

About the Fourth Sunday of Easter
Theme: The Lord is My Shepherd
– *highlighting the Scriptures for the week* –

In condemning Jesus, the rulers of the people fulfilled the prophetic Word of God. (Acts) Crucified He was, and dead and buried. But God raised Him from the dead, and we now have the prophetic Word made more sure: there is Good News for all the world in the crucified and risen Lord. In heaven's courts angels, archangels, and all the company of heaven join in the eternal hymn: *Salvation belongs to God and to the Lamb.* (Revelation) With blood-washed robes the radiant multitude rejoice in their salvation; God Himself wipes away each tear from every eye. Even now, the sheep are safe within the fold of the Good Shepherd. (John) They hear His voice, and so follow Him on their eternal pilgrimage. No enemy can snatch them from the Father's hand, for they follow the Father's well-beloved Son.

WEEKLY BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Use the schedule below in your personal devotion. The first three readings are the lessons read today; the last three will be read next Sunday. The Wednesday reading is the psalmody for the week. Each day you may want to pray that Psalm or the prayer printed in our service folder today, followed by the suggested reading and your personal requests and Thanksgivings to our Heavenly Father.

Sunday	Acts 20:17-35 For what reason(s) did Paul summon the elders from Ephesus to meet him in Miletus? Why does he seem to be compelled to defend his ministry? What, according to Paul, was his motivation in everything that he did? For what purpose does he share this with the elders?
Monday	Revelation 7:9-17 What is the nationality of all who stand before the throne and in front of the Lamb in heaven? What is their perpetual song? How did they get their white robes? What is their eternal blessing? What are the gifts of God to all His saints in glory? Where do we get a foretaste of those gifts? What does this mean for you right now?
Tuesday	John 10:22-30 When does Christ promise to send the Holy Spirit? What does Christ promise the Spirit will do when He comes? To which Person of the Holy Trinity will the Spirit draw attention? What title does Jesus use to describe the Holy Spirit?
Wednesday	Psalm 23 How does a shepherd provide for his sheep? How does the LORD provide for His flock? How does water figure into the plan of our salvation? Why need not we fear when in danger of death? What table does the LORD set before us? Of what may we be confident all the days of our lives? Where will we dwell forever? What difference do these realities make for the challenges you are facing right now?
Thursday	Acts 11:1-18 Why did Peter go to Jerusalem? Who criticized him? Why? What was Peter's defense? How does this demonstrate that the gift of the Holy Spirit (faith) and water Baptism go together? What convinced Peter's critics? What does this mean for us today?
Friday	Revelation 21:1-7 What did St. John see coming down from heaven? What did she look like? What happens when God dwells with men? How did this happen when Jesus came to live on earth? How will this happen in fullness in eternity? What happens when God is (completely) our God? What will <u>not</u> be in heaven? What does this mean?
Saturday	John 16:12-22 When does Christ promise to send the Holy Spirit? What does Christ promise the Spirit will do when He comes? To which Person of the Holy Trinity will the Spirit draw attention? What title does Jesus use to describe the Holy Spirit?