

The Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Christ Is Our Good Shepherd



Background: This Sunday is “**Christ the Good Shepherd**” Sunday. Today's Gospel lesson takes place after Christ healed a man blind from birth and was criticized by the Pharisees for doing this healing on the Sabbath! Christ warned them of suffering from “Spiritual blindness.” Christ now takes extra time to describe His role as The “Good Shepherd.” The relationship of the Shepherd to his sheep is described as: “the sheep hear His word and they follow Him. Note Christ does not describe himself as herding the sheep. In fact they recognize His voice and simply follow Him. How do we recognize His voice? Through worship, Bible study, fellowship with other Christians and our pastor, daily devotions, and of course participating in the Sacraments. The highest value provided by Christ as our Good Shepherd is that He laid down his life for us! He reinforces His support by giving us pastors, teachers and church leaders, who are dedicated to making sure that we are receiving the unaltered truth of God’s scriptural teachings given to us through the Bible. It’s a high calling to be a pastor, and an awesome responsibility to serve as God’s messenger. Fulfilling their duty, we live in peace, knowing that the Good Shepherd paid the full price of our sins and has sent the Holy Spirit to keep us in the faith of Jesus Christ as our Lord and savior.

Christ the Good Shepherd Philippe de Champaigne (1650- '60)

The Lessons: Acts 2:42–47, 1 Peter 2:19–25, & John 10:1–10 Although we “*were straying like sheep,*” the Lord Jesus Christ has willingly suffered and died for us, bearing our sins “*in his body on the tree*” (1 Peter 2:24–25). We are healed by His wounds (1 Peter 2:24), and in His resurrection He gathers us to Himself as our Good Shepherd, by whose righteousness we “*have life and have it abundantly*” (John 10:10). Now through other shepherds whom He calls and sends in His name, He guards and keeps us in the green pastures of His Church, leading us beside the quiet waters of our Baptism and spreading the feast of His table before us. Since He has called us by the Gospel to be His own dear sheep, we also “*hear his voice*” and “*know his voice*” (John 10:3–4) in the faithful preaching of His Gospel, and we follow Him by faith. When we receive His Gospel, we have the abundant life and common unity of the entire flock under one Good Shepherd, in “*the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship*” and in “*the breaking of bread and the prayers*” (Acts 2:42).