

## 4th Sunday of Easter - Year A

April 26, 2026

**Acts 2:14a, 36-41 — 1 Peter 2:20b-25 — John 10:1-10**

Jesus speaks very plainly in today's Gospel.  
There are voices that lead to life—and voices that do not.  
There are shepherds—and there are thieves.

And the difference comes down to one thing:  
**whose voice we are listening to.**

Jesus says, "The sheep hear his voice... and they follow him because they recognize his voice." **That sounds simple. It isn't—especially now.**

Because we are living in a time filled with noise.  
Voices from the news, voices from politics, voices from social media—voices filled with urgency and certainty, all claiming to tell us what is true, what matters, what we should think.

The deeper question is not just: *What do I think?*  
But: *Whose voice is **shaping** what I think?*

**Jesus gives us a very clear measure:**

"The thief comes only to steal and destroy... I came so that they might have life—and have it more abundantly."

That is the test.

Not: is it persuasive? Not: is it loud? **But: does it lead to life?**

After the resurrection, the first words Jesus speaks to his disciples are:  
"Peace be with you."

**That matters.** Because **peace** is not just a feeling—it is a **sign**.

A sign that we are listening to the voice of the Shepherd.

If the voices we follow leave us constantly agitated, fearful, or filled with contempt, then no matter how convincing they sound, they are not His voice.

That doesn't mean the world is simple, or that there are no hard truths. But it does mean this: **Christ never leads us into chaos of heart. He leads us through peace.**

Now, as Catholics, we are not all going to think the same way about political situations or global conflicts. Faithful people can disagree—even strongly.

And that's okay. The Church teaches that we must follow our conscience. But, most importantly, our conscience must be formed. Not simply by headlines or public opinion, but **by the Gospel.**

Because if it isn't formed by Christ, it will simply echo whatever voice is loudest.

Obviously, for us Catholics, we can hear the consistent call of the Church—voices like Pope Leo XIV—who remind us of human dignity, restraint, and the need to pursue peace.

So the real question becomes:

Am I filtering what I hear through the Gospel—  
or am I filtering the Gospel through what I already believe?

It's very easy to do the second.

To decide first—and then fit Jesus into it.

But the sheep don't lead the shepherd.

The shepherd leads the sheep.

Jesus says, **"I am the gate."**

Which means every voice, every argument, every position must pass through Him. His way is the test!

Does it respect the dignity of every human life?

Does it seek peace—even when peace is difficult?

Does it resist hatred—even when anger feels justified?

Does it offer mercy, even when it seems undeserved.

If not, then it is not His voice. And this is where the Gospel becomes very practical.

Because sheep recognize the voice of the shepherd not because it is the loudest—but because it is familiar.

Which means we have to spend time with Him. In Scripture. In prayer. In silence. Because His voice is **often not** the loudest one—but it is steady, and it is peaceful.

As St. Francis de Sales reminds us, the voice of God is gentle, quiet, and peaceful—and it is heard in the silence of the heart.

And that is where real discernment happens.  
Not in the heat of argument,  
but in the quiet where Christ speaks—  
and where He always begins the same way: “Peace be with you.”

Jesus does not promise a world without conflict.  
But He does offer something deeper:

A peace that steadies us.  
A peace that allows us to think clearly.  
A peace that keeps us from becoming what we oppose.

So today’s Gospel is not asking us to withdraw from the world.  
It is asking us to listen more carefully within it.

To test the voices.  
To form our conscience in the light of Christ.  
And to remain rooted in the one voice that leads to life.

And so maybe the most important question we can ask ourselves this week is very simple:

### **Whose voice am I really following?**

Because the Good Shepherd is still speaking.  
The question is whether we are listening...  
and whether we will follow.