

# Sunday Liturgy of the Word

## @ Home

### GATHER

- Prepare by tidying the room, finding a Bible and crucifix and lighting a candle as a reminder of God's presence.
- Take a moment to allow what is in your heart to rise, and offer your thoughts to the loving care of the Lord.
- Make the sign of the cross.
- Sing or listen to 'Gather us in' or 'Shepherd Me, O God'.

### PRAY FOR MERCY

For the times when we have not loved God as God loves us.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

For the times when we have not forgiven as God forgives us.  
*Christ, have mercy.*

For the times when we have not been thankful for all God's gifts.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and lead us to life everlasting. *Amen.*

### READ

(Visit [universalis.com](http://universalis.com) for readings at Mass.)

**First reading** Acts 2:14, 36–41

**Responsorial psalm** Psalm 22(23)  
*R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

**Second reading** 1 Peter 2:20–25

**Gospel acclamation** John 10:14  
*I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;  
I know my sheep, and mine know me.*

### GOSPEL

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them. So Jesus spoke to them again: 'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

—John 10:1–10

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### REFLECT

(See also [melbournecatholic.org.au/easter](http://melbournecatholic.org.au/easter).)

#### For adults

Today's gospel reading hinges on a simple term: *knowledge*. The shepherd intimately knows his sheep and can easily tell one from another. To an outsider, the sheep all look the same, but the good shepherd, in daily contact with his flock, knows every single sheep. He will quickly note if one is lost and immediately start a search.

Correspondingly, the sheep know their shepherd. Not only do they recognise his looks, posture and habits, but crucially they can also identify his voice. Even if they can't see him through the trees, from a hilltop or round the ravine, they know his voice, which indicates a reassuring presence.

- Since Jesus is our shepherd, where can we hear his distinctive voice calling us this day?
- What actions does he want me to perform within our sheepfold?

The sheep of Jesus' flock never follow a stranger. Despite the dangers in the world, they trust in their shepherd, who even sleeps at night across the opening to the fold. His body becomes their gate, protecting them from wolves and thieves. Jesus' sheep are safe during the day, keeping him in earshot, and are equally safe at night, protected from evil.

- Who keeps me safe? Who do I look after and protect?

#### For children

• In Jesus' time shepherds brought their flocks together to sleep. One shepherd would lie across the entrance and become a gate, protecting all the sheep in the fold, not just his own. Today Jesus tells us he is the good shepherd: his sheep know his voice and only follow him. I wonder if you are one of his sheep.

- Jesus says he is the gate, the one who lays down to protect his sheep. And he tells us he has come so we can live our life 'to the full'. I wonder how we do this.

### PRAY

#### The Creed ...

#### For ourselves, the world and the church

We pray for our priests and deacons. In this difficult time in our church, may they be strengthened through the Spirit to live their vocation. Lord hear us.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

We pray for those who have turned away from God. May they respond to the words of Peter 'to come back to the shepherd and guardian of their souls'. Lord hear us.

*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Take a moment to offer your own prayers to God ...

#### Our Father ...

#### The blessing

May God bless and keep us. May God's face shine on us. May God be kind to us and give us peace.

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
*Amen.*