



Liturgy Cycle C

Twenty-Fourth Sunday Of The Year The Lost Sheep

Introduction

In today's Gospel we have the lovely story about the lost sheep and how happy the shepherd was when he found it. Christ said that there is great joy in heaven when even one sinner comes back to God. When we sin we stray from God. Which of us can say that we have never strayed from God? But Christ is the Good Shepherd who comes looking for us, and how happy he is if he finds us and we agree to return to the Father with him.

First Reading (Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14)

The people have strayed from the path God marked out for them. They have turned their backs on the God who brought them out of Egypt and have fallen into idolatry, but Moses intercedes for them.

Second Reading (1Tim 1:12-17)

Paul says that Christ came into the world to save sinners. In his conversion he himself experienced the saving mercy of God.

Gospel (Luke 15:1-32)

The Pharisees complain because Jesus has been mixing with sinners. Jesus justifies his actions in three parables: the parable of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray that having experienced the love and care of Christ, the Good Shepherd, we may try to be loving and caring towards others.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For all the shepherds of the Church: that they may faithfully watch over the flock of Christ, showing special care for the lost sheep. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For those in charge of civil affairs: that they may be caring in their jobs; for all parents, that they may create homes where their children will know they are loved. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.



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For all those who are lost, and who have no one to take an interest in them. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

That we may realise how precious we are as individuals to the Lord, and that we may try to be loving towards all those we come into contact with each day. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

Communion Reflection

**We all need to anchor our lives
to true values and enduring truths.
Unfortunately many people form the flimsiest of ties.
They anchor their boats to things that are weak.
They pin their hopes on values that are false.**

**When the strain is put on, the tie snaps,
and they are wrenched from their moorings.
Their old certainties vanish,
and they are alone -
lost on the limitless sea of life.**

**But we need anchors other than faith and principles.
People who have never known a close relationship
with another human being are anchorless-
They are at the mercy of the cold winds
of anguish, loneliness and frustration.**

**They have never had that anchor in life
that gives them the feeling that they are worthwhile,
and that thereby gives them stability and security.**

**Without such an anchor,
their hearts will always be restless.
and in a sense they will always be lost.**