

One of the Best Places Where You Can Nurture Your Relationship with Jesus and Listen to His Voice Is the Lord's Table. At Christ's Table We Are Nurtured, We Are Loved, We Are Cared for.

"Using metaphors of sheep and a shepherd to describe our relationship with Jesus may seem a little odd or outmoded to us," the Rev. Dr. Brook Thelander said in his Good Shepherd Sunday sermon, "but it is a key image in the Scriptures, and probably with good reason—for the image of a shepherd and the sheep reveals to us an intimate and personal quality of relationship that is often lost in our technology-dominated world."

"In a technology-driven world that reduces persons to numbers," Pastor Thelander continued, "hear this Good News today: Jesus know you, not by a number, but by your *name*. He knows you personally. He knows you intimately. He knows your inmost thoughts. He knows the burdens you carried with you through these doors this morning. He knows you so well that he laid down his life for your sake.

"The Psalm writer said, 'We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.' And Jesus says, 'My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.'

"Whatever else Christianity may be, it is about *knowing* Jesus, and being *known*

by him. It involves opening yourself to his love, warts and vulnerabilities and all. It is a relationship that proceeds not from the flow of impersonal numbers, but from the sound of a voice."

"Just as sheep develop a special bond with the shepherd," Pastor Thelander said, "even so Jesus desires that we develop a special relationship with him, a relationship characterized by faith," rather than by a demand for "incontrovertible proof that Jesus was who he said he was" and rather than the demanding question, "So, Jesus, what have you done for me lately?"

"I want to tell you this morning that one of the best places you can nurture your relationship with Jesus and listen to his voice is at the Lord's Table. At Christ's table we are nurtured, we are loved, we are cared for. At his table we are known and loved intimately."

"As we come to the table this morning, I have one simple question: Of all the voices that (p. 2 →)



Detail from "Deposition", by Rogier van der Weyden (1400-1464), the earliest and greatest of his works existing today. © Web Gallery of Art. The work depicts a scene after the removal of Christ's body (in the center portion, not shown here) from the cross. During divine service the bread and wine would have stood on the altar below this picture, and when the priest raised the host above his head during the ceremony, the congregation would have seen him doing so directly in front of the painted body of Christ. The portion above shows Mary having fallen in anguish and despair, and being assisted by John. As we will hear this Sunday in Psalm 145:15, "The Lord upholds all those who fall; he lifts up those who are bowed down."

Editor: Box 972, Boise, ID 83701. 208-336-3951, harbingermail@aol.com

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brook Thelander, epworthrector@msn.com

On the Web: www.epworthchapelonthegreen.org

Sundays 10:00 a.m.: Word & Table service
11:30 a.m.: Refreshments, conversation
11:45 a.m.: Post-service discussion.

**We welcome donations for
The Harbinger.**

6:00 p.m.: (First Sundays only) Evensong, tea, refreshments.

Thursdays: 5:30 p.m.: Evening Prayers. 6:00 p.m.: Singing & discussing hymns.

Readings, 5/6, 10 a.m.: Acts 13:44-52; Ps. 145; Rev. 19:1-9; John 13:31-35.

6 p.m.: Ps. 84; Lev. 8:1-13, 30-36; 2 Thess. 2:13-17. **5/13:** Acts 14:8-18; Ps. 67; Rev. 21:22—22:5; John 14:23-31.

Prayer Emphases: Central African Republic; Church of God (Anderson); Homedale Assembly of God, and the Rev. George Greenwood; Boise Rescue Mission; parishioners on Butte Street.

For the poor: ground beef, chicken, bacon, fresh produce, canned fruits and vegetables, dairy products, cooking oil, pancake mix, syrup, spices, diapers, baby wipes, toilet paper, personal care items (soap, shampoo, conditioner, razors, shaving cream).

(Sermon, cont'd.) clamor for attention in your life, where does the voice of Jesus rank? Does his voice stand out? Is it a distinct sound amidst the siren songs of our bankrupt culture? I close today with the words from our collect for the day: *O God, whose Son Jesus is the Good Shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads.*"

Discuss: Name things that may cause us not to hear, know and follow.