

First Scripture Reading

John 10:11-18

from the Common English Bible

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²When the hired hand sees the wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away. That’s because he isn’t the shepherd; the sheep aren’t really his. So the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. ¹³He’s only a hired hand and the sheep don’t matter to him. ¹⁴“I am the good shepherd. I know my own sheep and they know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. I give up my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that don’t belong to this sheep pen. I must lead them too. They will listen to my voice and there will be one flock, with one shepherd.

¹⁷“This is why the Father loves me: I give up my life so that I can take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I give it up because I want to. I have the right to give it up, and I have the right to take it up again. I received this commandment from my Father.”

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm Reading

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from the Common English Bible

¹The Lord is my shepherd. I lack nothing.

²**He lets me rest in grassy meadows...**

he leads me to restful waters; ³he keeps me alive.

He guides me in proper paths for the sake of his good name.

⁴Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no danger

because you are with me. Your rod and your staff - they protect me.

⁵You set a table for me right in front of my enemies.

You bathe my head in oil; my cup is so full it spills over!

⁶Yes, goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life,

and I will live in the Lord’s house as long as I live.

Second Scripture Reading

1 John 3:16-24

from the Common English Bible

¹⁶This is how we know love: Jesus laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷But if someone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but refuses to help - how can the love of God dwell in a person like that? ¹⁸Little children, let's not love with words or speech but with action and truth. ¹⁹This is how we will know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts in God's presence. ²⁰Even if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts and knows all things. ²¹Dear friends, if our hearts don't condemn us, we have confidence in relationship to God. ²²We receive whatever we ask from him because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³This is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love each other as he commanded us. ²⁴Those who keep his commandments dwell in God and God dwells in them. This is how we know that he dwells in us, because of the Spirit he has given us.