

“[Jesus says], ‘My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.’” John 10:27.

Dear friends in Christ:

“Christ is risen. Alleluia!” This is the declaration on the Church sign in this season of Easter. It is a statement about what Christians proclaim and which we celebrate in these weeks following “Easter week-end”. This season of Easter is a time for Christians to give praise to God. It is a time to remember what God has done for us preciously through Jesus as the Christ. Alleluia can and should be sung repeatedly throughout this Easter season; the proclamation of new and resurrected life.

May is a month in which our deciduous and fruit trees will burst into blossom and leaf. The grass in our lawns will become revitalized, turning the luxuriant green that indicates vibrant growth. The seeds in our garden plots will be sown and germinate to provide us sustenance into another year. These things in the natural world will follow the dictates of their genes; they will fulfill their vocation. They will take advantage of all those resources now available to them for growth and life, elements that were minimally present or locked in winter fridity: light, water, minerals, warmth.

Our life rooted and formed in Christ Jesus is a life programmed for growth and fruitfulness. Jesus assures those who are his one thing and reminds them of another thing. Christ’s sheep hear his voice; the shepherd calls. Those sheep who long for continuing life follow him. The role of the shepherd is to lead the sheep to those things they need for life: food, water, shelter and protection. A sheep that does not follow the shepherd to these things simply dies! Jesus as our Shepherd is faithful in that role of leading to everything for our living. Are we faithful in our following?

“Christ is risen. Alleluia!” is the blossoming proclamation of a soul freed from the bondage of sin and its resultant: banishment and death. This month we will celebrate Mother’s Day. It is again a time to ascribe to God thanks, honor and praise for his intimate involvement and care for creation; the vocations he creates and sustains. Everyone can sing Alleluia for the gift of a mother. Women can receive the adulation and well-wishes that their progeny and children will shower upon them, for the gifts of life they share throughout the year. True motherhood is a vocation that is divinely blessed and is created for the well-being of souls made in the image of God.

True motherhood is the discipleship that is divinely instilled in that vocation and its living fruitfulness. Children who long for life, will follow the voice of their mother. As we live the new life birthed in us when we were united into Christ’s death and resurrection at our Baptism, may we experience that luxuriant growth and blossoming that God calls into us. Be the sheep that follow where the Shepherd leads. Christ is risen. Alleluia!

In Christ forever,  
Pastor Kevin.