

4th Sunday of the Easter Season
April 13, 2008
(Acts 2:14, 36-41/1 Pt 2:20-25/Jn 10:1-10)

Theme: Christ is our true Shepherd, He knows you by name.

Beloved children of God. Today we enter the fourth week of the Easter Season. In our first reading today from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter explained to his listeners that Christ, who is both Lord and Messiah, has come into the world to give us forgiveness of sins and to strengthen us with the gift of the Holy Spirit. The people who have come to hear the word of God received this message of salvation and welcomed it; it touched their hearts. They all expressed their acceptance of the gospel message by asking "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter encouraged them to repent and accept Christ in their life – for in Christ lies their salvation.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, let us, like the people who listened to Peter today, open our hearts whenever we hear the word of God and look into our lives and see in which way it touches our lives. For the gospel message is meant for our sanctification and salvation.

In our second reading from the first letter of Peter, as Christians and followers of Christ, we all are called to live the life of endurance. For Christ our Saviour endured to the end and won the crown of glory. Like our Lord Jesus, let us keep to the faith we have received, never give up hope because of temptations or trials that come your way. For with faith and a strong trust in God we shall win and rejoice forever.

In the gospel narrative today, Jesus linked our relationship with God like that of the sheep and the shepherd; that the Shepherd knows his sheep and calls them by name. The true shepherd leads his flock to good pastures and guides them. The true shepherd does not run away leaving the sheep behind when there is danger.

The same Christ is telling us today that he is our true shepherd. He knows you by name. He cares for you and me always. He said that he has come that we may have life in the full. Like the good sheep that listens to his master, let us always listen to the voice of Christ in the gospels. Let us not separate ourselves from him. May we continue to be close to Jesus, our true shepherd so as to enjoy his protection and love always.