

May 7, 2017 4th Sunday of Easter

By his wounds you have been healed!

Acts 2:14, 36-41

Psalm 23:1-6

1Peter 2:20b-25

John 10:1-10

In the first reading Peter raised his voice to let Israel know that God made Jesus both Lord and Messiah. If you repent and become baptized, he continued, your sins will be forgiven and you will receive the Holy Spirit. This is the way to save yourselves from a corrupt generation, and many were saved that day.

The prayer of the Psalmist acknowledges God as the shepherd who guides him along right paths, gives him rest and peace, refreshes him by restful waters and anoints with oil, and is present at even the darkest moments.

In the second reading Peter encourages patience when one encounters suffering for doing good things, just as happened to Christ, who was sinless, yet suffered and bore our sins. He was insulted and suffered but he never threatened retaliation in return.

In the Gospel Jesus describes himself as the gate through which we are to enter, and only there will we find peace and consolation and abundant life. It is his voice we must recognize and follow above the many words of false prophets who mislead with half-truths.

The Father made Jesus our Lord and Messiah
And we recognize His voice
through the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Peter reminds us that salvation from corrupt influences comes through our Lord, Jesus. Only the paths given by Jesus will envelop us in goodness and kindness. We are to receive insults and suffering without threats of retaliation and if Jesus heals us through his wounds we are to seek healing for others in the same way. Enter by his gate when you need rest and refreshment.



Shepherds would often have their sheep put in common pens and when they were ready to leave they would call to their sheep who would recognize their voices and follow them. The sheep who was the animal leader of the flock would often be slightly lamed and then carried on the shepherd's back so that by the time he was healed there would be no hesitation in his following the shepherd and the rest following him.

Let your mouth be constant in blessings
and no one's abuse will ever fall on you.
Insult generates insult and blessing, blessing.
(St. Isaac of Nineveh)

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