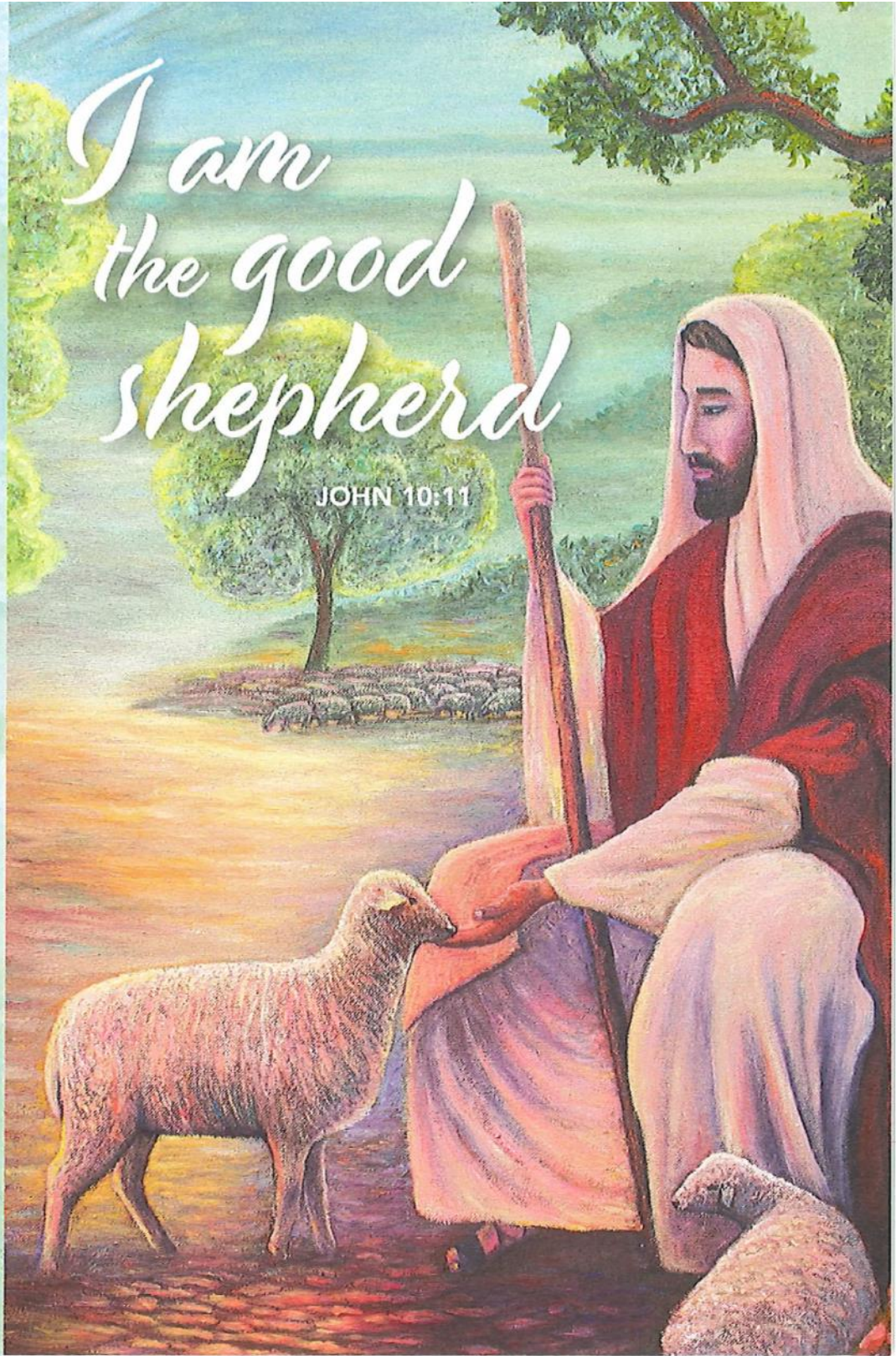


# *I am the good shepherd*

JOHN 10:11



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

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**WELCOME** Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 185 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

**Restrooms** are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex. Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms.

**The 10:30 AM Liturgy is live streamed.** Please be aware that conversations are all audible to those viewing from home.

