

Church of the Divine Love

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 8, 2022

10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn **#205, vs. 1,3,4 – Good Christians all**

Opening Acclamation for Easter page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Acts 9:36-43**

Psalm 23

Second Lesson: **Revelation 7:9-17**

Gradual Hymn – **#280, vs. 1,2,4,5 – God of saints**

Gospel: **John 10:22-30**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

The Confession of Sin page 360

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn **#184 – Christ the Lord is risen again!**

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:	
Eucharistic Prayer B	page 367
Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)	page 362
The Lord's Prayer	page 364
The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer	page 337
The Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn – #664 – My shepherd will supply my need	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace – on insert	
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn #657 – Love divine, all loves excelling	
Dismissal	

Sermon Sunday May 8, 2022

Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Good Shepherd Sunday always falls on the fourth Sunday of Easter, and the gospel text always comes from the tenth chapter of John. But each segment of that chapter offers a different perspective on Christ as our good shepherd. The first ten verses describe Jesus as the Gate through which his sheep pass safely. The next section describes how the good shepherd is willing to lay down his own life for the sheep. In today's passage, we learn how the shepherd's voice identifies which sheep belong to the shepherd.

Today is Mother's Day, a day when we honor our moms. A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials, heavy and sudden, fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine, desert us when troubles thicken around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts. We celebrate Mother's Day to tell our mothers we love them and that we are thankful for everything they do for us. First, mothers should be saluted for their tenacious love. Secondly, mothers should be saluted for the tremendous impact they have. Third, mothers should be saluted because where they are, that is where home is. Happy Mother's Day to all of you and be blessed in Jesus 'name!

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So, the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, or the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I

have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one." (John 10:22-30)

As John sets the scene for this conversation, we might wonder why he thinks it is important to tell us that it was winter. How does that detail fit into the larger story? It's possible that John is explaining why Jesus is walking in Solomon's portico. This particular porch had been part of the original temple, and rather than tear it down, Herod had incorporated it into his second Temple construction project. It was an area of the temple grounds that was enclosed and protected from the weather. It could be that there is no significance at all, telling us that it is winter might just be John's way of helping us get our bearings or letting us know that this conversation does not happen at the same time as the shepherd-related passages that come before it. But Jesus is calling his followers into something completely different, something more. Jesus is calling his followers into a life-changing, intimate relationship. It's a call to action. Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me."

Here's the real problem: those crowds demanding clear communication can't hear the shepherd's voice, because they aren't the shepherd's sheep. So where does that leave us? If we claim to follow Jesus, shouldn't we be able to hear our shepherd's voice? Every day, we are constantly bombarded with voices that are NOT the shepherd's voice. Every day the news is filled with tragedy, and it seems every news story tries to tap into our deepest fears. Every day, social media is filled with status updates that make us feel our lives aren't beautiful or perfect enough, happy enough, good enough. Our phones are set to notify us of every opinion posted, every comment made, every change in the weather. There are voices everywhere, calling us to anger, hatred, greed, buy this! buy that! and worry. How can we possibly hear the voice of Jesus calling to us in the midst of all that noise?

It comes down to a question of identity. The crowds want Jesus to prove he is who he says he is. They want some form of authentication. Instead of showing them his credentials, Jesus turns the question around. His identity as the Son of God isn't the issue. Authenticating our identity as his faithful followers is the real question. "My sheep know my voice, I know my sheep and they follow me, and I give them eternal life." It isn't Jesus' identity that's in question here. It's yours. So, unless you are listening for his voice, you won't be able to follow Jesus. And unless you are following him, you can't call yourself one of his sheep. Back at the beginning of the story, when Jesus was calling his first disciples, he said, "Follow me." At the end of the story, after the resurrection, as Jesus feeds his disciples a breakfast of fish and bread on a rocky beach, he says the same thing: "Follow me." Throughout the gospel, the message is always the same, Jesus calls, and those who hear him follow. When we hear him and follow him, Jesus claims us as his own. We belong. This is good news. Because, if we belong to Jesus, it means we belong to God.

If you read a little further in John 10, you will find the crowds asking this same question, and becoming angry enough to pick up stones to throw at Jesus. And Jesus will tell them, "If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may know and believe that the father is in me, and I am in the father." Jesus knows his identity is clearly demonstrated in what he does. He is doing the work of the Father. That's his job.

Our identity as his sheep is just as clearly demonstrated in what we do. Our job is to follow him. And the only way we can follow him is to listen for his voice and go where he calls us to go.

So, what does following Jesus look like? How can our identity as Christ-followers be made crystal clear, not only to us, but to those who aren't yet part of the sheepfold? Jesus will soon tell his disciples, "Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. In other word do what I do. The way we act tells the world who Jesus is. The things we do tell the world who Jesus is. What we say tells the world who Jesus is. And what we do and say also tells the world who we are, and whose voice we obey. When we hear him and follow him, Jesus claims us as his own. And he does more than call to us. He does more than know us by name. He gives us eternal life and promises that no one can snatch us out of his hand.

This is the ultimate promise. Once we belong to Christ, we are his forever. As the old gospel hymn says, we are "safe and secure from all alarms." Jesus offers this promise to you today. Jesus is saying to you now, you hear my voice. I know you, and you follow me. I give you eternal life, and you will never perish. No one will snatch you out of my hand. **Amen.**

Masks optional with social distance seating

4 EASTER	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS	
MONDAY	8:00 AM	AA MEETING	
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING	
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP	
	8:00 PM	AA MEETING	
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP	
5 EASTER	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS	

Spring clean-up day – Saturday, May 21

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE – DROP OFF IN THE KITCHEN

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Roe Prosser	Anthony Giordano
Altar Guild	Deb Giordano	Roe Prosser
	Jess Berbeck	Beverly Noel
Coffee Hour	Jess Berbeck	Deb & Anthony Giordano

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Give to all who suffer the refreshing waters of your compassion and healing. Make them dwell in the safety of your care even in the midst of all that troubles them. Especially we remember before you:

Carol K.	Harriet Capers	Bob Curley	Julia
Arlene Goodenough	Celeste	Chris Dickson	Kate Jones
Grace Schinella	Michael Echevarria	John Rocco	Robert Sweat
Martinisi Family	Michael & Family	Warren	Charlotte H.
Bernie Walther	Sylvia	Mo (Rachael)	Bill Conklin Sr.
Laura	Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Taylor
Ciara	Gabriel	Aidan	Elodie
Del	Dorothy	People of Haiti	Chrissy Neville
Tim	Theresa K.	People of Ukraine	Amy E.
Nathan Treadwell	Christopher & Family	Maggie & Family	Tony

Help us to speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them. Bring us with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen

Prayer before Worship

Almighty God, who pours out on all who desire it, the spirit of grace. Deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn to be sung during the consecration:

Father I adore you,
Lay my life before you,
How I love you.

Repeat twice with second verse starting with Jesus and third verse starting with Spirit.

Prayer for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominions and glory, now and for ever. Amen

