

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

Repent, be baptized.

Returning to the shepherd.

I am a gate for sheep.

rvb.

Quotations for reflection, inspiration, and action.

1. **“Some believe the flower; lily of the valley, brings a return of happiness.” -Vanessa Diffenbaugh.**
2. **“When you do things from your soul, you feel a river moving in you, a joy.” -Rumi.**
3. **“It is not the face, but the expressions on it. It is not the voice, but what you say. It is how you look in that body, but the thing you do with it. You are beautiful.” – Stephenie Meyer.**
4. **“Society is like a stew. If you don't keep it stirred up, you get a lot of scum on the top.” -Edward Abbey, naturalist and author (29 Jan 1927-1989).**
5. **“There are years that ask questions and years that answer.” -Zora Neale Hurston.**
6. **“Whatever or whoever you are, be a good one.” -Abraham Lincoln.**
7. **“The groundhog is like most other prophets; it delivers its prediction and then disappears.” -Bill Vaughn.**
8. **“You probably would not worry about what people think of you if you could know how seldom they do.” -Olin Miller.**

9. **“A dream you do not have to fight for it is not a dream, it is a nap. One changes your afternoon. The other changes your world. Keep fighting.” -Jon Acuff.**
10. **“The scariest moment is always just before you start.” - Stephen King.**

“It is in Jesus that I live, move, and have my being.” Acts 17:28.

Blessings of health, happiness, and holiness upon you and your loved ones.

Roger J. Vanden Busch

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Reading 1

[Acts 2:14a, 36-41](#)

**Then Peter stood up with the Eleven,
raised his voice, and proclaimed:
"Let the whole house of Israel know for certain
that God has made both Lord and Christ,
this Jesus whom you crucified."**

**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.**

**For the promise is made to you and to your children
and to all those far off,
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,
and about three thousand persons were added that day.**

A reflection, exegesis, and commentary on the scriptures.

In this reading from Acts, we listen to Peter's passionate reflection on Pentecost. The community listens, repents, and responds, some three thousand people are baptized. They hear the message Peter, the shepherd who is the primary spokesperson in the first two readings. His message is clear, Jesus is the promised Messiah (the Expected One) and Lord (Risen). He proclaims the messianic message courageously and boldly to those who were responsible for Jesus' death, "When they heard this, they were deeply shaken." In response to their question, "What are we to do?" Peter responds with fervor, "You must reform and be baptized."

Acts is referred to as the “Fifth Gospel.” It focuses upon the Lord at work in Jerusalem through the power of the Holy Spirit. For this reason, it is also called the “Acts of the Holy Spirit” and the “Gospel of the Resurrection.” Acts as a “gate” or “door” of faith which swings open to welcome the Hebrews, Romans, and Greeks – 3,000 had a change of heart and were invited into the community and baptized.

Responsorial Psalm

[Psalm 23: 1-3a, 3b4, 5, 6](#)

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

or:

R. 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.

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

Reading 2

[1 Peter 2:20b-25](#)

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.

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.

A reflection, exegesis, and commentary on the scriptures.

Peter, in this reading, exalts Jesus as his model. This section is an adaptation of the “Suffering Servant” as found in the prophet, Isaiah. Jesus carries the sins of our humanity to the Cross. We are challenged to follow in his footsteps. However, we are to follow Him, not only in his outward conduct, but in His inner life of self-renunciation and trust in his Father’s Word. We are carried along by the same inner principle that prompted Him in all His ways. Jesus is the way. He is the presence and the power to bear us or even carry us, like a shepherd who rescues and carries one of his sheep who has been disabled. A Christ-like life is only possible if the life of Jesus possesses us.

A good shepherd steps forward to rescue a husband, a father as evidenced by Saint Maximilian Maria Kolbe (1894 – 1941) “Let us not

forget that Jesus not only suffered but also rose in glory; so, too, we go to the glory of the Resurrection by way of suffering on the Cross.”

