

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Followers of Jesus shepherd one another.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 10:1-10	Christ the shepherd
Monday	Acts 2:42-47	Life among believers
Tuesday	1 Peter 2:19-25	Example of Christ's suffering
Wednesday	Galatians 6:1-10	Bear one another's burdens
Thursday	Ezekiel 34:11-31	God, the true shepherd
Friday	Romans 12:9-18	Marks of the true Christian
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my Shepherd
Sunday	John 14:1-14	Jesus is the way, truth, and life

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Day 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, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. **Acts 2:46-47a (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God our Savior and Good Shepherd, keep us close to your care, and in our times of suffering may we trust in you. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Jesus, thank you for preparing a table for us that we may be strengthened for our journey as we follow you, the Good Shepherd. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the shepherd and protector of your souls forgive you and give you peace forevermore. (1 Peter 2:24-25)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Savior, Like a Shepherd
Lead Us*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How does a shepherd care for the sheep?
- In what ways can we care for one another as a shepherd does the sheep?
- How is Jesus a shepherd to you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Acts 2:42-47.

Every year the Fourth Sunday of Easter is the "Good Shepherd Sunday." Psalm 23 reminds us that the Lord is our shepherd. 1 Peter 2:25 states that Jesus is "the shepherd and guardian of your souls." John 10 speaks of the sheep who follow because they know the voice of the shepherd (v. 4). Acts 2 gives a picture of what the community of the Good Shepherd looks like. It is a people who shepherd one another by sharing their possessions (v. 45). Together they study the word of God, have fellowship, break bread and pray. Fellow shepherds of the soul do these things. Daily they worship publicly but also break bread in homes with "glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people" (vv. 46b-47a). The result is a community that by its very way of life and by the power of God adds "to their number those who [are] being saved" (v. 47b). A community of people caring for one another witnesses to God's love and results in more souls in the sheepfold. How is your home a place to shepherd souls?

Pray: Good Shepherd, thank you for calling out to us through a community that cares for one another publicly and also in our daily lives. Amen.

SERVICE

"They would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need" (Acts 2:45). There are many in our communities who are in need of food, clothing, and household goods. Organize or have a yard sale in your neighborhood with the proceeds going to those in need. If possible, place an ad in the local paper.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Draw or find a picture of a sheep. Imagine you are the shepherd for this sheep. Make a list of things you would do to take care of the sheep. Psalm 23 begins with the words, "The Lord is my shepherd." Read Psalm 23 and compare your list with the ways the Lord cares for sheep. Think about someone in your life who needs love and care. How can you be a shepherd for them?



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org