

Based on the gospel for Sunday 12 May – John 10:27-30

“I give eternal life to the sheep that belong to me.”

Christ the Shepherd, leading his flock with a gentle care and calling each by name, is an image going back to the beginning of Christianity. With Christ the Shepherd I am not excluded, not forgotten, nor lost or stolen away. I am known by the Lord and can trust his voice. I belong to him.

I consider how this makes me feel.

As I ponder being known and protected in this way, perhaps I can feel a desire to listen more carefully to the Shepherd's voice in my daily life, or to respond to the Lord more deeply in my care of those who are neglected, overlooked, forgotten or lost.

I might also reflect upon the ways I shepherd others. Do I truly know my staff or those in my care?

Or how I follow. For instance, am I genuinely known and trusted by my boss?

And whom do I count as being included in the flock? Are any excluded by me?

Like the sheep of the text, may I always follow the Lord and stay close beside him, deepening my trust of him and emulating his love for others. Especially those who are most vulnerable.



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O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee more nearly, day by day. Amen.

