

REFLECTION: Jesus, I remember a time when you tried to show me your way, but I did not listen. I remember this is what happened.... I remember.... I remember....

OUR FATHER

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us:
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
R. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

SIGN OF PEACE

Jesus, you said to your apostles: “I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live forever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
R. And with your spirit.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **grant us peace.**

This is Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are we who are called to his supper.
Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray:
Lord,
You promise to be with us any time we call on you. Help us to call on you in our prayers and to trust you to help us.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **R. Amen.**

Good Shepherd Sunday

WISDOM FROM THE CELLS

I remember how much the life of violence and gangs has affected me. It really did take over my life. I let myself get so involved with that lifestyle that I failed to see how much I was hurting my family and myself. What kind of life was I living? I don’t know why I let myself live that life or why I wanted to live that lifestyle. I was so lost, and now I’m in prison.

Throughout my life, I’ve learned about Jesus and all the good he has done for us. But I turned my back to him for so long and did not listen to his word. Now I understand even more how wonderful he is; so much that I want to spread his word even more, especially to those that are uninterested so that they can’t say they never knew or that no one has ever stretched a hand to help them out. Jesus was good to everyone equally. So I want to do the same. I can do this by telling everyone the good I get from following God and that they, too, can feel the same way as me. Everyone gets to a dark place in life and needs help at some point. So we should never be ashamed to ask for help if we need it or help others who are in need of help. It’s ok to be vulnerable at times. God will always be by our side.

-Ismael, who is in a California State Prison.

**4th Sunday of Easter
Cycle C | May 11, 2025**



Drawing by Elaine Golden

PENITENTIAL RITE

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.
R. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray:
Lord God,
You know each of us by name and you invite us to follow you. Show us today the truth of your ways, so that we may find deep joy and lasting peace.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Acts 13:14, 43-52

Paul and Barnabas continued on from Perga and reached Antioch in Pisidia. On the sabbath they entered the synagogue and took their seats. Many Jews and worshipers who were converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who spoke to them and urged them to remain faithful to the grace of God. On the following sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and with violent abuse contradicted what Paul said. Both Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first, but since you reject it and condemn yourselves as unworthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, *I have made you a light to the Gentiles, that you may be an instrument of salvation to the ends of the earth.*” The Gentiles were delighted when they heard this and glorified the word of the Lord. All who were destined for eternal life came to believe, and the word of the Lord continued to spread through the whole region. The Jews, however, incited the women of prominence who were worshipers and the leading men of the city, stirred up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them, and went to Iconium. The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 100:1-2, 3, 5

R. We are his people, the sheep of his flock.
Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;
serve the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful song.
R. We are his people, the sheep of his flock.
Know that the LORD is God;
he made us, his we are;
his people, the flock he tends.
R. We are his people, the sheep of his flock.
The LORD is good:
his kindness endures forever,
and his faithfulness, to all generations.
R. We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Second Reading: Revelation 7:9, 14b-17

I, John, had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. Then one of the elders said to me, “These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. “For this reason they stand before God’s throne and worship him day and night in his temple. The one who sits on the throne will shelter them. They will not hunger or thirst anymore, nor will the sun or any heat strike them. For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

The Word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel: John 10: 27-30

Jesus said: “My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father’s hand. The Father and I are one.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

MEDITATION: I AM WITH YOU

maria had six children one of them was on a scholarship after receiving straight a's in high school her two daughters taught religious education with her at church	he makes bad choices maria read the passage to her daughters: <i>my sheep hear my voice i know them and they follow me they shall never perish</i>	i have done mom i want to tell you something i have changed my life	playing soccer with his friends
her second oldest son jaime had been arrested for attempted murder even though he was not a gang member he had been in the car when someone fired a weapon	maria was reflecting on the incarceration of her son it has not been easy and this has radically changed her life and her routine	<i>hijo</i> , said maria this is the thing i have prayed for every day i cannot tell you what that means to me everyone told me to give up on you that you are nothing but <i>hijo</i> i tell you something since the day i first held you in my arms after you were born i knew you were special	she will never understand how he got lost and why he joined a gang when he had everything at home
everyone at school could not understand how he could be involved in such a serious crime	on the sunday of the week that jaime was going to court he sat across the table from his mom in the visiting room	when you started getting into trouble i knew one day you would return to who you were growing up to be i know that god will hear our prayers and you will be home soon	but this morning maria noticed something different about her son
at first there was an outpouring of sympathy but as time went on people slowly forgot him no letters no phone calls	jaime took his mom's hand and said to her: i am nervous about going to court on tuesday i cannot sleep at night my whole life could be taken away from me i have never been honest with you but mom when i was twelve i really did get jumped into a gang	finally the trial was over it had lasted three weeks jaime's face was peaceful and then the words hung jury	ever since he told her that he wanted to change there was almost a glow about his face there was not that empty look he had carried around for so long
maria never missed a visit with jaime her friends would say to her why do you waste your time with this son? he will never amount to anything	as jaime spoke with his mother it was as if no one else was in the visiting room	maria knew god had blessed this sheep that was lost and found	
i see how wonderful your other children are	a week later maria had come early to be at the court hearing she was there sitting with the whole family and watched as the bailiff brought jaime through the doors in his orange jump suit shackled	she knew that maybe not today not tomorrow but someday soon jaime would be home	
sometimes her other children would ask her: why are you going again to see jaime? he is never going to change he always gets into trouble even since he was young	maria just said i know that <i>hijo</i>	maria prayed silently giving thanks to god as large warm tears flowed down my face as jaime left the court room he turned around and smiled to his mom	
	then jaime said: mom, you never gave up on me you have never stopped caring for me and visiting me i know i am loved by you no matter what	jaime was her son of seventeen years she had so many memories of him	

