



# 34A ONLINE LITURGY EASTER 4A

Finding Pasture

## Abstract

I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture.

John 10:9 (NRSV)

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## 34A Online Liturgy Easter 4A

### Finding Pasture

Sunday, May 3, 2020 | Easter | Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Year A

<i>First Reading</i>	Acts 2:42–47
<i>Psalm</i>	Psalm 23
<i>New Testament</i>	1 Peter 2:19–25
<i>Gospel</i>	John 10:1–10

### Finding pasture

#### John 10.1-10

Jesus speaks of a shepherd whose sheep know his voice and follow him away from danger. The Pharisees do not understand that Jesus is referring to himself. He also says that he is the gate of the sheepfold, and whoever enters by him will be saved.

**This week's resources explore:** what it means to have abundant life.

Slide notes	Text
	<p><b>Pre-Service</b> TIS #655 – “Spirit Song” 50 TIS 650 Spirit Song.m4a</p>
	<p><b>Greeting</b></p> <p>May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ The Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all</p> <p><b>and also with us</b></p>
	<p><b>We Gather</b></p> <p>Jesus says, ‘I am the gate.’ Come, and be loved. Come, and receive peace. Come, and find life.</p> <p><i>Let us pray</i> We come because we know we are welcome, O God. <b>We come in the name of Jesus.</b> We come because you call us by name, O God. <b>We come in the name of Jesus.</b> We come together to offer you our worship, O God. <b>We come in the name of Jesus.</b> <b>Amen.</b></p>

	<p><b>Hymn/song</b> 685 Hillsong - The Power Of Your Love [with lyrics].mp4</p>
	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p><i>Let us pray</i> We come to you, O God, in penitence for what we have done. We come to you in anticipation for what you offer to us. We come to you in hope, for we know you will give us abundant life. Amen.</p>
	<p><b>Readings</b> John 10:1-10 <a href="https://www.dejongs.id.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/John-10-1-10.mp4">https://www.dejongs.id.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/John-10-1-10.mp4</a></p> <p><i>respond</i> For the word of the Lord <b>Thanks be to God</b></p>
	<p><b>Hymn/song/video</b> Third Day - Let There Be Light <a href="https://youtu.be/u9Rp7b8HGF4">https://youtu.be/u9Rp7b8HGF4</a></p>
	<p><b>We say Sorry</b></p> <p>Generous God, you offer us abundant life, yet we ask for more; you offer us security and sanctuary, yet we seek our own way – despite the risks; you offer us guidance and direction, and we ignore you and take our own way.</p> <p>We are sorry for our ingratitude. We are sorry for our arrogance. We are sorry that we think we know best.</p> <p>Forgive us, renew us and restore us to abundant life in you, in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.</p>
	<p><b>Hymn/Song</b> What a beautiful Name 05 What a Beautiful Name.mp3</p>
	<p><b>Response</b></p>
	<p><b>Hymn/song</b> TIS #659 – “The Lord is my Shepherd” 659 The Lord Is My Shepherd.mp3</p>
	<p><b>Prayers for all people</b></p>

*Invite people to sit quietly. Leave a pause after reading each phrase.*

Remember and silently offer thanks for all the ways that the Lord provides for you...

Rejoice in the rest God offers you in his presence...

Commit yourself to be guided by God, to trust in his wisdom...

Open yourself to the generosity of God's love – beyond measure, beyond words, beyond our imagining...

Praise God that in times of joy and celebration, he is with you...

And in times of sadness, confusion and loss, he is with you...

End by saying: For all time, and in whatever we face: the Lord is our shelter, our security, the place where we will find a home.

Thank you for abundant life;

    thank you for your generous love.

Help us to love generously

    that others may also experience the abundance of your life.

Loving God, we pray for those whose lives are empty;

    for all who feel alone and unloved;

    for those whose lives lack purpose.

Lord of love,

**bring them abundant life.**

We pray for those whose lives are filled with anger and bitterness;

    for those who cannot let go of the past,

    and so have no present or future.

Lord of love,

**bring them abundant life.**

We pray for those whose lives are filled with anguish and pain;

    for those who suffer depression;

    for those who are afraid to go out;

    for those who cannot see a way forward.

Lord of love,

**bring them abundant life.**

We pray for those who live on the edge;

    for those who watch others enjoy life but are unable to join the group;

    for those who lack faith;

    for those whom others ignore.

Lord of love,

**bring them abundant life.**

Loving God, may your abundant life

    fill our world,

    our church, our community and ourselves,

in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

	<p><b>Lord's Prayer</b></p> <p>Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.  Your kingdom come, your will be done  on earth as in heaven.  Give us today our daily bread.  Forgive us our sins  as we forgive those who sin against us.  Save us from the time of trial,  and deliver us from evil.  For the kingdom, the power,  and the glory are yours,  now and forever. AMEN<sup>1</sup></p>
	<p><b>Hymn/song</b></p> <p>P&amp;W #40 – “The Steadfast Love of the Lord”  12 The Steadfast Love of the Lord.mp3</p>
	<p><b>We are sent out</b></p> <p>Go out into the world.  Go where God leads you.  Go that you may serve him.  And wherever you go, know that God is with you.  Amen.</p> <p>May the Lord bless us  and keep us  May His face shine upon us  and be gracious to us  May he lift up His countenance upon us  and give us peace</p>
	<p><b>Benediction</b></p>
	<p><b>Thank you</b></p>

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<sup>1</sup> English Language Liturgical Consultation, 1988

## Thankless Jobs

John 10:1-21

Try and remember back when you could enjoy a day at the beach.

A family were at the beach

When a disheveled older lady appeared.

She would muttering to herself

as she picked up things from the beach and put them into a bag.

Concerned, the parents told their children to stay away from her.

As she passed by, she continued to bend down and then to pick things up.

She smiled at the family

but her they shunned her.

Some weeks later they read a piece in the press

About the old lady that had made it her lifelong crusade

to pick up bits of glass from the beach

so children wouldn't cut their feet.<sup>2</sup>

One example of a thankless task, wouldn't you say?

There are lots of people in thankless jobs, aren't there?

Oh there are others,

like being a caregiver,

working in nursing homes

a police officer.

In a sense, many jobs can be thankless tasks.

Any type of service work is thankless at times

and that includes many jobs in the church.

Bulletin editors (and webmasters) can have a tough time

With a hail of anguish at minor mistakes.

A recent hymn announcement said:

"Let All the World in Every Corner Sin." (rather than sing!)

An update on a prayer request:

"Last time we asked for prayer for Jerry Butler's foot.

After nine months of various treatments, it's finally all gone."

Poor Jerry!

From a newsletter:

"Reverend Hawley was congratulated

on being able to get his parish plastered."

And:

"Miss Charlene Mason sang, I Will Not Pass This Way Again,'

<sup>2</sup> Anthony de Mello, TAKING FLIGHT (New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Inc., 1990), p. 124.

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giving obvious pleasure to the congregation."<sup>3</sup>  
Any job in church can be a thankless job.  
In fact, any job  
where there is not much recognition, or you are taken for granted  
can seem like a thankless job.

Thankless jobs.  
Jobs without much of a payoff in money or recognition.  
Repetitive jobs, boring jobs, repulsive jobs.

Being a shepherd was a thankless job.  
In Palestine, even today  
the shepherd with his long staff  
walks in front of his flock and his sheep follow him.  
The life of a shepherd was (and still is) is hard and they are never off duty.  
The sheep would wander, and they needed to be watched constantly.  
It was also dangerous Thieves, wild dogs and animals were a constant threat.<sup>4</sup>

Being a shepherd was a thankless job, indeed.  
But this is exactly how Christ portrayed himself  
and it is often the most familiar image we have of Christ  
even though the modern-day Australian sheep farmer  
is a distinct stretch from that image  
of a shepherd holding a lamb in his arms knowing its name by heart.  
But a lamb is not a full-grown sheep.  
Its wool is not wet and matted.  
It is not one of 3,000 nor caught in a crevasse.

Maybe in this modern age we would be thinking of a dog or cat  
responding to our call or whistle  
and every mood change  
dependent on us for their every need.

And the owner knows his pet.  
Maybe they look remarkably similar to an untrained eye  
but a good owner always knows their pet  
and loves dearly loves them  
if not despite then sometimes because of their imperfections.

Observing any pet owner  
we can imagine how those that heard this parable the first time

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<sup>3</sup> Richard Lederer, MORE ANGUISHED ENGLISH, (New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Inc., 1993), p. 30-31.

<sup>4</sup> C. Cook Publishing Co., 1974), p. 37. Cited in Lynn Anderson, FINDING THE HEART TO GO ON, (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1991), pp. 27-28.

would consider the Chief Shepherd,  
a God who also knows the individual weaknesses and failings of His flock  
and watches over its members  
with discerning love and sympathetic understanding.

Christ the Good Shepherd.

Taking over the thankless job of watching over his sheep,  
taking the trouble to know them by name  
and setting an example for us to follow.  
because Christ not only knows us by name  
but also calls us to follow his example.

Sarah's son died.

Sarah's husband died six months later.  
She worked casual jobs and her beauty shop.  
In this way, she supported her children.

It would have been natural for her to grieve and never recover  
but Sarah resolved to show love and care  
to children who had no one else to love them.

She became a foster mother,  
and her home became a home to many young girls who needed her.

Every morning Sarah went to early Mass,  
then came home and cooked breakfast for her foster children  
before she worked.

At the end of her day she would bake bread  
and gave away her loaves to churches, soup kitchens,  
family, friends, neighbours in need.

One day, Sarah was given a surprise party by all the people that she had helped.  
They lead her into the church,  
and as she entered the church,  
they all stood and clapped.

They then presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

Sarah walked to the front of the church  
and gently placed the flowers in front of a statue of Mary with the baby Jesus.  
And she said softly,  
"Here. These are yours."

Christ set the example.

He is the Good Shepherd. He watches over his sheep.  
He knows each of us by name.  
He even lay his life in our behalf.

Now he calls us to take up the often thankless job  
of dedicating our lives for others  
with no other reward than this.



Someday to hear his voice say:

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

We serve others even as he serves us.

Amen