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Story Eight: Forty Days of Summer 2025  
**THE SHEPHERD WHO ROARED**



Sunday 24 August – Wednesday 27 August

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**Storyteller: Nick Stephens**

John 10:11-18 and Amos 4:1-8

St Nicholas – 27 July  
St Wulstans – 24 August

TAKE FIVE DEEP BREATHS. CHECK-IN WITH HOW YOU ARE FEELING – IN BODY, IN MIND, IN SPIRIT. TAKE FIVE MORE DEEP BREATHS AND ASK GOD TO ABIDE WITH YOU IN THIS MOMENT. NOW READ THE PASSAGE.

**Verses from John 10**

*I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.*

You can watch video resources by going to [saintwulstans.online](http://saintwulstans.online) and looking for the post called **The Shepherd That Roared**



**One** | What sounds, sights, or sensations might Jesus' listeners have called to mind as they heard him speak about sheep and shepherds?

**Two** | Shepherd is a symbolic role in Israel's tradition, as both a pastor and prophet. What kind of people, with what kind of values, does this role call for?

**Three** | Amos was a shepherd by trade—and a Shepherd by calling. Around 750 BCE, he was sent by God to speak into a time of wealth, worship, and injustice in the northern kingdom of Israel.

*Hear this word, you cows of Bashan who are on Mount Samaria, who oppress the poor, who crush the*

needy, who say to their husbands, “Bring something to drink!” The Lord God has sworn by his holiness: The time is surely coming upon you, when they shall take you away with hooks, even the last of you with fishhooks. Through breaches in the wall you shall leave, each one straight ahead; and you shall be flung out into Harmon, says the Lord.

Come to Bethel—and transgress; to Gilgal—and multiply transgression; bring your sacrifices every morning, your tithes every three days; bring a thank-offering of leavened bread, and proclaim freewill offerings, publish them; for so you love to do, O people of Israel! says the Lord God.

I gave you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and lack of bread in all your places, yet you did not return to me, says the Lord. And I also withheld the rain from you when there were still three months to the harvest; I would send rain on one city, and send no rain on another city; one field would be rained upon,

and the field on which it did not rain withered; so two or three towns wandered to one town to drink water, and were not satisfied; yet you did not return to me, says the Lord.

Verses from Amos 4

As a prophet, Amos is speaking the truth as God sees it. What is he naming about the society around him?

**Four** | Through Amos, God doesn’t stay distant or polite. What picture of God’s priorities emerges in this passage? What seems to matter most to God here?

**Five** | What sustains the hearts and minds of those who act as whistleblowers on the world as it is, even when the risks are real and the resistance fierce?

**Six** | Try to express your key thought from today as a short phrase that you can carry with you into the rest of your day and week, for example, “return to me”. Turn the back page.



May our Gracious God, who knows our silence and our sharpness, breshape our stories with the truth of Christ who speaks with grace and power. Amen.