

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time of the Year

(Jer. 23.1-6, Eph.2.13-18, Mk.6.13-34)

THEME: YOU ARE NOT ALONE, THE GOOD SHEPHERD IS WITH YOU.

In our readings of today, we are presented again with the compassionate love of Our Lord Jesus Christ as a Shepherd towards us, his flock. As a Good Shepherd who has the interest of his sheep at heart, He provides for us, cares for us, protects us, heals our sicknesses, forgives our shortcomings, and gives us peace.

For all these blessings from Christ Our Shepherd, the Psalmist exclaims in Psalm 23, "The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want... Even if I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid Lord, for You are with me, Your shepherd's rod and staff protect me" (Psm. 23.1-4)

Are you feeling lonely in your life, are you abandoned by your family, by society or by those who are supposed to take care of you? Today Jesus (the Good Shepherd) wants you to know, that, you are not alone, that, He is with you to take care of you in a special way.

In the book of the Prophet Jeremiah, God said "Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands.... and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply... and they shall not fear any longer or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing." says the Lord. (Jer.23:3-4)

The only thing or response Christ wants from us, His sheep, is to listen to his voice and to follow Him always. St. Paul, through our second reading today in his letter to the Ephesians, assures us that, through our Faith in Christ Jesus, we who used to be far away from our God are now brought close to God. And through the precious blood of Christ, the walls that divide us have been broken. Christ has also given us peace, and through Him, we now have access to the Father by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Beloved in Christ Jesus, let us always make an effort to listen and to follow Christ our Lord. May we never give up (Mt.7:7). Let us keep pressing on with our Faith and Prayers, bearing in mind that Jesus is our Shepherd who is with us always to bless and to protect. He has our interest at heart. He is ready to sacrifice anything to save us. It is because of His love and concern for you and me, Jesus died a shameful death on the cross that we might have life.