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## Scripture Reflection

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The readings today invite us to reflect on our identity and mission as followers of Christ.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells us: *"My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand."* **Jn 10:27-28**

Through Christ's resurrection, we have received the hope of eternal life. He is the Good Shepherd, and He wants all people to know Him, love Him, and follow Him. Our mission as His Church is to joyfully proclaim the Good News of salvation.

In today's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we see Paul and Barnabas living out this mission. Despite challenges and persecution, they boldly continue to preach the word of the Lord, inspiring joy and faith in the Gentiles. Courageously preaching the Gospel in word and in deed, they become *Messengers of Hope*.

These readings call us to hear Jesus' voice, trust in Him, and share His message of hope. We may face difficulties, but He assures us that no one can take us out of His hand (**Jn 10:28**).

Each year, the *Annual Catholic Appeal* allows us to come together as a family in Christ to make His love present throughout the Archdiocese of St. Louis and lead others to Him through life-giving ministries and programs. Our gifts become hope and healing for the most vulnerable and spread His boundless love and mercy.

Today, let's embrace our call to be *Messengers of Hope*. Please give to the *Appeal* <<date and place>> or visit [aca.archstl.org](http://aca.archstl.org) to learn more about the impact of your generosity.

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## Bulletin/Pulpit Announcement

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Christ is the source of our hope, and His love must shine through in our love for one another. The *Annual Catholic Appeal* is an opportunity to be *Messengers of Hope*. Each year, our gifts make His love present throughout the Archdiocese of St. Louis and lead others to Him through life-giving ministries and programs.

As we prepare to launch the *Appeal* follow-up efforts in our parish, please consider making a gift today. You can pick up your pledge card after Mass or make a gift online at [aca.archstl.org](http://aca.archstl.org).