

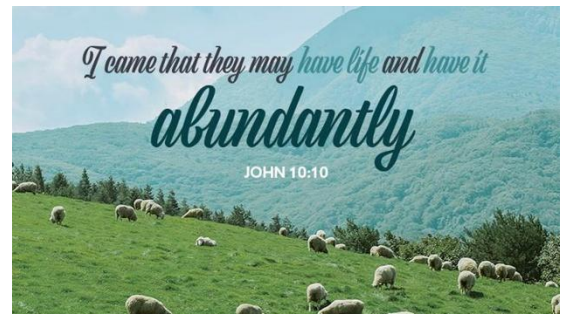
April 26th, 2026 Lectionary Notes

The Readings on This Day

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Brought over from the second Sunday of Easter in the medieval one-year lectionary is the beloved Good Shepherd Sunday. In this “figure of speech” as used in the Bible, shepherds represent the archetypal Israelite past, and sheep, far from being dirty and stupid, are gifts from God that give life to the community.



[Acts 2:42-47](#)

Christians have seen in Luke’s inspiring description a goal for the Christian life. Baptism is to lead to care for the poor and to the praise of God.

[The Psalm for the Day](#)

The most beloved psalm in Christian use, [Psalm 23](#), was seen 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.

[1 Peter 2:19-25](#)

This passage from 1 Peter is moved out of its sequence so that the reference to God as shepherd in verse 25 fits with the dominant metaphor of the day. Beginning the reading in verse 19, omitting the verse addressed to slaves, exemplifies the task of the lectionary: to select biblical passages that have relevance of the contemporary Christian community. The whole community is now guarded by Christ the shepherd.

[John 10:1-10](#)

The church understands Christ as both the shepherd and the gate, itself as the flock, and the enclosure as the church. According to John, sheep are a communal metaphor for shared abundant life. In John’s gospel are eleven passages in which the name of God, I am, is tied to an image, and today’s selection includes one of them: I am the gate. Christians have seen the sacraments as the pasture for the flock.