

# Sheepishly Saved: Why I'm Proud to Be in the Flock

## 4th Sunday of Easter – Year C

Readings: Acts 13:14, 43–52 | Psalm 100 | Revelation 7:9, 13–17 | John 10:27–30

You know, whenever Jesus says, “*My sheep hear my voice*,” I get nervous. Sheep don’t exactly have the best reputation. They’re not known for intelligence. In fact, if sheep had smartphones, they’d still follow each other off cliffs while scrolling on TikTok.

But let’s dive into what makes being sheep under the care of the **Good Shepherd** not just honorable, but *absolutely brilliant*.

### 1. Jesus Is Not a Hired Hand—He’s the Owner! (John 10)

Our Lord isn’t a part-time shepherd. He doesn’t clock out at 5 PM. He’s not saying, “*Hey, I’ll guard you Monday through Friday. But if wolves show up on Sunday—tough luck!*” No. He lays down His life for the sheep. He *knows* us. He doesn’t just know our names—He knows our allergies, our anxieties, and even that weird hobby we won’t admit to anyone.

And He says something truly divine: “*No one will snatch them out of my hand.*”

Let me tell you, if I had a dollar for every time I felt like I was barely hanging on to God—well, I’d be able to buy a private island and name it “St. Doubt’s.” But here’s the punch: **It’s not about how tightly we cling to God. It’s about how tightly He clings to us.** No one can snatch us out of His hands because those hands are the ones that were nailed to the Cross for us!

### 2. A Flock With a Fence and a Shepherd

Some people say, “*Why do I need religion? I’m spiritual. I talk to God on the golf course.*”

That’s great. But if you only follow God where you like to go, are you following Him, or leading Him?

**Jesus didn’t say, “I am your life coach.”** He said, “*I am the Good Shepherd.*” And the last time I checked, shepherds don’t ask sheep where they want to go for brunch.

*How do we hear the Shepherd’s voice today?* Through the Church—the **voice of the apostles** in Acts, the **sacraments**, the **magisterium**, and even the Church’s moral teachings—yes, even the ones that feel like spiritual vegetables: good for you, but not always fun.

Like St. Augustine said, “He who has the Church as his mother, has God as his Father.”

### 3. Heaven Smells Like Sheep (Revelation 7)

Revelation tells us that in heaven, there’s a *great multitude* in white robes praising God.

But have you ever thought about what heaven *smells* like with all those sheep? Think about it—millions of saints, martyrs, and converts. A spiritual petting zoo of grace.

And who's in the center? **The Lamb**. Jesus is both **Shepherd and Lamb**. He leads us because He's one of us. He didn't just write the instruction manual for salvation—He *became* the sacrificial offering.

That's why in the Mass, we proclaim, "*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.*" And He still feeds us with Himself—no other shepherd does that. We don't just hear His voice. We *consume* it.

#### 4. What About Rejection? (Acts 13)

In Acts, Paul and Barnabas are rejected by the Jews and turn to the Gentiles. And how do they respond? Do they throw a tantrum, cancel everyone, and say, "*We're done!*"? Nope—they *shake the dust* off their feet and move forward *filled with joy and the Holy Spirit*.

That's a key point: **Truth doesn't stop being true just because someone rejects it**. God's voice keeps speaking. So if the world mocks you for going to Mass, wearing a scapular, or believing in Eucharistic miracles—rejoice! You're probably doing something right. Just don't be a grumpy sheep. Be a *joyful one*.

#### 5. Learn the Shepherd's Voice

If someone calls your name from behind, you know whether it's your mom, your best friend, or your dentist. Why? Because you've heard that voice enough times.

So, how do we recognize Jesus' voice?

- By reading Scripture (especially the Gospels),
- By going to Confession—yes, that scary box where the Shepherd finds the lost sheep,
- And by frequent reception of the **Eucharist**—the food of the flock.

Brothers and sisters, if you've wandered off, don't worry. Jesus is not just the Shepherd who waits for you—**He's the one who goes looking for you, shouting your name like a mom in Walmart**.

You don't have to be the smartest sheep. Just be the one who listens.

So today, be proud to be in the flock! The world might say we're sheep. That's fine—**just make sure your Shepherd is Jesus and not TikTok, politics, or your own ego**.

And if you feel like you're too far gone, remember: *the Shepherd doesn't give up. He chases after lost sheep even when they smell like bad decisions and regret*.

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**