

Christ the Lord Church Pinole, CA May 3, 2020

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

“The Lord is my Shepherd”

(Morning Prayer: The Book of Common Prayer Pg. 77)

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Response: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Christ has entered, not into a sanctuary made with hands, a copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. *Hebrews 9:24*

Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me,
and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.

Psalms 43:3

Leader: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Priest: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

Leader: Lord, open our lips.

Response: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Leader: Alleluia.

**Response: The Lord is risen indeed: Come let us adore him.
Alleluia.**

Venite *Psalm 95:1-7*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

“Nada te turbe” Taize’

Psalm 23

Dominus regit me

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his 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.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as
it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

A Reading from the Book of Acts 2:42-47

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 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. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A Reading from the Letter to 1st Peter 2:19-25

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If 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. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When 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. He 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. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

“Celtic Alleluia”

The Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John 10:1-10

Jesus said, “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. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Reflection by Rev. Dr. Lois Williams

“The Lord is my Shepherd”

Good Day, I hope everyone got a chance to enjoy the wonderful weather we had this week, open a window, take a walk, sit outside on your porch or in your garden. Nature is an amazing thing, in and of itself to be pondered.

So, I believe in the art of reflection, which when applied to today’s readings, the shepherd, and understood within a broader context, may guide us to a better understanding of how God works in the world.

So rather than a sermon today, we will do a deep dive into context and you can apply your own reflections and create your own response.

In today's Gospel, Jesus is speaking on his own terms and that of his culture, yet he realizes his disciples don't understand. Don't think I haven't pondered this a bit because – they were fishermen after all, so maybe not shepherds, so much.

But let us look with informed eyes about what Jesus is saying to us today, through the image of the shepherd. I have done some research and felt if we are “feasting on the Word” we might want to explore it more deeply.

From the days of Abraham down to modern times, sheep have been abundant in the Holy Land. The Jews of Biblical times were first shepherds and then farmers, but they never fully left their shepherd life. The large number of sheep in the land can be understood when it is realized through Biblical account that Job had fourteen thousand sheep (Job 42:12), and that King Solomon at the Temple's dedication, sacrificed one hundred and twenty thousand sheep (I Kings 8:63). One hundred and twenty thousand sheep! Through various recovered art, it seems clear the “fat tailed” sheep was also the most prized.

So that is the factual history, but let's look metaphorically, spiritually. The sheep, in worship for this culture was presented to the priest by the man who represented his family, and then after the animal was bound and tied the family man would put his hand on the sheep's head to transfer his sins onto the animal, and during the absolution the animal's neck was sliced by the priest as a sacrifice to God.

This is a two-way sword metaphorically. The sheep, the most vulnerable, actually contains an enormous amount of power when you consider the sheep to be the gateway to human salvation for this culture. This means sheep were not only a financial matter, but also a spiritual one, and the shepherd keeps them safe.

Take a moment to reflect on when you were the most vulnerable, but in the long run ended up having the power all along.

So back to the shepherd, he has an enormous job here. Let's take a look.

The love of the shepherd for his sheep is best seen when there is a special need calling forth unusual acts of care for members of the flock; such as crossing a stream. Rather than chase or frighten them forward, the shepherd leads the way into the water crossing the stream first. He shows them the ins and outs of the current.

Those favored sheep who always keep close by the shepherd, plunge boldly into the water, and are soon across. Others of the flock may enter the stream with hesitation and alarm because for them not being close to their guide, they may miss the correct way to face the rushing water and be carried down the river a distance, most may be able to clamber ashore, but the farther away from the shepherd you are makes it more of a gamble.

There is always the possibility of a predator who may go for the little lambs at a vulnerable crossing and it is the shepherd who is responsible to keep them safe - they are the future of the herd. When they all arrive over the stream, the lambs will jump about with joy, and the sheep will gather around their shepherd as if to express their thankfulness to him.

Can you relate to feeling Jesus as your shepherd, guiding you through dangerous situations?

The shepherd is always on the lookout for members of his flock that need personal attention. Sometimes a lamb suffers from the heat of the sun, or its body may get caught and badly scratched by some thorn bush. The most common remedy the shepherd uses with these sheep is olive oil, a supply of which he carries in a ram's horn. Having healing oils is an ancient practice we continue on into today. Healing the wounds of our bodies, minds and spirits.

