

MAY 7, 2017



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



ACTS OF APOSTLES 2:14A, 36-41

PSALM 23:1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6

1 PETER 2:20B-25

JOHN 10:1-10

REFLECTION

Today we celebrate what is commonly referred to as "Good Shepherd Sunday." In John's account of the Gospel, Jesus compares himself to the Good Shepherd who calls his sheep by name and leads them. Consider this story: A group of tourists were visiting the Holy Land. On their tour, the guide talks about the common practice of shepherds being in front, leading their sheep, and the sheep following the one they know and trust. Suddenly, the group saw a man walking behind a group of sheep, pushing them along and hitting them with a stick. They asked the guide about this, as this did not align with his story. The guide responded, "That isn't the shepherd, but the butcher!" A shepherd is one who can be trusted and serves in the role of both wise teacher and good ruler. In the case of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, we are invited to follow him and enter through his gate to the fullness of life.

ACTION

As teenagers and young adults, we can learn a lot from young children. I have come to this awareness now that I have two young daughters. I now realize that the wide-eyed innocence of young children can teach me a lot about letting go of some of the control that I often feel I need to grasp tightly to within my life. Young children really do live life to its fullness. Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3). Spend some time with children. Play with them, read to them, and learn from them. Take some of the joy and the fullness of life that is so present in young children and allow your own life to be opened to living life abundantly in Christ.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

● How does the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd resonate with you? How can you take the message of John 10:10 and share this with others to help them fully live life?