

EASTER TO TRINITY SUNDAY



Revised Common Lectionary /Scripture Citations for Year C - All Seasons
<http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/calendar/2024-25/?season=all&download=txt>

Welcome to the last leg of the Liturgy journey for year C: Easter to Trinity Sunday. Our hope is that individuals as well as group/class members will make use of this devotional material as it not only reflects the Sunday sermons but ensures that we take our learnings deeper. We do this with scripture readings, daily devotions, reflections on scripture and questions. May you hear His truths, ensure it is transformative and experience God's love for you personally.

- Week 1: Sunday 20 April - The empty tomb.
- Week 2: Sunday 27 April – Jesus appears to his disciples.
- Week 3: Sunday 4 May – Jesus and the miraculous catch of fish.
- Week 4: Sunday 11 May – Further conflict over Jesus's claims.
- Week 5: Sunday 18 May – Jesus predicts Peter's denial.
- Week 6: Sunday 25 May – The healing at the pool.
29 May – Ascension Day
- Week 7: Sunday 1 June – Jesus prays for all believers.
- Week 8: Sunday 8 June – Jesus the way to the Father.
- Week 9: Sunday 15 June – Trinity Sunday.

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Week 4: Sunday 11 May ***Further conflict over Jesus' claim***

Bring God into the meeting with prayer, lighting a candle, listening to a worship song.

The Goodness of God – https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=goodness+of+god

Read the Bible readings provided:

Liturgical Date: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Calendar Date: May 11, 2025

First reading: *Acts 9:36-43

Psalm: Psalm 23

Second reading: Revelation 7:9-17

Gospel: John 10:22-30

John 10:22-30

New International Version - UK

Further conflict over Jesus' claims

²² Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. ²⁴ The Jews who were there gathered round him, saying, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' ²⁵ Jesus answered, 'I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.'

In this week's gospel reading, we meet with Jesus standing in Solomon's Colonnade surrounded by questions that long for clarity. He does not dismiss any of those by giving a very clear and straight response. At the centre of his response is a declaration that reveals the reality of who he truly is. He says: "*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.*" In these words, Jesus draws a vivid picture of the relationship between himself and those who belong to him. This is a relationship marked by recognition and trust. To make this reality more tangible, Jesus uses the imagery of sheep and a shepherd, a metaphor that was easily understood in his context. Shepherding was familiar and people knew that sheep depended wholly on their shepherd for protection, provision and guidance. Think about it. Sheep are beautiful and gentle creatures. From a distance, they present a peaceful scene as they graze quietly in green pastures. Yet sheep are also nervous in nature and easily startled; they tend to flee at the slightest threat; passive and often seen as lacking in discernment. This tender, vulnerable nature reminds us that to belong to Christ is not merely to acknowledge him from afar but to live in a dynamic relationship of dependence, trust, and responsiveness to his guiding voice.

We live in a noisy and restless world today. A world filled with countless voices demanding for our attention. Every day we are bombarded by adverts, media messages and social influences - all promising fulfilment, safety, success, or belonging. Some of these voices are incredibly persuasive, tailored specifically to our desires and vulnerabilities through various marketing strategies. Have you ever had an experience of talking to a friend about buying something - let's say a couch - and the very next time you went on Facebook or somewhere like that, you saw ads for couches. Yes, our phones and other devices are listening to us. They hear our voices.

Our devices seem to know us better than we know ourselves, constantly listening and learning, shaping what we see and hear in ways that often pull our hearts in conflicting directions. They know us, and all too often, we hear their voice, and follow them. But instead of leading us to life, they often seek to sell us false promises. They function like counterfeit shepherds - drawing us in with assurances they cannot fulfill. Amid these many voices, Jesus reminds us that there is only one true Shepherd. Only one voice leads to abundant life. And today, he calls us once again to listen intentionally and carefully for his voice, the voice of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

The sheep of his fold are attuned to his leading. They know his voice and follow him, even when other noises try to drown it out. In a world where loyalties shift and securities falter, the voice of Jesus remains steadfast, calling us to trust in his unchanging faithfulness. This relationship is not passive; it demands a response - the active posture of listening, trusting, and following. True discipleship means orienting our hearts daily to the voice of the Good Shepherd, resisting the lure of other voices that promise much but deliver little.

