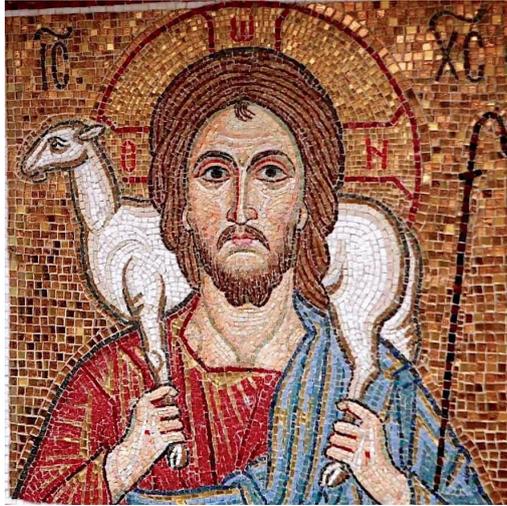


4th Sunday after Easter C



Icon of Jesus the Good Shepherd

THE GOSPEL John 10:27-30

No one can take them out of my hand.

Good
Shepherd,
let us hear you
in the beauty of our world,
in your poor, and in one another,
on the rocky and rough roads we travel.

Please pick us up
when our legs can walk no more.
Pull us from the brambles that snarl us:
climate, racism, divisions, Ukranian suffering.
Carry all our brothers and
sisters to safety.

Good Shepherd,
hold us close,
in your
arms.

Speak to our
hearts.

THE FIRST READING Acts 13:14, 43-52

I have made you a light to the Gentiles.

Let us carry your light, your tidings, your beauty, your delight
to every nation, to every people who hunger for true life.
Transform us into love every moment of our being:
in how we live, what we do, for whom we care;
every one of our days, every season,
throughout all our years
till the end of
time.

THE SECOND READING Revelation 7:9, 14b-17

*They will not hunger or thirst anymore,
nor will the sun or any heat strike them.*

Dorothy Day,
Gandhi, Oscar Romero:
they knew your hunger and thirst,
as you filled the hearts of each poor one
throughout this world.

They are the
love you
use to wipe away
every tear
upon every face.

Let us love you
as they did.

Let us
lay down our
lives for our friends.



Adoration of the Lamb from the Douce Apocalypse (c 1265-70)

Reflection: *'I know them and they follow me.'*

On this 'Good Shepherd Sunday', the Gospel verses are taken from the tenth chapter of St John. Here Jesus speaks of himself as the Good Shepherd, who brings life, love and protection to those within his flock.

In the **First Reading** we follow Paul and Barnabas to Antioch, where their message is rejected by the Jewish leaders. Undeterred, they turn their preaching to those termed pagans. To the joy of the disciples, these people readily hear and receive the message of eternal life offered by the Lord, fulfilling the commission given by Jesus himself.

The **Psalm** celebrates the joy, gladness and mercy that this eternal life promises to those who delight in being the Lord's people, the sheep of his flock.

The **Second Reading** recounts John's vision of heaven. Amid countless souls robed in the whitest of garments, we see Jesus as the Lamb, standing at the throne of God. We hear of the gifts of protection from hunger, thirst and sorrow which come to those who stand before God's throne.

Jesus, the shepherd himself, speaks in the **Gospel**, reminding us of the blessings of care and protection his sheep are promised — both now, and in eternal life, with Jesus and the Father.

This week, perhaps we can pray especially for those who, for whatever reason, may feel lost and without the protection of the shepherd they once knew. We also remember those who are searching for a flock in which to make their home.

We continue to pray for peace across the world, and especially for the people of Ukraine and eastern Europe. (*From St. Bueno's Outreach to the Diocese of Wrexham*).