



The Weekly Word

“With all the Saints, let us also be a witness.”

Readings for Sunday, April 30, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Easter

■ INTRODUCTION

Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.”

Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

■ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

■ FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

⁴²The baptized devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God



■ PSALM: Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

■ SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²²"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God



GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ¹"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate.

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Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.



Worship Leaders for Sunday, April 30th

SERVICE	USHER	LECTOR	ASST. MINISTER
8:30	John Race	Joyce Gunderlach	George Duda
11:00	Joe Santos	VOLUNTEER	Jerry Plassman

Coming up this week at Reformation

Sun., Apr. 30

8:30 a.m.—In-person **WORSHIP**

9:45 a.m.—*Learning and Living*

9:45 a.m.—*Wrapped in God's Love*

11:00 a.m.—In-person **WORSHIP**

1:30 p.m.— Service on the Web

Wed., May 3

6:30 p.m.—Choir practice

Fri., May 5

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, GEORGE DUDA

Clothing and Sippy Cup Drive now through May 14th



Our Childcare supply of extra clothing and sippy cups is running low. To help, we are holding a **Clothing and Sippy Cup Drive** now through Sunday, May 14th.

Of particular need are **t-shirts and pants sized 3T, 4T, and 5T**. These can be purchased at Walmart or any value store, as can the sippy cups. We appreciate anything you can do to help!

