

Mystagogy Session

APPRENTICES IN FAITH: A Resource for the OCIA
Fourth Sunday of Easter • Year C • May 11, 2025

*Eternal Father, you sent us your Son, Jesus,
as the shepherd of the flock.
He provides for our needs.
He leads us to springs of life-giving water.*

Sunday Word

Acts 13:14, 43-52
Psalm 100:1-2, 3, 5
Revelation 7:9, 14b-17
John 10:27-30

Reflection

Deepen

You are wearing the white robe of Baptism. Perhaps you lack that robe in a physical sense, but without a doubt you metaphorically (as a full-fledged member of the Church) and spiritually (as indelibly marked upon your soul) wear the garment of Salvation. The white robe symbolizes our baptismal innocence, our newness in Christ. It also symbolizes our unity with the heavenly throng of angels and saints arranged around God's throne. Sheltered by the Lamb of God in this world, we strive to bring our baptismal garment unstained into the everlasting life of Heaven.

Meditate

The sheep of the flock know the voice of their shepherd. They will not follow another. They trust the voice of the one who leads them safely, who keeps them from harm.

The flock constituted in Christ responds joyfully to his call, glorifying the eternal Word, who shows them the way, the truth, and the life. As members of this world-spanning flock, we inherit the gift of eternal life. We shall not perish, for by God's grace, the sacraments sustain us.

We may suffer persecution and hardship for a time, but when measured against eternity, those difficulties count as a mere moment. Tears will be wiped away from our eyes as we behold the beauty of the Risen One reigning from Heaven.

Share

You heard the voice of Jesus long before you were fully initiated into his Body, the Church. You heard that voice, in part, in the invitation to explore the Christian way of life. You heard that voice, in part, throughout the Precatechumenate and the Catechumenate. You heard that voice, in part—and more intensely—during the Period of Purification and Enlightenment.

It is the same voice, the voice of Christ, who leads you to his Father through the action of the Holy Spirit. Through the faith community itself, through the liturgy and the sacraments, the voice of Christ draws you deeper into the mystery of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

What awesome joy to surrender ourselves to divine love in the community—the flock of faith—that is the Church! In our surrender to divine love and our ongoing encounter with divine love, we change, we mature, and we move forward into the future prepared for us by Christ.

For Reflection . . .

As you share in the Eucharistic assembly and receive Holy Communion, how do you “hear” the voice of Christ anew?

Act

Jesus says that he and his heavenly Father are one. We are privileged to be given a share in that oneness through the Holy Spirit. Our share in that oneness does not turn in upon itself but expands outward in charity, service, and good works. In other words, our sharing in the love of the Triune God is meant to be inclusive and expansive.

For Reflection . . .

Whom might you invite to consider entering the initiation process to also share in the love of the Triune God?