**We are not relaxing our guidelines at this time. Please remain diligent.**

## Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

### Entering and Leaving the Church:

*Face masks are required inside,*

*Kindly sign in at the door through which you entered.*

*Please take your service bulletin with you and dispose of it properly.*

### Offerings:

*Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave prior to the service or immediately following the service. You may also donate via our website at*

*[www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)*

### While in the Nave:

***Please wear your mask.*** *Please sit in designated pews only. You may sit together as a family.*

*We ask that you practice social distancing from one family to the next within the pew.*

### Communion Procedure:

- *Ushers will direct you. The pulpit side (left) of the nave communes first followed by the font side (right).*
- *Wearing your face mask, come to the chancel step taking your place at one of the five positions marked on the chancel floor with a green cross.*
- *Your entire household may gather at a position marked by the green cross.*
- *Extend your arms and cup your hands together to receive the host.*
- *Please do not reach out to take the Host from the minister.*
- *Once the minister has moved to the next group, then remove your mask, receive the host, replace your mask and return to your pew by the closest side aisle. There is no need to hurry.*
- *We are receiving communion in one kind only (bread/host).*

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open at St. Paul's. Please thank Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, and Dr. Martha Thomas for their dedication and service.

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**Sunday, April 25, 2021**  
**Holy Communion 8:00 and 10:30 AM**

**PRELUDE**

*Meditation on "Brother James's Air"*

Harold Darke

**Stand**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Let us pray,

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

**Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.**

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

**At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.**

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your  
promise and servants of all.

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for  
the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.**

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

**To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

*During the sprinkling with water, ELW #215 "Blessed be God Who Chose You",  
will be sung 4 times; first by the Cantor, then Women, Men and All*



Bless-ed be God, who chose you in Christ.



Live in love as Christ loved us.



## APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.      **And also with you.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Sung by the cantor. People join at*



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



## PRAAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.      **And also with you.**

Let us pray. . . . God of all power, you called from death our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep. Send us as shepherds to rescue the lost, to heal the injured, and to feed one another with knowledge and understanding; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

## FIRST READING

## Acts 4:5-12

(back cover)

# PSALM

## Psalm 23

*Spoken responsively by half verse.*

<sup>1</sup> The LORD | is my shepherd;\*

**I shall not | be in want.**

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down | in green pastures\*

and leads me be- | side still waters.

<sup>3</sup> He re- | vives my soul\*

**and guides me along right pathways | for his name's sake.**

- <sup>4</sup> Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;\*  
**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.**
- <sup>5</sup> You spread a table before me in the presence of those who | trouble me;\*  
**you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.**
- <sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,\*  
**and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.**

*Stand*

**HOLY GOSPEL**

John 10:11-18

*(back cover)*

The Holy Gospel according to **St. John.** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the conclusion of the Gospel.*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

**SERMON**

Pastor Reep

*Stand*

**APOSTLE'S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\***

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before  
God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*A brief silence.*

Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Strengthen your church  
throughout the world so that we bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore  
your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may  
abound with life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders the passion to serve others and give them joy in lifting up the lowly. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Help us love one another in truth and action. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. In the midst of challenges and opportunities fill us anew with you Holy Spirit. We especially pray for...Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you (*especially the evangelist Mark*). Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## DIALOGUE

*Sung by Pastor/congregation*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**PREFACE** *The preface appropriate to the day is sung.*

## SANCTUS

*Sung by cantor. Congregation joins at*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. **C** Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the

body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people  
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy  
church, now and forever.

**Amen, amen, amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen**

## FRACTION RITE

When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ.

**Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as once you revealed  
yourself to your disciples.**

**AGNUS DEI**      *Sung by cantor*

***Sit**      The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion.*

## COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

*Instructions for receiving the sacrament are on the inside front cover of the bulletin.*

**COMMUNION CANTICLE**      *Congregation sings refrain    Cantor sings stanzas*



Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.  
Power and riches, wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.



## REFRAIN

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing and honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

## REFRAIN

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Amen

## REFRAIN

## Stand

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen**

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

## BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, Bless you now and forever. **Amen**

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Christ the Lord is Risen Today: Alleluia! (LBW 128) stanza 4*

4 Chris-tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!

all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!

Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!

now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

## DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!  
Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**He is Risen, indeed. Alleluia!**  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Procession*

*June Nixon*

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*Please...be respectful of distancing and personal space as you leave.  
...feel free to gather outside for conversation.  
...take your service bulletin with you and dispose of it properly.*

The Feast of Pentecost will be celebrated indoors at 8:00 AM and outdoors at 10:30 AM. Remember to bring a lawn chair. Please plan accordingly for Sunday, May 23.

### *In our prayers we remember...*

*Larry Moore, Joanne Schiding, Jessica Arnold, Wade & Deanna Patterson, Dante Fuligini, Alyuson Bucks, Sandy Dickensheets, Teresa Rohrbaugh, Delores Sergeant, Betty Mehring, Drew Herdson, David List, Kristine Gross, and Porter Stacey*

### **Food Pantry—April**

**Items needed:** Pancake mix, 4 pks of toilet paper, canned or boxed potatoes, stuffing mix, jelly, boxed rice. We also need paper grocery bags with handles.

Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh or Janet and Larry Moore. Plastic Bags are always needed. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a “special” envelope marked “Pantry”.



Flowers This Week

*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God in in loving  
memory of Gene by Norma Shue and family;  
and in celebration of Sylvia's many years of service to the Pantry  
and in honor of all Pantry volunteers by the Little Family.*

**Altar Flowers** will once again be gracing our worship space now that Lent has passed. The Springettsbury Hallway bulletin board has the sign-up sheet to sponsor flowers for available dates for the year. Many Sundays are still available! Cost is \$30 per vase.

## This Week at St. Paul's April 25-May 2

Church office open 7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Mon—Thurs, 7:30 a.m.—12 noon Fri

### Sunday, April 25

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist  
6:30 PM AA meeting—Community Rm

### Monday, April 26

7:00 PM Worship & Arts meeting—In-house  
7:00 PM Boy Scout Meeting— ZOOM

### Tuesday, April 27

9:30 AM Food Pantry  
12:30 PM Christian Ed Meeting—ZOOM  
6:00 PM Property Committee—In-house

### Wednesday, April 28

10:30 AM Bible Study—Christ Hall

### Sunday, May 2

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist  
6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm



*We extend a hearty welcome to Jeremy Zuck, our guest organist. Jeremy is a talented musician. We appreciate him leading us in our liturgy and hymns this morning. And we thank Emily Reep (8:00 AM) and Carolyn Kapoun (10:30 AM) for serving as cantor.*

### Wednesday Bible Study

#### The Book of Acts

Wednesday Bible Study is held at 10:30 AM in Christ Hall. During the season of Easter the first reading each Sunday is from the book of Acts. We will spend a portion of our time together gaining greater insight into the book of Acts while still spending time reflecting on the Easter gospel readings. The Acts of the Apostles is a continuation of the narrative of the Gospel according to Luke. The book of Acts can be divided into two large portions. The first portion centers on Peter and deals with the early church in Jerusalem in the days following the resurrection of Jesus. The second portion centers on Paul and deals with his three missionary journeys and the expansion of the message of Christ crucified, raised and ascended. These readings direct our Sunday worship during this joyous season of Easter with a dual focus on the good news that God has raised Jesus from death to life and in our missionary effort to tell and share the good news with others here and around the world. Please bring your Bible and join us!

#### STAFF

Pastor  
Youth Director  
Organist, Choir Director  
Bookkeeper  
Secretary  
Sexton  
Preschool Director

Reverend Stanley Reep	<a href="mailto:prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a>
Kelly Moore-Spencer	<a href="mailto:kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a>
Victor Fields	<a href="mailto:vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a>
Dale Zeiger	<a href="mailto:dzeiger.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">dzeiger.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a>
Patee Pizzirusso	<a href="mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net">st.paulsyork@comcast.net</a>
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Deb Becker	<a href="mailto:director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com">director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com</a>

“Lord. What do you want me to say to your people? What is that is burning deep within you that you would have me say to your faithful who have gathered?” These are the kinds of questions and the conversations that the Reverend Adam Smallbone of St. Saviour’s Church, a fictitious congregation in East London, often has with the Lord God as presented in the TV series REV.

Father Adam in an altruistic way wants to advance the gospel of our Lord, wants to model the ministry of Jesus, and yet when he does he perpetually gets put down by; parishioners, the vestry, co-workers, the Arch-Deacon and Bishop even the clerk at the local convenience store. It seems that both the secular world and the religious institution is against the very salvation that Jesus brings by his death and resurrection. The biblical texts seem at times to be so crystal clear, and when they are Father Adam tries to live into them. And when they aren’t, then Father Adam breaks into a personal conversational prayer with the Lord. His prayers usually go a bit like this.

“Lord,” Father Adam begins.

I never really know what to say. Why are you using me? I am rather ordinary. I haven’t excelled at much that is recognized by the world as significant. I know that when your servants Peter and John stepped out following the resurrection the things that they said and did got them in a heap of trouble with the religious authorities. I am not looking for trouble, Lord. I don’t much like getting people worked up. You said that time on the mountain that peace makers were to be blessed. But so much of what your servants have done seem to cause commotion.

Yes, Lord, such situations have brought many to faith. This morning alone if we read on a bit from the sacred text we discover that five thousand believed in you that day. That certainly must have made the religious leaders sit up and take notice. Lord, is that why they questioned Peter and John about “power” and the “name” in which that poor lame man was restored to health? Is that what threatened them, made them so uneasy about their own positions, a lame man walking?

I pray, that like Peter, when we speak of you and your love and compassion, your grace and mercy, that we are filled with the Holy Spirit. Use our voices to boldly proclaim something other than what we hear so much about in the news, about worldly power and authority and name. Most people will know more about the international stage than about you. North Korea tests missals. Russia silences the voice of Alexa Navalny. Iran enriches uranium. China expands into the South China Sea. Lord, why is it that political and military power is muscling its way to the top and your salvation and name seem to go unnoticed? Is it because I haven’t been bold enough? That’s it Lord, people like me, we haven’t been bold in the same way that Peter and John were bold.

People come to us wanting things and you offer life. Like that day when the lame man was restored. He was at the gate of the temple and he wanted money. In your name he was given life. The way he jumped around it was abundant life. Oh, so that is

it, it isn't about things, it is about relationship. Relationship, like the one created, formed, advanced when that man stood with Peter and John who testified that it was in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth that he was restored.

Isn't that the way it is for us too? We come to you wanting things and you give us life. In baptism you restore broken relationships, forgive the horrible things we have done, are doing, and will most likely keep on doing because of our sinfulness. But, Lord, you keep forgiving us, claiming us, coming after us when we go astray. Oh, so that's why you are the Good Shepherd. You keep coming after us when we go astray. You aren't like the other guys who are hired to tend and care for us and who will run off as soon as there is any sign of danger.

The sacred text uses "wolf" coming after us, but to be truthful I am more concerned about so many other dangers prevalent; world leaders building up their arsenals to instill fear and wreak havoc, depression that leads to suicide, children who don't have adequate drinking water or daily nutrition, prejudice drawing lines to keep people apart, racism spewing false information to keep some down and to keep some on top. But in all of this you remain the One Shepherd leading us along right paths, beside still waters and through dark valleys. Yes Lord, I heard you say all those things about who you are and what you do. I can recite them. You say:

I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me.

I know the Father.

I lay down my life.

I have other sheep.

I must bring them.

I have power.

I have received this command.

But Lord, I hear that you are the gate, the entrance, the one calling to us to lead us and save us and give us life in abundance. I have been busy focusing on things and you are busy making a way for your beloved flock, not saturated with stuff, but saturated with acceptance, love, release from what holds us so that life, real life, abundant life in you may abound. It was Peter who told the crowd that day that "there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Saved. That's why you lay down your life, died on a cross, so that there would be one flock, one shepherd. I think I get it Lord. I spend too much time focusing on the "wolves" and the "things" when I need to focus on you the One Shepherd who gives abundant life. Help me get the word out. Use my voice and my life so that others will boldly stand with Peter and John proclaiming your power and name. Amen.



**FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12**

The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'

<sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

**Psalm 23****SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24**

We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever

our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

**GOSPEL: John 10:11-18**

[Jesus said:] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

<sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."