

Readings May 3 4<sup>th</sup> Easter

ACTS 2:14a, 36-41

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed: . . .

*(There is more of Peter's speech from v15-36. Then the Gospel today continues:)*

“Let the whole house of Israel know for certain

that God has made both \***Lord** and \***Christ**, \***Lord, substitutes for saying “YAHWEH”**  
this Jesus whom you crucified.” \***Christ = Messiah**

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart,

and they asked Peter and the other apostles, “What are we to do, my brothers?”

Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you,

in the \**name of Jesus Christ* for the forgiveness of your sins;

and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

\* the formula: Father-Son- Holy Spirit  
not yet developed. Jesus Christ +Holy Spirit;  
God {the Father} named in v. 36.

For the promise is made to you and to your children

and **to all those far off,**

**Did these words** jump out at you? Not just us Jews.

whomever the Lord our God will call.”

He testified with many other arguments, and was exhorting them, “Save yourselves from this

corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized,

Using all the MIKVEHS at the

and about three thousand persons were added that day.

East Steps of the Temple!

[last week]

PSALM 23: 1-3a, 3b4, 5, 6 The Good Shepherd—again from March 22

R. (1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. or: Alleluia

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

In verdant pastures he gives me repose;

beside restful waters he leads me;

he refreshes my soul.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

He guides me in right paths

for his name's sake.

Even though I walk in the dark valley

I fear no evil; for you are at my side.

With your rod and your staff

that give me courage.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You spread the table before me

in the sight of my foes;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Only goodness and kindness follow me

all the days of my life;

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD

for years to come.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1<sup>st</sup> Letter of Peter 2:20b-25 Peter again encourages those persecuted Xtians asking:  
Can we expect less suffering than the Lord?

Beloved:

If you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God.

For to this you have been called, **because Christ also suffered for you,**

leaving you an example that you should **follow in his footsteps.**

He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.

XT, The Good Shepherd,  
ready to give up his life,

lays down across the entrance  
to protect the sheep of His Flock.

When he was insulted, he returned no insult;

when he suffered, he did not threaten;

instead, he handed himself over to the one who judges justly.

He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

For you had gone astray like sheep,

but you have now returned to the **shepherd** and **guardian** of your souls.

Alleluia JOHN 10:14

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Summarizes it all!**

GOSPEL JOHN 10:1-10

TWO images of a "GATE"

Jesus said:

"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the **sheep hear his voice**, as the shepherd calls his own sheep **by name** and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, **he walks ahead of them**, and the sheep follow him, because they **recognize his voice**.

But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers."

Although Jesus used this figure of speech,

the Pharisees did not realize what he was trying to tell them.

{a Second Image: The Gate}

So Jesus said again, "Amen, amen, I say to you, I am **the gate** for the sheep.

All who came before me are thieves and robbers,  
but the sheep did not listen to them.

**the gate** opens to provide a safe place  
to come into and be led out from to find  
a pasture of eternally abundant life.

I am **\*the gate**.

Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.

A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy;

I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

**\*the 2<sup>nd</sup> gate** is the Sheeps' Gate of Jerusalem, where  
**ONLY** Lambs without blemish are selected as fit for use, for sacrifice,  
in the Temple, to be in the **PRESENCE of GOD**, forever!