

**Readings for May 5, 2019**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

**"The Great Mystery of Faith...Transformation"**

**9:30 AM**

Acts 9:1-20                  Psalm 30:7-12

Revelation 5:11-14      John 21:1-19

**10:45 AM**

Acts 9:1-20                  John 21:1-19



**Readings for May 12, 2019**

**Second Sunday of Easter**

**"The Great Mystery of Faith...Relationship"**

**9:30 AM**

Acts 9:36-43              Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17      John 10:22-30

**10:45 AM**

Psalm 23                      John 10:22-30

**ELCA Southeastern Synod Youth Mission Trip to Guatemala**

Ashleigh Henning is answering the call to Guatemala with other ELCA Southeastern Synod youth this summer, July 17th through July 24th. High School youth will spend a weekend with Guatemalan youth leaders for their youth retreat, work with the young women of the MILAGRO Women's Center, and visit cultural sights in Guatemala. If you are able, help deter the cost of the Mission Trip by making a donation today: checks payable to Community of Grace with memo "Ashleigh Mission Trip" or you can donate on our website (select Guatemala 2019 Mission Trip.) Thank you!!



**Daily Walk for the week of May 6, 2019**

**"The Great Mystery of Faith: Transformation"**

**Written by Pastor Matthew Henning**

**Monday May 6<sup>th</sup> Faith as Your Keeper**

"The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore." Psalm 121: 7-8. There are days when it seems hard to know that God is near. This psalm reminds all of us that God is both near and at work in our daily lives. These words give us an understanding of God as "keeper" from the evil that is also at work. One gift found in that keeping is faith which guides in this life and will hold us in the next. We are promised in these words a God who will be present, protecting, and loving as we face the challenges of this life. We can be confident even in adversity that we are part of God's kingdom work in this world. Prayer: "O great keeper, protect me with your grace filled presence this day. Amen."

**Tuesday May 7<sup>th</sup> The bow Transforms**

"Like the bow in a cloud on a rainy day, such was the appearance of the splendor all around. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. When I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of someone speaking. He said to me: O mortal,

stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me." Ezekiel 1:28-2:2. Every so often on a rainy day you can look up and see a rainbow in the sky refracting the light of a distant sun. It is a reminder that change out of the gloom is ahead with the breaking apart of the clouds making way for the sun's bright and hopeful light. Ezekiel likens his own calling to this experience. Light in the darkness, all the colors of the rainbow, and growth following a nurturing rain. The prophet calls us into that inclusive, hope for not only Israel but for all creation. Prayer: "Enable me to see the signs of your grace this day, O Lord, that I may share your love with all people. Amen."

**"The Great Mystery of Faith: Relationship"**

**Written by**

**Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>**

**The Good Shepherd walks with me.**

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." Psalm 23:1 As humans, we tend to focus on our wants. Today, we can click a button and purchase the things we want and they are delivered to our front door. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to pray, worship,

read the Living Word, serve those in our community, build spiritual relationships and give with a thankful heart. The words of Psalm 23 remind us that our loving Lord is here to guide us. We do not have to do it on our own. Take time this week to listen; listen to the Shepherd as he walks with you each day. Prayer: "Good Shepherd, thank you for guiding me each day. Help me to open my heart and mind to hear you and know you walk with me each day."

**Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**

**The Good Shepherd provides.**

"He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake." Psalm 23:2-3 Each day I review what needs to be accomplished and I try really hard to complete my lists. I find I'm usually too busy doing the next thing to enjoy the moments before me and many distractions overwhelm me. Jesus is our Shepherd, providing us a shallow stream that flows peacefully for us to rest and be restored. The Good Shepherd provides our daily needs while offering us peace and rest for "his name sake." Take time today to trust Jesus is with you, to believe He provides for you and accept His peace and rest. Prayer: "Good Shepherd, help me to seek you when I begin to feel overwhelmed and stressed. Help me to trust that you are in, with and under all I do. I give you thanks and praise for providing true peace and rest in you. Amen"

**Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**

**The Good Shepherd comforts.**

"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and staff – they comfort me." Psalm 23:4 This verse in Psalm 23 is reminding us that our relationship with God doesn't end when we are in the darkest valley. In this life, we will have difficult times, we will witness evil and we will all experience death. God is with us always and we can call on him to comfort us in our grief, pain, sorrow, anger, bitterness, brokenness. God provides comfort and protection with his presence when we spend time with a friend or loved one, while we listen to or sing a hymn, while we read familiar Scripture, when we worship with other

believers and when we share in Holy Communion. Prayer: "Good Shepherd, thank you for providing comfort during difficult times. Help me to share your love with others in need of your comfort this week. Amen"

**Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**

**My Cup overflows.**

"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long." Psalm 23:5-6 We do not have to take our last breath to be in God's presence, these verses remind us that He is with us while on earth. This Psalm is for our everyday life, reminding us The Good Shepherd is prepared to help us through all that life throws at us. Call on God; believe and trust in him and your cup will overflow with blessings. Prayer: "Good Shepherd, thank you for walking with me today. Open my heart and mind to see a cup that overflows with your blessings. Amen."

**Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**

**The Great Mystery of Faith...Relationship**

"My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27 What steps do you take to nurture a relationship? A relationship requires time, being intentional, love, understanding, trust, and the list goes on. Jesus has given signs that he is the Messiah but the Jews want it spelled out "plainly." I can imagine Jesus being a little frustrated just as I have been trying to explain something important to my children and they just don't understand. Jesus is saying we are to believe and we will know his voice and follow. We are to step out in faith and accept the gift of relationship that God freely gives to us. Jesus is not the only voice trying to draw our attention. Us, much like the Jews, might hear the words but do not respond. Jesus calls to his sheep and expects them to follow. Take time today to think about your listening skills and how you can be open to action at his call. Prayer: "Good Shepherd, thank you for the gift of relationship you freely give, be with me today as I listen for your call and prepare to follow."