



# Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, joy, and hope!

### ***“Following the Shepherd Who Leads Us to Life”***

Jesus, the Son of God, reveals Himself in many ways throughout the Gospels. Each image He uses is an invitation to approach Him, to trust His voice, and to understand the Father's heart. His desire is simple yet profound: that His disciples, and we today, may come to know Him personally and recognize the true face of God. His teaching is clear, grounded, and deeply human, so that anyone who listens can grasp who He is and what He offers.

In the tenth chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd. Each Fourth Sunday of Easter, the Church returns to this chapter, allowing its message to echo anew in our hearts. The readings for this day, especially from the Acts of the Apostles, draw us into the theme of shepherding. Strengthened by the Spirit, Peter speaks boldly about Jesus. Like a shepherd guiding his flock, he leads people toward conversion and new life. His words pierce their hearts, not to condemn but to awaken them to the One who brings salvation.

To follow Jesus is to listen to His voice. Discipleship means allowing His word to shape our choices, our priorities, and our relationships. The Good Shepherd does not mislead or manipulate. He guides us toward what is life-giving, toward joy that endures, toward a fullness of life rooted in God. His leadership is never self-serving; it is always for the good of the flock.

Today, we live in a time when many voices compete for our attention, some loud, some persuasive, and some even misleading. In such a moment, the image of the Good Shepherd is especially important. We need leaders, both in the Church and in society, who reflect something of His heart: leaders who listen before they speak, protect rather than exploit, seek unity rather than division, carry responsibility with humility, and place the common good above personal gain.

In the Church, we continue to hear the Shepherd's voice through the ministry of the Holy Father and through all entrusted with pastoral care. Their task is not easy. They, too, are human, with strengths and limitations. Yet we pray for them that they may remain close to Christ and lead with courage, compassion, and fidelity.

In our civic life, we also long for shepherds, leaders who safeguard dignity, uphold justice, and guide communities with wisdom. While the Church does not endorse individuals, she continually calls all leaders to embrace values that reflect God's vision for humanity: integrity, service, mercy, and deep respect for every person. When leaders embody these virtues, society becomes a place where people can flourish, the vulnerable are protected, and hope can take root.

The Lord invites us, once again, to listen to His voice. He leads us to green pastures when we allow His word to shape our hearts and actions. Whether entrusted with leadership or simply striving to live faithfully in our daily responsibilities, we are all called to reflect the Shepherd's tenderness and truth.

May our faith open our minds and hearts to the voice of the Good Shepherd. And may we, in our Church and in our nation, be blessed with leaders who guide not by force or fear, but by the quiet strength of service, compassion, and love.

Your Friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual