

MAY 11, 2025
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Jesus shepherds us so we can shepherd others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 10:22-30	Jesus promises life to his sheep
Monday	Acts 9:36-43	Peter brings Dorcas back to life
Tuesday	Revelation 7:9-17	The multitude from every nation
Wednesday	Ezekiel 34:11-31	God, the true shepherd
Thursday	Luke 12:22-34	Do not worry
Friday	Isaiah 40:1-11	God's people are comforted
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 13:31-35	Love one another

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity.
Acts 9:36 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of goodness and mercy, thank you for your shepherding love that leads us to care for one another through Jesus Christ our Good Shepherd. Amen.

Mealtimes Prayer:

Shepherding God, we thank you that our cup overflows with your never-failing love that pursues us with goodness, mercy, and this gift of food. Amen. (Psalm 23:5-6)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Good Shepherd lead you to shepherd others.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
Shepherd Me, O God



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:

- If you were a shepherd, what do you think your work would include?
- How is Jesus a shepherd for us and how are we shepherds to one another?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Acts 9:36-43.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is the Good Shepherd Sunday. The theme for this week's scripture readings is shepherding. In John 10:11 Jesus says, *"I am the good shepherd."* And in John 10:22-30 Jesus speaks of his protection of the sheep in his care. Psalm 23 begins by announcing God as *"my shepherd."* In Acts 9 we see a woman named Tabitha who has cared for other women, specifically widows. These women are moved to tears by the care and service of Tabitha, also known as Dorcas. She shepherded women through her service without the acknowledgment of being an official servant. The story of Peter bringing Tabitha back to life lifts up the role of Tabitha as a servant to others. This is an honor given by a disciple to a woman in a male dominated culture. This act expands the ministry of the church to other leaders. On this Good Shepherd Sunday, it is a reminder of how we all are called to shepherd one another in faith and love.

Discuss: Who can you shepherd in faith and love?

Pray: **Living God, we thank you for Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and for all those you place in our lives to nurture faith in you and love for all that you have created. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what unexpected act of kindness can you do to surprise someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

As Tabitha shepherded other women long ago, we have women in our lives who have shepherded us. Today is Mother's Day. It is a time to be thankful for the women in our lives who have guided and shepherded us. Write a list of words that describe a woman in your life who has devoted time to showing care for you. Take a moment to sit quietly and be thankful.
Pray: **Lord God, thank you for [name] and for how she has been a gift to my life. Amen.**



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