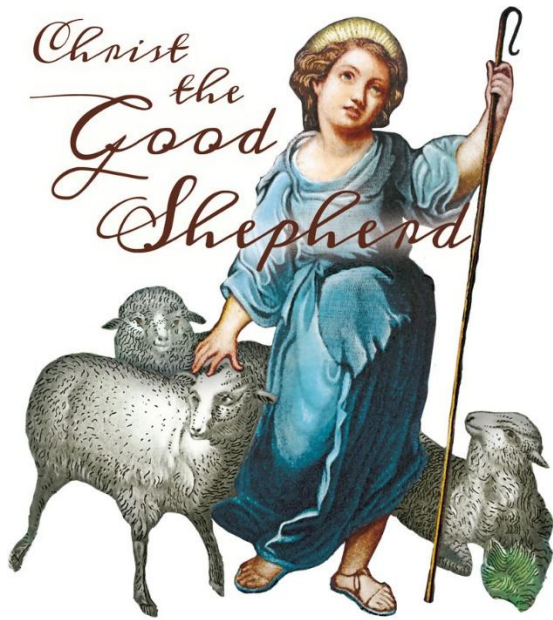


GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY APRIL 26, 2026



One voice, One shepherd, One life. It is said **“In a noisy world the safest place is close enough to hear the shepherd's voice”**. Today we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday, a beautiful reminder that we are not alone, not abandoned, not directionless. The church also marks this day as a time to pray for vocations because the world desperately needs shepherds who will lead with the heart of Christ.

A small boy got lost in a crowded shopping mall. He started crying. Many people tried to console him. One offered candy, another tried to distract him. But he kept crying, suddenly he heard his mother's voice calling his name. Immediately he ran without even seeing her. But why? because he recognized her voice.

The message is when you truly know Jesus even in confusion his voice brings direction. In the first reading Peter boldly proclaims that Jesus whom they crucified is Lord and Messiah, the people are cut to the heart, they repent and 3,000 are baptized, beginning a new life.

In the second reading we are reminded that Christ suffered innocently and became example for us. Though we were like lost sheep we are now brought back to the shepherd who heals and saves.

In the Gospel Jesus declares **“I am the good shepherd I am the gate”**. He knows his sheep, they recognize his voice, and through him we find life in abundance.

What's our takeaway from today's Good Shepherd Sunday? The shepherd knows us personally. Jesus says **“I know my sheep and my sheep know me”**. He doesn't say, I know your Phone number. He doesn't say, I know your Instagram profile. He doesn't say, I know your Face Book. He says **I know you**. A shepherd once said “I don't control my sheep I call them, they follow because they trust my voice.

Firstly, Jesus does not control us he calls us. Second many voices but only one leads to life. Jesus gives a warning, the thief comes to steal, to kill and to destroy us. Let's be honest today some voices say “Earn more even if you lose your peace”. Some say, “Take revenge it feels good”. Some whisper “Nobody cares about you”. But Jesus says **“I came that you may have life in abundance”**. Third the shepherd walks before us. Shepherds often walk in front not behind. Jesus never asked us to go where he has not gone. He pays to rejection, He pays to suffering, He pays to death.

As the second reading says he suffered for us leaving us an example. Fourth from lost to found. In the first reading people are cut to the heart and ask **What must we do?** Peter says **“Repent be baptized and begin a new life”**. And as a result, 3,000 people followed the shepherd that day.

Today Jesus is not asking, are you perfect? are you holy? He's asking only one thing will, you listen to my voice, because his voice heals, his voice guides, and his voice saves. **one voice, one shepherd, one life**. So today let us choose to stay close enough to hear His voice and have life in abundance.

parents who stay awake at night when their child is sick. They sacrifice their comfort to guard the life of their child. That is a glimpse of what Jesus does for us only infinitely greater. He protects us from sin, from despair, from losing our way. Sometimes we don't even realize how many dangers He has already saved us from.

Jesus says, *I came so that they might have life and have it abundantly.*

Not just survival but abundant life. Not just existence but joy, peace, and purpose.

A young man once chased success, money, status, recognition but still felt empty. Only when he returned to prayer and service did he discover real joy. That is the abundant life Jesus gives not something outside, but something within.

This Gospel is not only about Jesus, it is also about us.

Are we listening to His voice, or are we distracted by many other voices? Are we following Him, or wandering away? For those called to leadership priests, parents, teachers are we reflecting the Good Shepherd?

A priest once said: “A shepherd must smell like the sheep”. That means being close, caring, patient, and compassionate.

Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, the Good Shepherd is not far away. He is here guiding, protecting, and loving us. Even when we stray, He searches. Even when we fall, He lifts. Even when we doubt, He remains faithful. Let us trust His voice. Let us follow His path. And let us become, in our own way, good shepherds to one another. **Amen.**