

MAY 7, 2017  
FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER



*Jesus is our Good Shepherd.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 10:1-10	Christ the shepherd
Monday	Jeremiah 23:1-8	God will gather the flock
Tuesday	Ezekiel 34:1-16	God will rescue the sheep
Wednesday	Ezekiel 34:20-31	God's promise of a shepherd
Thursday	Acts 2:42-47	Life among the believers
Friday	John 10:11-18	The good shepherd dies for the sheep
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Good Shepherd
Sunday	John 14:1-14	Jesus is the way, truth, and life

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"A thief comes only to rob, kill, and destroy. I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest." **John 10:10 (CEV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, help us to recognize your voice each day and follow you. Amen.  
(John 10:4)

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, through this day your hand has led us, and we thank you for your care. You have warmed us, clothed and fed us, listen to our grateful prayer. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord be your Good Shepherd. May God lead you without fear and restore your soul. May God's goodness and mercy follow you all the days of your life.



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Shepherd Me, O God*



### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Who do you trust and listen to? Why?
- Jesus said his sheep listen to his voice and follow him (John 10:3-4). How do you hear Jesus speaking to you today?
- In what ways do you experience Jesus as your Good Shepherd?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read: Psalm 23.*

This is a psalm of trust that serves people especially when going through those deep, dark valley moments in life. Confidence in the Good Shepherd during difficult times expresses the "audacity of hope" that is part of the Christian faith. When have you gone through dark days and leaned on the Good Shepherd? Conclude your reflections with a time of prayer for the presence of the Good Shepherd in your life and the lives of others, and pray Psalm 23.

### SERVICE

Acts 2:43-47 gives a picture of the early church that did "many wonders and signs" through sacrificial service to others. It is easy to be critical of the humanity of the church without knowing how that same church has served others selflessly and without fanfare. Think about how the church over the centuries has been a serving, loving, and healing community by providing hospitals, orphanages, housing, food, relief work, emotional care and other services for people. Consider making a contribution to one of your favorite service agencies.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Christian hymn singing is a wonderful tradition of the church. Before the advent of Sunday school and the mass production of books, singing hymns was a foundational way to learn about and teach the faith. There are many beautiful sung paraphrases of Psalm 23. Sing, pray, and/or listen to the following hymns available on YouTube: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is; Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us; The Lord Is My Shepherd; and Shepherd Me, O God.*



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