Liturgical and Musical Planning Overview

For May 7, 2017
Which is the Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A

Lectionary # 49

Readings: Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A
I: Acts 2:14A, 36-41
II: 1 Peter 2:20B-25
G: John 10:1-10

For reflection:
“The sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers.”

What does Jesus’ voice sound like? We know it’s one that is familiar to us: it calls us to peace, stillness, calmness, joy, and hope. The “stranger’s voice” in today’s Gospel is the one opposite of Jesus, the Good Shepherd’s: the stranger’s voice that calls out to the sheep reminds us of the strange and alluring voice of temptation. When we feel anxious, upset, tempted, or fearful about something, we have to remember that God does not draw us into the fear; instead, Jesus calls out to us in a familiar voice to help us (figuratively, the sheep) find our way and follow Him. In today’s Gospel, we hear that the stranger’s voice calls out to us and can be compelling, but will not lead to truth and everlasting life. The temptations and “strange voices” in our lives that call us away from the shepherd are ones to avoid.

Today, we hear throughout the Liturgy of the Word to be like sheep and to return to the shepherd, whom St. Paul calls “the guardian of our souls.” Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, is attentive to his flock: his sheep know his voice and will follow him. We, too, know deep inside of us when we hear the voice of God in our lives, calling us or drawing us toward something. In the busy weeks to come, as the semester finishes, it can be hard to pick out God’s voice among the competing noises and distractions.

Let’s pray today for the grace of some moments of stillness and silence, whenever we can find it, to listen closely to the voice of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. His voice is the familiar, recognizable one that we know and to which we are deeply drawn.

Lord, help us to hear you and to recognize your voice, as sheep do to the Good Shepherd.

Planning your music:
*Note: for many halls on campus, this is the last Mass of the school year in your residence hall. For all who are on campus after finals, a Senior Week Sunday Mass will be held in the Basilica at 5 pm on May 14. All are welcome! You may consider collecting some favorite songs from your hall and playing them during this Sunday’s liturgy, especially as opening/closing hymns.

Mass Setting: ___________________

Opening Song suggestions:
At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing #503
The King of Love My Shepherd Is #674
All People That on Earth Do Dwell #594
Gloria? Yes, every week during Easter. It’s always preferable to sing the Gloria, but if you’re not ready to do so, it may be spoken. Be sure to let your presider know whether you will speak it or sing it.

Psalm: The psalm for this week is 23. See the arrangement at #190 (refrain I or II), #191, or #192 in the Newman Hymnal.

Alleluia (from your chosen Mass setting) If the Mass setting you are using doesn’t contain an Alleluia, look at #M4, #M97-100. Select one you like and then use it for the whole season.

Alleluia verse:
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Preparation of the Altar and Gifts – Song Suggestions:
Jesus Lives #514
My Shepherd Will Supply My Need #669
In the Arms of the Shepherd #670

Holy, Holy; Memorial Acclamation; Amen (all from your chosen Mass setting)

Lord’s Prayer (may be spoken or sung)

Lamb of God/Agnus Dei (from your chosen Mass setting)

Communion Song Suggestions:
Gift of Finest Wheat #134
Come to Me #662
Take and Eat This Bread #148

Closing Song Suggestions:
The Day of Resurrection #519
Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise #505
Our God Reigns #610