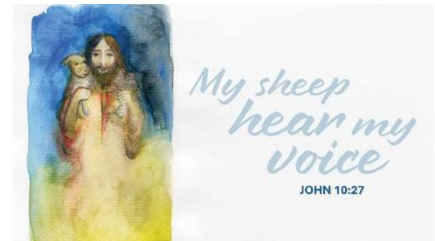


**May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

## **The Readings on This Day**

*\*\*\*Click on the links for the Bible Verse(s)*

### **Fourth Sunday of Easter**



Brought over from the second Sunday after Easter in the medieval one-year lectionary is the beloved Good Shepherd Sunday. Despite the popularity of the image of the lone lamb held in the shepherd's arms, most biblical use of the image of sheep intends a communal interpretation. This Sunday, the conclusion to John 10 includes the metaphor of Christ shepherding a flock of sheep given to him by God.

### **Acts 9:36-43**

During the Sundays of Easter, the first readings come from Acts, to emphasize the ongoing power of Christ's resurrection through the Spirit. Here a disciple is praised for her contributions to a charity (albeit a gender-stereotyped one), and Peter aided by prayer can raise the dead. Resuscitation of a corpse is not what the New Testament means by resurrection. Yet those who are in Christ can experience a renewed life.

### **The Psalm for the Day**

The most beloved psalm in Christian use, [Psalm 23](#), was interpreted in the fourth century as a description of the baptized life. The green pastures are the time of baptismal catechesis; the still waters are the font; the soul is restored by the infusion of the Spirit; the right pathways are the moral life of the transformed believer; God's rod and staff are our guidance for Christian living; the table is the eucharist, with a cup overflowing with mercy; the house of the Lord is the community of the church, within which we enjoy God's goodness. We thus can think of the first person pronouns—"I" and "me"—as referring to the one body of Christ.

### **Revelation 7:9-17**

Martyrdoms and other "great ordeals" continue in the twenty-first century. Christians have interpreted the "springs of the water of life" as baptism. This Sunday, as we gather around the table, we are singing with the martyrs songs of praise. The Lamb at the center of the throne is the bread and wine we share.

### **John 10:22-30**

Concluding the three years of reading John 10 on the fourth Sunday of Easter, we praise the risen Christ as the shepherd whose voice calls us to follow him into eternal life. The entire flock is in the hand of Christ, which is God's hand. The sheep are given life, but they must follow him there.