

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (v1)

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

SERMON TEXT- John 10:1-10

[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 & a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, & the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name & leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, & 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 & bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, & will come in & go out & find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal & kill & destroy. I came that they may have life, & have it abundantly.”

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. The Fourth Sunday of Easter is always “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Read the entire Good Shepherd discourse (*John 10:1-30*); what connections do you find with Peter’s speech & today’s reading from *Acts 2:14-47*?
2. (Ordained) Pastors (the word means “shepherds”) speak with Jesus’ authority to those to whom they are called. In other words, in the pastor’s speech the congregation hears Jesus’ voice (v4). What’s the heart of their message? See *Luke 24:44-49; John 13:1-17, 31b-35, 20:19-23; Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Timothy 2:3-6, 4:11-16; 2 Timothy 2:1-19, 24-26, 3:15-17; Large Catechism: 4th Commandment; Augsburg Confession: IV-VIII, esp. V, VI; LC & AC available <bookofconcord.org>*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. It seems the 23rd Psalm is beloved by most everyone who hears it. Treat it as your own personal faith story. List out each metaphor/symbol/image in the psalm (*note- it’s only 6 verses*), then identify an actual, concrete instance or example of that happening in your own everyday life. Next turn your notes into full, complete sentences explaining the psalm as it relates to your own life. Finally share it with others & listen to theirs.
4. Name at least 5 things you find comforting about the Good Shepherd. Share them with someone else & listen to their 5.

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Building on #2, it seems many churches & ministries wander away from the proclamation of the forgiveness of sins as the heart of their message. How does your congregation keep the message of forgiveness at the heart of what it does? If it doesn’t, how can you help it do so from now on? By the way, you are showing & telling the message of forgiveness in your own everyday life, aren’t you? Review *Small Catechism: Baptism, Keys, Communion; LC: Keys/Confession*
6. Check-in for *Corona Virus Challenge* **Make it your goal to reach out to one other person in the congregation (not in your home/family) each day during these restrictions.** How has this gone for you? How have others received your care & concern for them? How has it gotten easier or harder? If you haven’t tried or (tried very hard) what has prevented you? What do you have to lose? What do you have to gain? **Make a list of 7 folks to contact this week that you haven’t reached out to in the last 30 days.**

Fourth Sunday of Easter

05.03.20

Series: Lost & Found

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Pied Piper

Following the wrong guy just gets you more lost-even dangerously so

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: The sheep hear his voice.

He calls his own sheep by name & leads them out. (*v3b*)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Jesus says, I am the good shepherd.

I know my own & my own know me. (*John 10:14*)

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