



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

Daily Devotion at Zion + April 2022 AD + *The Season of Easter*

The Shepherd's Voice!

This month the Church observes Good Shepherd Sunday (May 8), which always falls within the season of Easter. It's a good time to remember the source of this little leaflet's name:

I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. (John 10:14-16)

Christians devote themselves daily to the Word of God because that Word is the voice of the Good Shepherd. In the Old Testament, Jesus is prophesied; in the Gospels, we have a record of His speech; and in the Epistles, He speaks through the apostles, to whom He once said, "he who hears you hears Me" (Luke 10:16). The Word is our Shepherd's own living speech.

This devotion to the Word may not always take the form of reading. Sometimes we listen, remember, sing, speak, or see the Word. Yet whatever form it may take, we truly live for this Voice, for it is by this Voice that we shall rise. As our Lord has also said, "*Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live*" (John 5:25). That hour has come, for we who once were dead in sin now live in Christ.

About the Cover Art

A Christian artist from Japan, Sadao Watanabe, made this image of Jesus the Good Shepherd on washi paper, made from more durable fibers than wood pulp. A closer look at the image will reveal that our Lord Jesus, holding the lamb, kneels by a brook in a verdant landscape. He has led the sheep to fresh water by actually carrying the sheep there. The predominant use of blue gives the image a sense of peace, contrasted with the blood-colored scarlet on Jesus' torso. Notice, too, that the sheep's eye is turned to look back towards Jesus, in whom every little lamb's trust resides.

Daily Readings for the Week of Easter 3 (May 1)

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| S Exodus 18:1-12
1 John 2:7-17
John 20:11-18 | Th Exodus 20:1-21
Colossians 1:24—2:7
Matthew 4:1-11 |
| M Exodus 18:13-27
1 Peter 5:1-14
Matthew 1:1-17; 3:1-6 | F Exodus 24:1-18
Colossians 2:8-23
Matthew 4:12-17 |
| T Exodus 19:1-16
Colossians 1:1-14
Matthew 3:7-12 | Sa Exodus 25:1-22
Colossians 3:1-17
Matthew 4:18-25 |
| W Exodus 19:16-25
Colossians 1:15-23
Matthew 3:13-17 | <i>These readings correspond to pages 1111– 1144 in Volume III of <u>For All the Saints</u>.</i> |

Daily Readings for the Week of Easter 4 (May 8)

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| S Exodus 28:1-4, 30-38
1 John 2:18-29
Mark 6:30-44 | Th Exodus 34:1-17
1 Thessalonians 2:13-20
Matthew 5:21-26 |
| M Exodus 32:1-20
Colossians 3:18—4:18
Matthew 5:1-10 | F Exodus 34:18-35
1 Thessalonians 3:1-13
Matthew 5:27-37 |
| T Exodus 32:21-34
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 5:11-16 | Sa Exodus 40:18-38
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
Matthew 5:38-48 |
| W Exodus 33:1-23
1 Thessalonians 2:1-12
Matthew 5:17-20 | <i>These readings correspond to pages 1144—1176 in Volume III of <u>For All the Saints</u>.</i> |

Daily Readings for the Week of Easter 5 (May 15)

S	Leviticus 8:1-13, 30-36 Hebrews 12:1-14 Luke 4:16-30	Th	Leviticus 19:26-37 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12 Matthew 6:25-34
M	Leviticus 16:1-19 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18	F	Leviticus 23:1-22 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17 Matthew 7:1-12
T	Leviticus 16:20-34 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 6:7-15	Sa	Leviticus 23:23-44 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18 Matthew 7:13-21
W	Leviticus 19:1-18 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 Matthew 6:19-24		<i>These readings correspond to pages 1176-1210 in Volume III of <u>For All the Saints</u>.</i>

Daily Readings for the Week of Easter 6 (May 22)

S	Leviticus 25:1-17 James 1:2-8, 16-18 Luke 12:13-21	Th	Daniel 7:9-14 Hebrews 2:5-18 Matthew 28:16-20
M	Leviticus 25:35-55 Colossians 1:9-14 Matthew 13:1-16	F	1 Samuel 2:1-10 Ephesians 2:1-10 Matthew 7:22-27
T	Leviticus 26:1-20 1 Timothy 2:1-6 Matthew 13:18-23	Sa	Numbers 11:16-17, 24-29 Ephesians 2:11-22 Matthew 7:28—8:4
W	Leviticus 26:27-42 Ephesians 1:1-10 Matthew 22:41-46		<i>These readings correspond to pages 1210-1246 in Volume III of <u>For All the Saints</u>.</i>