

Psalm 23

Note 'The Lord is *my* shepherd' – David knows the Lord of all creation not as a distant higher power, but as his shepherd. He knows this God personally, as the one in whom he can put his trust. David can be at peace, because he can entrust every day, every step, to the one who guides his feet, and leads him along right paths. Sometimes what lies ahead will be tranquil, and full of joy – the green pastures and the still waters; sometimes what lies ahead will be far harder – the darkest valley, even death itself. But wherever that path leads, David declares to God, 'you are with me'. We too can trust God with our life, and with our death, knowing that he is our Good Shepherd. For in Christ, he has walked our path ahead of us, and laid down his life for us, so that we might dwell in his house forever.

The Tabernacle

In the Old Testament the Tabernacle would be the tent of meeting or the tent in which the Ark of the Covenant was stored. In churches, the Tabernacle is where the Blessed Sacrament is stored. It is a locked box placed on an altar. The Tabernacle very often is covered with cloth made in various liturgical colours. Inside the Tabernacle there is a silk curtain behind which the Blessed Sacrament is placed, and the box is lined in white cloth or silk. This is reminiscent of the Jerusalem Temple where the Holy of Holies is found behind the curtain. People genuflect towards the Tabernacle in churches in honour of the presence of Jesus.

As we say in the Divine Praises:

Blessed be Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

Sunday 26th April 2026 Fourth Sunday of Easter Gospel: John 10: 1 – 10



In today's Gospel the Lord Jesus speaks of intimacy with His flock; He is bound to them and they to Him in the closest relationship: He 'knows' them, they 'follow' Him. It is a relationship of safety and closeness.

The imagery of shepherd and sheep speaks profoundly to the Church of the in-dwelling intimacy of the Father and the Son in the love they share, which is the Holy Spirit. As the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity each live for and in the other in the ecstasy of divine self-giving, and so the Church intimately partakes of Trinitarian Love through her union with Christ, the Good Shepherd.

By laying down his life for the sheep, the Good Shepherd has opened up the very heart of God to those who wish to share in Trinitarian Life through the Paschal Mystery of Christ's dying and rising as it is experienced in the life of the Church.

What the Good Shepherd has won for his flock is fullest participation in the very life of God.