

FIRST READING

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

2:14a, 36-41

On the day of Pentecost,
Peter stood with the eleven apostles
and spoke in a loud and clear voice to the crowd:

“Everyone in Israel should know for certain
that God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ,
even though you put him to death on a cross.”

When the people heard this, they were very upset.
They asked Peter and the other apostles,
“Friends, what shall we do?”

Peter said, “Turn back to God!
Be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ,
so that your sins will be forgiven.
Then you will be given the Holy Spirit.
This promise is for you and your children.
It is for everyone our Lord God will choose,
no matter where they live.”

Peter told the people many other things as well.
Then he said, “I beg you to save yourselves
from what will happen to all these evil people.”

On that day about three thousand believed his message
and were baptized.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

23:1-3a, 3b-4, 6

R. (1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You, Lord, are my shepherd.

I will never be in need.
You let me rest in fields of green grass.
You lead me to streams of peaceful water,
and you refresh my life.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You are true to your name,
and you lead me
along the right paths.
I may walk through valleys
as dark as death,
but I won't be afraid.
You are with me,
and your shepherd's rod
makes me feel safe.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Your kindness and love
will always be with me
each day of my life,
and I will live forever
in your house, Lord.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

ALLELUIA

John 10:14

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to John

10:1-10

Jesus said to his disciples:

“I tell you for certain

that only thieves and robbers climb over the fence
instead of going through the gate to the sheep pen.

But the gatekeeper opens the gate for the shepherd,
and he goes in through it.

The sheep know their shepherd’s voice.

He calls each of them by name and leads them out.

“When he has led out all of his sheep,

he walks in front of them,

and they follow, because they know his voice.

The sheep will not follow strangers.

They don’t recognize a stranger’s voice,
and they run away.”

Jesus told the people this story.

But they did not understand what he was talking about.

Then Jesus said:

“I tell you for certain that I am the gate for the sheep.

Everyone who came before me was a thief or a robber,
and the sheep did not listen to any of them.

I am the gate.

All who come in through me will be saved.

Through me they will come and go and find pasture.

“A thief comes only to rob, kill, and destroy.

I came so that everyone would have life,
and have it in its fullest.”

The gospel of the Lord.



Fourth Sunday of Easter

Opening Prayer:

Dear Jesus,
Thank you for being our friend, our helper and our teacher. Help us today to be the boys and girls that you want us to be. Help us grow to make your world a better place like you did. Help us Jesus to be like you. In your name we pray.

Readings:

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalms 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 6
John 10:14
John 10: 1-10

Reflection:

Here is a story...

The New Bookbag

Janey loved her new bookbag. She was so proud of its shiny zippers and the cool pockets. On the bus on the first day of school, she made certain that all the kids saw it. She held it out to her best friend and said, "Look Billy, isn't it cool?" Billy mumbled something that sounded like, "Ya, cool." Some of Janey's excitement seemed to melt away. Billy sounded kind of quiet. "What's wrong, Billy?" Billy answered, "Nothing—nothing you can fix anyway." Janey knew that Billy's family wasn't like hers but didn't know what to say. "What do you mean?" she finally asked. Billy said, "Well my family talked and we decided that we wanted to give some money to the mission at our church. So this year I have to use my brother's old bag. But it is ok. Sometimes I feel kind of jealous but I am glad anyhow." Janey wondered even more. Why would someone use an old bookbag and give money away? What did Billy mean? She asked, "Why would you give away your money? Why are you glad, Billy?" The response came quickly, "Because somebody needed the money more than us."

Janey thought about this a lot. Finally she asked her next door neighbor, Mr. Miller. Mr. Miller always seemed to have time to talk with Janey when other adults were too busy. Mr. Miller considered Janey's question for a long time. "Well, Janey, sometimes it is more important to think of what someone else needs rather than what you want." Mr. Miller continued, "We try to be like Jesus who came to earth and gave his entire life for us. So in a little way, giving to others and not getting everything that we want is sort of like doing what Jesus did for us." Janey asked, "So I can act like Jesus?" "Yes," Mr. Miller said, "in a way, we honor Jesus by giving to others." Janey smiled, "That is what I want too Mr. Miller. I want to be like Jesus." Mr. Miller grinned back and said, "I think Jesus is happy to hear you say that."

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Discussion questions:

Today Jesus told us he is the gate. He is telling us that he is our role model that we should be like him. In this story, Janey learns one way she might be able to try to be like Jesus.

What other ways can we try to be like Jesus?
How do you feel when you try to be like Jesus?
Why do we want to be like Jesus?

Activity:

Complete the attached crossword that relates to today's readings.

Musical Activity:

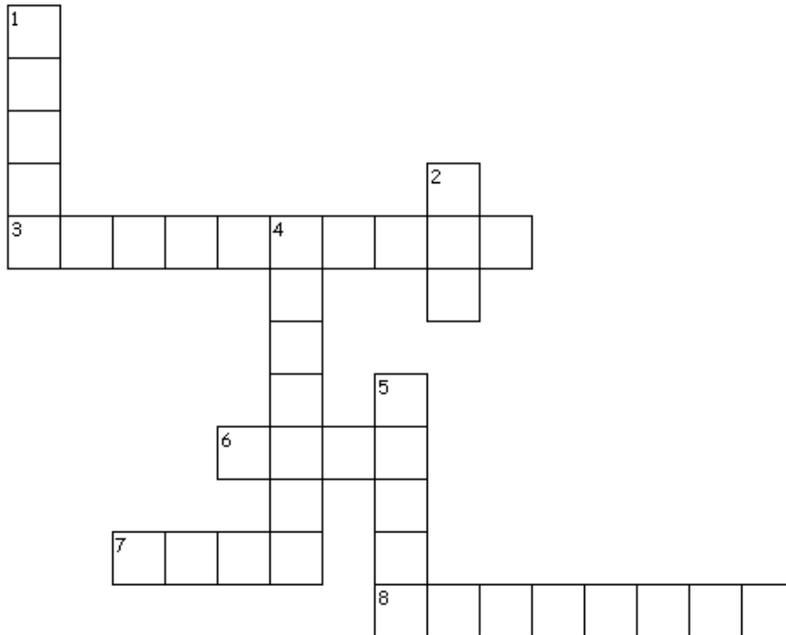
If you have access to the music, sing "I'll Be A Sunbeam."

Something to think about...

Together families can decide to be like Jesus just like a single person can try to act this way. What can you do together that will show the world we want to be like Jesus? Today, together, think of one act of kindness that will show someone else the love of Jesus. Who benefited the most — your family or the recipient of your kindness?



The Good Shepherd



Across

- 3. According to Peter, in today's readings, what is given to us by God?
- 6. What Jesus gives us
- 7. What today's readings call Jesus
- 8. The Lord is my _____

Down

- 1. What draws us closer to God
- 2. What separates us from God
- 4. God's word to us is his _____
- 5. _____ loves us always and forever