

Scriptures April 26, 2026

Modern Testimony

Psalms 23, *Everyday Psalms* by James Taylor

Looking back on a full life

One: God has walked with me; I could ask nothing more

Many: God has given me green meadows to laugh in, clear streams to think beside, untrodden paths to explore.

One: When I thought the world rested on my shoulders, God put things in perspective.

Many: When I lashed out at an unfair world, God calmed me down

One: When I drifted into harmful ways, God straightened me out.

Many: God was with me all the way.

One: I do not know what lies ahead, but I am not afraid.

Many: I know you will be with me.

One: Even in death, I will not despair.

Many: You will comfort and support me.

One: though my eye dims and my mind dulls, you will continue to care for me.

Many: your touch will sooth the tension in my temples, my fears will fade.

One: I am content. In life, beyond death, God is with me.

Many: All through life, I have found goodness in people. When life ends, I expect to be gathered into the ultimate goodness of God.

Ancient Testimony

John 10:1-10

The Message

He Calls His Sheep by Name

10¹⁻⁵ “Let me set this before you as plainly as I can. If a person climbs over or through the fence of a sheep pen instead of going through the gate, you know he’s up to no good—a sheep rustler! The shepherd walks right up to the gate. The gatekeeper opens the gate to him and the sheep recognize his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he gets them all out, he leads them and they follow because they are familiar with his voice. They won’t follow a stranger’s voice but will scatter because they aren’t used to the sound of it.”

⁶⁻¹⁰ Jesus told this simple story, but they had no idea what he was talking about. So he tried again. “I’ll be explicit, then. I am the Gate for the sheep. All those others are up to no good—sheep rustlers, every one of them. But the sheep didn’t listen to them. I am the Gate. Anyone who goes through me will be cared for—will freely go in and out, and find pasture. A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.