

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

OUR SHEPHERD'S VOICE

..for He is our God. And we are the people of His pasture, the flock under his care.”
Today if only you could hear his voice. Psalm 95:7

Jesus speaks to us of the Shepherd's voice. It a voice of promise. It is a voice that promises stubborn protection. It the voice the flock hears and knows and follows. It is the voice which is especially precious in times of struggle and pain. And it is the one we sometimes have to work harder to hear in better times, when other voices, especially seem to drown it out. And yet, even when those other voices overwhelm, yes even when we don't pause to listen it is always there, inviting and comforting and urging us on.

Let us hear our Shepherd's voice, guiding us to take the next good steps as His disciples.

Let us resolve daily to find times of silent listening to His Word, especially times of meditation on the Gospel.

GOSPEL; John 10:27-30

“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.”

Is your heart open to hear the voice of the Shepherd? Are there times when you can't quite hear him?

Let us feel blessed to hear others witness its sound and be grateful when we find ourselves walking with others who feel the precious voice ringing clearly!

May we be reminded to pause and listen too. For Our Shepherd is calling out to us as well.

Faith, one of the deepest mysteries of the human spirit. Faith, the ability to hear and follow a call. Faith, which enables us to hear the voice and recognize that Faith in the words of Jesus. Our God and Son are Shepherds that care for us, know us by name and even love us in our stubbornness, deafness and diffidence. Shepherds who urge us to lead people towards friendship, and give life.

We are grateful for those who have listened and answered the call to be Shepherds in this world.

Let us take a moment of silent prayer for Pope Francis, all the Priests, Deacons, and Consecrated who have dedicated their lives in service to God, and as witness to the Word of God.

Let us also pray for laity who courageously proclaim the Word of Love by word and action in their daily lives.

Each of us is willed, each of us is loved and each of us is called to share the beauty of the Gospel, and friendship offered by our Shepherd.

Let us trust that Our Shepherd will lead us and use us in His service, great or small.

- *What is the Shepard calling you to?*
- *What do you have to do to be able to listen more deeply to that voice? What needs to be set aside, turned down, put off until later so that you can pause and listen, too.*

Thought to Ponder

We need to find God and He cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See the stars, the moon and notice how they move in silence. We need silence to be able to touch souls. The essential thing is not what we say, but what God says to us and through us. All our words will be useless unless they come from within, from the voice of the Shepherd.

HYMMN

Open my eyes that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me, place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unlock and set me free; silently now I wait for Thee, ready, my God, Thy will to see, open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit Divine.

Open my ears that I may hear gladly the warm truth everywhere and while the wave notes fall on me everywhere else shall disappear, silently now I wait for Thee, ready, my God, Thy will to see, open my ears, illumine me, Spirit Divine.

Open my heart that I may bring trophies of grace to Christ my King, echoed in love. Thy words shall out ring sweet as the note that the angels sing, silently, now, I wait for Thee, ready, my God. Thy will to see, open my heart, illumine me, Spirit Divine. Dr. Robert Stakpole

CLOSING PRAYER

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

The LORD is my shepherd;

there is nothing I lack;

In green pastures he makes me lie down;

to still waters he leads me;

He restores my soul;

He guides me along right paths for the sake of his name.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil for you are with me;

Your rod and your staff comfort me.

You set a table before in front of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil

My cup overflows.

Indeed, goodness and mercy will pursue me all the days of my life;

I will dwell in the house of the LORD for endless days.

Express Friendship and Peace amongst each other