

FIRST READING: Acts 9:36-43 Peter raises Tabitha (Dorcas) from death *(ISV)*

³⁶ In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was known for her good actions and acts of charity that she was always doing. ³⁷ At that time, she got sick and died. After they had washed her, they laid her in an upstairs room. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples heard that Peter was there and sent two men to him and begged him, “Come here quickly!” ³⁹ So Peter got up and went with them. When he arrived, they took him upstairs. All the widows gathered around Peter, crying and showing him all the shirts and coats Dorcas had made while she was still with them. ⁴⁰ Peter made them all go outside. After kneeling down, he prayed, turned to the body, and said, “Tabitha, get up!” She opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹ He extended his hand and helped her get up. Then he called the saints, including the widows, and gave her back to them alive. ⁴² What happened became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³ Meanwhile, Peter stayed in Joppa for several days with Simon, a leatherworker.

PSALM: Psalm 23 *(ESV)*

¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. ³ He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

SECOND READING: Revelation 7:9-17 The Lamb is their shepherd *(NET)*

⁹ After these things I looked, and here was an enormous crowd that no one could count, made up of persons from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb dressed in long white robes, and with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They were shouting

out in a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!” ¹¹ And all the angels stood there in a circle around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they threw themselves down with their faces to the ground before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying, “Amen! Praise and glory, and wisdom and thanksgiving, and honour and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!” ¹³ Then one of the elders asked me, “These dressed in long white robes—who are they and where have they come from?” ¹⁴ So I said to him, “My lord, you know the answer.” Then he said to me, “These are the ones who have come out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb! ¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God, and they serve Him day and night in His temple, and the one seated on the throne will shelter them. ¹⁶ They will never go hungry or be thirsty again, and the sun will not beat down on them, nor any burning heat, ¹⁷ because the Lamb in the middle of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

GOSPEL: John 10:22-30 Jesus says, ‘My sheep listen to My voice.’
(*NABRE*, alt)

²² The feast of the Dedication was then taking place in Jerusalem. It was winter. ²³ And Jesus walked about in the temple area on the Portico of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, “How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If You are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” ²⁵ Jesus answered them, “I told you and you do not believe. The works I do in My Father’s name testify to Me. ²⁶ But you do not believe, because you are not among My sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear My voice; I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. Never will anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰ I and the Father – we are one.”