

John 10:27-30 is a short Gospel reading in which Jesus makes significant statements. Speaking as the Good Shepherd, Jesus makes three important points about his sheep, i.e., his true disciples. Firstly, they hear his voice. You may remember that during the transfiguration of Jesus on Mount Tabor, God the Father spoke from heaven, and asked the followers of his beloved son to 'listen to him'. We do this especially during times of prayer. Having revealed what is in our hearts to Jesus, we say with the prophet Samuel, 'speak Lord, your servant is listening.' Jesus can and will respond by many means, such as inner inspirations, the voice of conscience, but especially in and through his words in the New Testament. Secondly, Jesus says that he knows the disciples. In other words, he has a personal relationship with them and they with him. He knows them through and through in a loving, affirming and benevolent way while, at the same time, giving them the power to know the length and breadth, the height and depth of his incomprehensible love for them. As Thomas Merton wrote, 'Who am I? My deepest realisation of who I am is, I am one loved by Christ.' Thirdly, as a result of the first two points, the disciples of Jesus have both the desire and the Spirit given ability to follow him faithfully by



THE GOOD SHEPHERD'S PROMISE

doing his will. As St Paul said in Philippians 2:13, 'God is at work in you to will and to do his good pleasure.'

Then Jesus the Good Shepherd goes on to make the promise that 'no one can take them out of my hand.' In other words, he is saying that his loyal disciples will not only experience his grace in this life, but they will also participate in the new earth and the new heaven which will be established after the second coming of Jesus at the end of history. They are the ones who avoid the wide road that leads to destruction by entering the narrow gate and travelling the difficult road which leads to life (cf. Mt 7:13-14).

When the end time comes, the true disciples will no longer see Jesus as in a faulty, imperfect mirror but rather face to face. In knowing him in such an intimate way they will also know the Father with whom he is inseparably united. ■

— Tom Cox

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, ...
**For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.**

Lord Jesus Christ, ... **Amen.**
The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And with your spirit.

As the priest breaks the consecrated Host the following is sung or said:

Lamb of God, you take away the sins ...

Showing the Host to the people, the priest says:

Behold the Lamb of God, ...

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter

**under my roof, but only say the word and my
soul shall be healed.**

Communion Antiphon

**The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down
his life for his sheep and willingly died for his
flock, alleluia.**

Prayer after Communion

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd, and be
pleased to settle in eternal pastures the sheep
you have redeemed by the Precious Blood of
your Son.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**



Reflection

Who is Jesus? What does Jesus mean now?



Lesson

Only God's Word (which became visible in Jesus) is the good news of salvation.



Prayer

Help us, Lord Jesus, to remain faithful to the Gospel, to the word of God which remains for ever. Help us, too, to realise that your word is alive and active.