

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19–25

A reading from first Peter.

¹⁹For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²²"He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

GOSPEL: John 10:1–10

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS: 

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	John 10:1-10	Christ the shepherd
Monday	Jeremiah 23:1-8	God will gather the flock
Tuesday	Ezekiel 34:1-16	God will rescue his sheep
Wednesday	Ezekiel 34:20-31	God's promise of a shepherd
Thursday	Matthew 18:10-14	The parable of the lost sheep
Friday	John 10:11-18	The good shepherd dies for the sheep
Saturday	Psalms 100	We are the sheep of God's pasture
Sunday	John 14:1-14	Jesus is the way, truth and life

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

Jesus said: "A thief comes only to rob, kill, and destroy. I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest."
John 10:10 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Jesus, our Good Shepherd: Help us to recognize your voice today and follow you. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Risen Lord Jesus, we praise you for the gifts of this table and our feast of Easter joy. Fill us with your love and life. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord be your Good Shepherd. May he provide for all your needs and refresh you inside and out. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Which people do you trust most? Why?
- Jesus says his sheep listen to his voice and follow him (John 10:3-4).
When and where do you hear Jesus' voice?
- How does listening to Jesus' voice help us?

DEVOTIONS:

In your home devotional times this week, read together Psalm 23 ("The Lord is my shepherd"). As an additional challenge, try to commit it to memory.

SERVICE:

Acts 2:42-47 describes how the early Christian believers worshipped together and supported one another. How does your congregation support members who are in need? Discuss ways in which you, as a household, could become more involved in assisting fellow Christians who may be experiencing difficulties of one form or another.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

Say this prayer together at bedtime or at the conclusion of your evening meals this week.

*Jesus, tender Shepherd, hear me,
bless your little lamb tonight.
Through the darkness please be near me,
keep me safe till morning light.
Through this day your hand has led me,
and I thank you for your care.
You have warmed me, clothed and fed me; listen to my evening prayer.
Let my sins be all forgiven;
bless my friends and family, too,
Take me, when I die, to heaven;
happy there to live with you. Amen.*