On February 17, 1941, Father Kolbe was arrested and sent to the Auschwitz concentration camp. He was beaten and treated poorly due to his status as a Catholic priest. One night, three prisoners escaped the camp. After forcing the prisoners to stand outside, the guards began to select ten men who would be put in a bunker to starve to death. One man who was selected was a father and husband. As he was being led away, he cried, “My wife! My children!” Father Kolbe volunteered to take his place.

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.

Gospel

[John 10:1-10](#)

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.

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.

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."

A reflection, exegesis, and commentary on the scriptures.

This Gospel of John has been the subject and focus of many poems, stories, and other narratives have been written about the Good Shepherd who opens the gate and whose voice we recognize. This reading is a calming and assuring image no matter how difficult the situation, Jesus is our good Shepherd. Here is a contemporary "good Shepherd" -- founder of Chobani – a Greek yogurt brand founded in 2005 by Hamdi Ulukaya, a Turkish businessman. Interestingly, "Chobani" is derived from the Turkish word "Coban," which means

“Shepherd”, symbolizing hard work and craftsmanship. Hamdi’s upbringing was in a Kurdish dairy, farming family in Turkey which influenced his passion for yogurt. As a young teenager, he was a shepherd tending his sheep. His upbringing allowed him to develop a unique Greek yogurt product that quickly gained popularity in the U.S.

The following is why Hamdi is the “Good” shepherd, tending his flock (employees and recipients of his on-going generosity.)

- 1. Approximately 30% of Chobani's workforce consists of refugees and immigrants. In 2016, following reports on Chobani's practice of employing refugees, the company received calls for boycotts and death threats. Our government and CEOs could well imitate his shepherding goodness for employees to honor diversity, equality, and inclusiveness.**
- 2. In April 2016, Chobani announced it was giving 10 percent of its ownership stake to its employees. The company allotted shares to its employees based on tenure, reportedly helping some of the company's longest serving employees become millionaires.**
- 3. In October 2016, the company announced that it was implementing a program to give six weeks of paid parental leave to new parents.**

4. In 2021, wages increased for the company's hourly workers, making up 70% of people employed by the company, from \$13 to at least \$15.
5. The company's philanthropy focuses on improving childhood nutrition, strengthening the communities near its plants in New York and Idaho, and supporting those in need after major disasters in the U.S.
6. In the spring of 2018, CEO Hamdi Ulukaya appeared on [The Ellen DeGeneres Show](#) and [Good Morning America](#) to announce that the company was celebrating its 10th anniversary as a national brand by giving a Chobani yogurt to every person in America.
7. In November 2018, Chobani announced a new partnership with the national nonprofit [Operation Homefront](#), with the aim of raising \$1 million for America's military families for financial assistance and support.
8. Chobani donated \$500,000 and the company pledged to match up to \$250,000 in additional donations facilitated by a new Chobani product called "Hero Batch" Red, White and Blueberry Greek yogurt, which was designed by military veterans at Chobani.

9. In May 2019, CEO Ulukaya pledged to pay the student lunch debt for all Warwick school district students in Rhode Island and urged other companies to step up to fight food insecurity across the country.

May we have an abundance of CEOs like Hamdi, the good shepherd who leads, nurtures, and guides his sheep.

In addition, Jesus states He is the “Gate,” “Gatekeeper,” and the “Door” – (John 10:9).” In the Middle Ages it was the custom and tradition for the carpenter’s guild in England to symbolize the words of Christ, “I am the Door” as their trademark. They sectioned off each door into four vertical rectangles leaving the relief of a cross in the middle of the door – yes, in our home, that is the case. To this day many of the doors bear the marks of the cross in the middle. The lines are deeply etched into the heavy wooden doors to remind us of Jesus who is the authentic door, the Shepherd, the Christ, and the sheep gate. Please come in, the door is always open!

Final prayer: God, your son, Jesus is the good shepherd who calls us to a faith response, a conversion, and a new way of thinking and living. Help us to recognize your voice. Amen.

**Roger J. Vanden Busch – blessings of peace, health, and happiness
upon you and your loved ones.**