

SUNDAY EASTER WEEK 4, YEAR A

First Reading: Acts 2: 14a, 36-41;

Second Reading: 1Pt 1.17-21;

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6;

Gospel Reading: Jn 10: 1-10.

THEME: Follow Christ the Good Shepherd

The title of the main theme for the readings today is not honorable. The reason for which Christ compared his role in saving mankind with the role of a shepherd becomes clear when we go back to how sheep were taken care of at the time of Christ in the Near East. The shepherd typically walks ahead of the sheep and makes a special vocal sound which directs the sheep as to where to go and to what to do. The sheep get to know that voice and know it thoroughly. This voice speaks of food/pastures, water in the hot desert, security from wild beasts, and comfort inside the gates of pens. It is the duty of the good shepherd to lead the sheep out to pasture and to lead them back home.

The picture of the role of the shepherd makes clear about what Christ offers His flock. The voice, word, and teachings of Christ signal “give us our daily bread” as He thought us to pray. It signals security from this world of crises. It signals and promises everlasting comfort in the resurrection of the body as His did. For sheep, it is very easy for them to follow the voice of their shepherd. For us, there are so many competing voices distracting us from the Good Shepherd. We hear the voices of the radio, TV, videos/CDs, social media, print media, advertisements, etc. These other voices tell us to do this or that, buy, and you will be satisfied, happy, and secure.

Around 1,000 BC, a young man by name David truly trusted the Lord. He wrote a poem/Ps 23 saying, “The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.” The young man became the greatest king in Israel. He had been a shepherd, but the Lord made him a greater shepherd of His people. In the first two readings St. Peter, the first pope, an eyewitness, testified to the goodness of the Lord and tells us to follow Him. The Lord urges us to trust him like King David. During these troubled times, we are also invited to become shepherds to other people. Parents make your kids and spouses trust you such that they can look into your eyes and say s/he is my shepherd. With that trust we can all also say, “The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.”

By Fr. Sev Kupo, Associate Pastor