As you reflect today, consider: Am I truly listening for the voice of the Good Shepherd, or am I distracted by the competing voices around me? Do I rest confidently in His promise that no one can snatch me from His hand? How is Jesus calling me to follow Him more closely in the daily rhythms of my life? And how does the assurance of His eternal grasp on my life shape the way I face fears, uncertainties, and pressures? Let us live as those who are known, loved, and securely led by the Shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep - and who continues to call each of us by name.

Questions for group discussion:

1. Am I truly listening for the voice of the Good Shepherd, or am I distracted by the competing voices around me?
2. How is Jesus calling me to follow him more closely in the daily rhythms of my life?
3. What habits or practices can help me better discern the voice of Jesus amid the noise of the world?
4. What role does community play in helping me stay focused on the voice of the Good Shepherd?
5. How do fear, success, or busyness compete for my attention and loyalty?

Daily lectionary readings:

Monday, May 12, 2025: [Psalm 100](#); [Ezekiel 37:15-28](#); [Revelation 15:1-4](#);
Tuesday, May 13, 2025: [Psalm 100](#); [Ezekiel 45:1-9](#); [Acts 9:32-35](#);
Wednesday, May 14, 2025: [Psalm 100](#); [Jeremiah 50:17-20](#); [John 10:31-42](#);
Thursday, May 15, 2025: [Psalm 148](#); [Ezekiel 2:8-3:11](#); [Revelation 10:1-11](#);
Friday, May 16, 2025: [Psalm 148](#); [Daniel 7:13-14](#); [Revelation 11:15](#);
Saturday, May 17, 2025: [Psalm 148](#); [Daniel 7:27](#); [Revelation 11:16-19](#);

Written by Jenny Blake – CHILDREN'S PASTOR



Week 4 Title: *Safe in the Shepherd's Hands*

Scripture: John 10:22–30

Theme: Jesus is our Good Shepherd, and we belong to Him forever.

Opening Thought

Have you ever gotten lost in a store or a crowd? It's scary when you feel alone—but how do you feel when someone you love comes and takes your hand? Jesus says we are like His sheep—and He is our Shepherd. He knows us, calls us, and never lets go.

Bible Reading: John 10:22–30

Read the verses together slowly. Younger kids can pretend to be sheep while someone reads Jesus' words.

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Devotion

People gathered around Jesus and asked Him, "Are you the Messiah?" They wanted a clear answer. Jesus said He had already shown them who He was by the things He did. But not everyone believed.

Then He said something beautiful: *"My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life... and no one will ever snatch them out of My hand."*

What does that mean? If we belong to Jesus, we are *safe*. Even when life is hard, confusing, or scary, we can trust that He knows us, speaks to us, and holds us tightly. Nothing can take us away from His love.

Big Idea

Jesus is our Shepherd. He knows us, loves us, and keeps us safe in His hands forever.

Discussion Time

For Younger Children:

1. What do sheep do when they hear the shepherd's voice?
2. What did Jesus say about His sheep?
3. How does it make you feel to know Jesus holds you in His hand?

 For Older Children/Teens:

1. Why do you think Jesus calls us His sheep?
2. What does it mean to "listen to His voice"? How can we do that today?
3. Jesus promises that no one can take us out of His hand. How does that give you peace or courage?
4. What does it mean to follow Jesus—not just once, but every day?

Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank You that You are our Good Shepherd. You know us by name, You speak to us, and You keep us safe in Your hands. Help us to listen for Your voice and follow You with our whole hearts. Amen.

Family Activity

Sheep Name Tags:

Make paper sheep and write each family member's name on one. Then draw or write ways you can "follow the Shepherd" this week (e.g., pray, be kind, listen, obey). Stick them on the fridge or wall as a reminder.