Have you ever been anointed? What did that mean for you? Have you anointed someone?

One of the principal duties at all seasons of the year is for the shepherd to feed his flock. In the springtime there is an abundance of green pasture, and usually the sheep are allowed to graze near to the village where the shepherd's home is. After the grain is reaped, and the poor have had an opportunity to glean what is left for

them, the shepherd brings in his flock, and the sheep feed on the new fresh growth, or dried blades, with an occasional ear of grain that the reapers may have left behind. When this source of food is exhausted then pasture is sought in other places. Scripture often refers to shepherds looking for pasture for their flocks.

Is there a time when you felt God nourished you? Are you actually a shepherd who feeds others?

The shepherd knows how to gather sheep that have been scattered by going to the center of the fold and calling to them, much as dairy farmers call the herd in for milking.

And just like the boy King David, pebbles are sent by means of slingshot in the direction of and beyond members of the flock that fail to heed the call, in order to get their attention and then bring them back, each one accounted for.

Have you ever strayed or doubted in your faith? Did it take something “stinging” or painful in your life to bring you back to God?

All these aspects give us Jesus as our shepherd, the guider, and protector, but he too is also a lamb like us, holding the power of salvation in the most perfect way. The shepherd and sheep relationship is a circular, uniting, and complimentary one. Spiritually speaking with Jesus as our shepherd it is an everlasting one.

What the disciples didn't understand was that they too were like sheep, just like we are today. We are fragile at times, we are arrogant and stubborn, we get frightened, and sometimes we boldly go where we are not supposed to, there are predators out to get us at times, and the list of similarities goes on. Jesus was explaining to the disciples that at some point they too would scatter, but he would call them back together.

We are scattered now, but yet through technology we are called back together. Jesus our shepherd is in our midst, his word is guiding us. We are called to also continue the work of caring for the flock. If you are hearing this worship service and need anything, let someone know. Call me or a parish member, we will help

you figure it out. Because Jesus our shepherd has taught us how to watch out for each other as he watches over us.

That was a deep dive into scripture, that I hope you have enjoyed. I miss you. As the week progresses ponder how Jesus the shepherd has shown up in your life. Who and how did you shepherd someone? Feast on the word!
Amen

“The Lord is my Shepherd”

12 A Song of Creation *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini* *Song of the Three Young Men, 35-65*

One or more sections of this Canticle may be used. Whatever the selection, it begins with the Invocation and concludes with the Doxology.

Invocation

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

I The Cosmic Order

Glorify the Lord, you angels and all powers of the Lord, *
O heavens and all waters above the heavens.
Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew, *
all winds and fire and heat.

Winter and Summer, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O chill and cold, *
drops of dew and flakes of snow.

Frost and cold, ice and sleet, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, *
O shining light and enfolding dark.

Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

II *The Earth and its Creatures*

Let the earth glorify the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills,
and all that grows upon the earth, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, *

O whales and all that move in the waters.

All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, *

and all you flocks and herds.

O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

III *The People of God*

Let the people of God glorify the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O priests and servants of the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O spirits and souls of the righteous, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

You that are holy and humble of heart, glorify the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Doxology

Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

20 **Glory to God** *Gloria in excelsis*

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

***Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,***

***we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.***

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,

*you take away the sin of the world:
 have mercy on us;
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
 receive our prayer.*

For you alone are the Holy One,
 you alone are the Lord,
 you alone are the Most High,
*Jesus Christ,
 with the Holy Spirit,
 in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together, all standing

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth;
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Response: And also with you.

*Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your Name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial,
 and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and for ever. Amen.*

Leader: Let us now pray:

B

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. We praise your name for ever.

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. For we put our trust in you.

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. And we shall never hope in vain.

Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Peace

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that

we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People

***Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up ourselves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.***

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen. Ephesians 3:20,21*

“Like a Shepherd”

***May you be blessed this day and always in the Name of the Father,
The Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen***

Don't forget to join us for coffee hour this Sunday. Check your email for the details.