

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Gospel – Adapted from John 10:11-18

Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know those that belong to me, and they 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 are not part of this group. I must also lead these, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one group of sheep and one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes my life from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the power to lay it down and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father.”



Reflection

Our relationship with God is always growing and developing. As our spiritual life grows, our relationship with God gets deeper. But sadly, many people's never get very deep at all. There are many adults, even Catholics, who think God is far away, and that He does not have much to do with their daily lives. They may go to Mass on Sundays, and pray when they need something, but they figure they'll just deal with God when they die.

But this is not God's vision. Listen to what Jesus says today: "I know mine, and mine know me." God knows us, more deeply than anyone else ever could. He knows everything about us, our hopes, our fears, our favorite food, what makes us happy, what makes us sad, our sins, our virtues, and what beautiful plan He has for our lives.

The last thing that God is, is far away. And He wants us to know Him. He doesn't want us to be far away.



Jesus calls Himself the good shepherd, who lays down His life for His sheep. A hired man runs away when the wolves come. Why? Because he is working for money, and it is not worth dying for a few dollars. But the good shepherd fights off the wolves, even risking his own life to protect the sheep. Why? Because the sheep are his; he loves them. That is God. We are His; He loves us. And He is never far away from us.



Discussion Questions

Do you realize how close God is to you? How does that affect the way you live your life?

What things can you do, to come closer to God?

Vocabulary

- **Eucharist** - The Eucharist is the Body of Christ. In this great sacrament, Jesus comes to us in the appearance of bread. But it is not bread anymore; it has become the Body of Jesus. We will never be closer to Jesus, until we are in Heaven, than when we receive the Holy Eucharist with love.
- **Gospels** - The four Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke, John - are the four books in the Bible that tell directly about Jesus's life. Reading the Gospels helps us know Jesus better.
- **Prayer** - Talking to, spending time with, giving our attention to God. Any time we talk to God, or direct our minds and hearts to Him, it is prayer. We must dedicate time every day specifically for prayer, to grow close to Jesus.
- **Shepherd** - A shepherd takes care of and protects sheep. Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd, who gives up His life for His sheep.

Fill in the blanks

- 1 Jesus gives Himself to us completely in the sacrament of the _____.
- 2 Jesus is the Good _____, who gives up His life for us.

3 To really get to know Jesus, we must spend time in _____ every day.

4 When we hear the _____, we learn about Jesus's life.

Quiz

1 Why do the sheep follow the shepherd?

- A** He feeds them with sugar
- B** They recognize his voice
- C** They are confused
- D** They don't follow him

2 What did Jesus say He came to give us?

- A** Life
- B** Grass
- C** Gold
- D** The Bible

3 How often should we pray?

- A** Every Sunday
- B** Once or twice a week
- C** Whenever we feel like it
- D** Every day

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H D Q E G B K C C H Z D B L T
H N V M O O G Y F J J J V B Q
Q G K Z P M S S N Y A Q J T W
T X G H T S W P U M V V S T N
S H E P H E R D E O I I M M Q
H A X M V H Q W I L R P F W B
M X R J R F A C S A S R R J P
E F I L B M E P H A U A U R G
W J O S F K L C H E P Y U U M
S X N E G R U G B Q L E G G L
F X Z T C E Z Q C C X R G L Z
R U J O H R Z L Y B Q J Y F Y
Y P D T G A L N Y A J H K Q P
K T R R Z E L J A T X Q K E A
L U Y H D Q V N Y W K C S N Z

EUCHARIST

GOSPELS

LIFE

PRAYER

SHEPHERD

VOICE

Answers:

Fill in the blanks

- 1** Eucharist
- 2** Shepherd
- 3** Prayer
- 4** Gospels

Quiz

- 1** B – They recognize his voice
- 2** A – Life
- 3** D – Every day



