

"LED RIGHT HERE, ALIVE, IN GRACE!"
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - MAY 7, 2017
ACTS 2:42-47; 1 PETER 2:19-25; JOHN 10:1-10

Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.

How do you get from “here” to “there”? Can you always see where you are going? If you are unfamiliar with where you are going, are you able to follow someone who knows the way? Does verbal direction and warning from another help, or would you not listen any way? Holding someone’s hand is a great way to feel security, but this is not always possible. Maybe, others are nudging you, shepherding you or carrying you? As Jesus is risen, and risen indeed, trust He is right here to lead you in power and grace. The Good Shepherd is right here for you. What if you still get lost? What if where he is leading you is unfamiliar? What if you only hear his voice once in a while? Trust the Risen Savior is raised to lead you where you have been led before, right here, to be alive, in the mighty and grace-filled arms and care of The Good Shepherd!

1. We are led in grace, right here, to be alive, to go where we see The Risen Christ shepherding us. Acts 2:42-43; John 10:4-5
 - A. Even when you do not know where you are going, it helps if you can at least see The Good Shepherd.
 - B. Sometimes it is hard to see the leader. At times like these, there is reassurance in following others who can clearly see The Good Shepherd. They keep their eyes on The Good Shepherd and you keep your eyes on them.
 - C. The Good Shepherd always has his eyes on you!

2. We are led in grace, right here, to be alive, to go where we hear The Risen Christ calling out to us. 1 Peter 2:19-24; John 10:1-3,7-9
 - A. You know whose voice is whose. Listen to Him.
 - B. If you need to, ask Him to speak up. If you need to, listen more carefully. If you need to, ask another sheep what Jesus is telling them. If you need to, make all else as quiet as possible.
 - C. The Good Shepherd will forever speak to you, and call you by name.

3. We are led in grace, right here, to be alive, to go along, to go where pulled, nudged, carried if necessary thanks to the best news of all!
Acts 2:44-45; John 10:9
 - A. Feel the touch of The Risen Christ.
 - B. Feel The Risen Christ taking hold of you and carrying you.
 - C. Feel those following The Risen Christ, nudging you along.
 - D. May you feel The Risen Christ when you feel all alone.
 - E. Celebrate, be alive, right here, in the One who is forever leading us, forever here, forever gracing us, forever painting the most brilliant, stunning, pictures in our minds and hearts, forever the Best News of all!

4. Acts 2:46-47; 1 Peter 2:25; John 10:10 - We are all being led in grace, right here, to be alive, to get from “here” to “there,” from us to The Christ, from the world to The Christ, from one green pasture to The Greenest Pasture of them all, from ‘what was’ to ‘What Is.’ When you stray on your spiritual journey, The Risen Christ, The Good Shepherd, is always there. By the way, how did you get “here”? Let us trust and follow and go where we are led, for we are led in grace, by the One who is alive, right here, the One who is faithful, the One who is risen, and risen indeed! Alleluia!