

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 99)

ANTIPHON: We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

RESPONSE: **We are his people, the sheep of his flock.**

Or

Alleluia!

LECTOR: Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing for joy. **R.**

LECTOR: Know that he, the Lord, is God. He made us, we belong to him, we are his people, the sheep of his flock. **R.**

LECTOR: Indeed, how good is the Lord, eternal his merciful love. He is faithful from age to age. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

TODAY'S READINGS Acts 13:14, 43-52; Rev 7:9, 14-17; John 10:27-30

NEXT WEEK (5th Sunday of Easter, Year C) Acts 14:21-27; Ps 144; Rev 21:1-5; John 13:31-35

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers. May you have a great day!

*Brighten up
your day with
The Majellan*

To mothers everywhere, Majellan Media wishes you a wonderful and relaxing day. May your families spoil you. We also remember the mothers who are no longer with us. Bless them for all they did! Articles, Prayers, Podcasts and a whole lot more can be found at: **www.majellan.media**



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The Good Shepherd always listens



11 May 2025 4th Sunday Easter Year C

The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd tenderly carrying a sheep on his shoulders was one of the earliest images of Jesus in Christian art. It was found in the Roman catacombs, the ancient cemeteries outside the city of Rome where the early Christian martyrs were buried. It has remained a much-loved image of Jesus throughout the centuries.

Jesus teaches "I am the Good Shepherd" in today's reading from the Gospel of John. Hence this Fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally known as Good Shepherd Sunday.

In this week's reading, Jesus speaks evocatively of the relationship between the Good Shepherd and the sheep of his flock. "The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me." The good shepherd knows his sheep so well that he knows them by name! They know him. They listen to his voice. He cares for them. They trust him. He leads them. They follow him. Indeed, the Good Shepherd, unlike a hired hand, lays down his life for his sheep. It is a relationship of trust, faithfulness, steadfast care and unwavering love.

Jesus goes on to speak just as evocatively of the relationship between himself and the Father: "My Father who has given them [the sheep] to me is greater than anyone, and no one can steal from the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

The Father and I are one: this is an astonishing claim! Indeed, it will heighten

the animosity in those religious authorities who oppose Jesus and escalate the already growing tension that will ultimately lead to his death.

In declaring that "the Father and I are one," Jesus is identifying himself with the God of Israel, the Shepherd whose praises resound in today's Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 99): "God, he made us, we belong to him; we are his people, the sheep of his flock."

That "the Father and I are one" means that Jesus, the good shepherd, is the very image of the Father, as Good Shepherd. This much-loved image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd and our reading from John's Gospel today remind us to keep our eyes on him, to listen to him, to follow him, and to hold firm to our faith and our trust in him. He is truly the Good Shepherd. He has laid down his life for us. His resurrection is the promise of ours. He calls us to live lives of faith, hope and charity, caring for our neighbour and for all creation.

As we prayed in the Responsorial Psalm today, let us rejoice and be glad, for "how good is the Lord, eternal his merciful love. He is faithful from age to age." We are his people, the sheep of his flock. Alleluia.

And on this Mothers' Day, let us also give thanks for our mothers, and for all those people in our lives who have cared for us and shepherded us on our life's journey.

Anne Hunt

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