challenges we face, we are secure in His love and protection. We must ask ourselves: Are we willing to follow Him? Are we attentive to His voice calling us to deeper faith and action?

In the first reading from Acts (13:14, 43-52), we see Paul and Barnabas boldly proclaiming the Good News to both Jews and Gentiles. Their courage in the face of opposition serves as a powerful example for us. Just as they were called to share the message of salvation, we too are called to be witnesses of Christ in our daily lives.

We live in a world that desperately needs the hope and love that Jesus offers. Are we willing to step out of our comfort zones to share this Good News? Like the early apostles, we may face challenges, but we must remember that we are not alone. The Good Shepherd walks with us, guiding us as we navigate our mission.

The second reading from Revelation (7:9, 14-17) presents a vision of a great multitude from every nation, tribe, and language standing before the throne of God. This image reminds us that Christ’s love is inclusive and universal. He desires that all people come to know Him and experience His salvation.

As members of His flock, we are called to reflect this inclusivity in our communities. Are we welcoming to those who are different from us? Do we extend Christ's love to everyone, regardless of their background? In doing so, we embody the spirit of the Good Shepherd, who lays down His life for all.

As we reflect on these readings today, let us remember that Jesus, our Good Shepherd, is always calling us to deeper relationship with Him. He knows us, loves us, and desires to lead us to eternal life.

Let us take time this week to listen to His voice in the silence, and to share His message of hope with others. May we be faithful sheep, following our Shepherd with trust and joy. Amen!

Fr. Bula