

[44]

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

B

### FIRST READING

This is the only name by which we can be saved.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

4:8-12

**P**eter was filled with the Holy Spirit  
and told the nation's leaders and the elders:

"You are questioning us today about a kind deed  
in which a crippled man was healed.  
But there is something we must tell you and everyone else in Israel.  
This man is standing here completely well  
because of the power of Jesus Christ from Nazareth.

"You put Jesus to death on a cross,  
but God raised him to life.  
He is the stone that you builders thought was worthless,  
and now he is the most important stone of all.  
Only Jesus has the power to save!  
His name is the only one in all the world that can save anyone."

The word of the Lord.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

118:1 and 21, 22-23

*R. (22) The stone rejected by the builders  
has become the cornerstone.*

*or:*

*R. Alleluia.*

Tell the Lord  
how thankful you are,  
because he is kind  
and always merciful  
I praise the Lord  
for answering my prayers  
and saving me.

*R. The stone rejected by the builders  
has become the cornerstone.*

*or:*  
*R. Alleluia.*

The stone that the builders  
tossed aside  
has now become  
the most important stone.  
The Lord has done this,  
and it is amazing to us.

*R. The stone rejected by the builders  
has become the cornerstone.*

*or:*  
*R. Alleluia.*

## **SECOND READING**

We shall see God as he really is.

A reading from the first letter of John

3:1-2

**B**eloved:

Think how much the Father loves us.  
He loves us so much that he lets us be called his children,  
as we truly are.  
But since the people of this world did not know who Christ is,  
they don't know who we are.

My dear friends, we are already God's children,  
though what we will be has not yet been seen.  
But we do know that when Christ returns,  
we will be like him,  
because we will see him as he truly is.

The word of the Lord.

## **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**

The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to John 10:11-16

**J**esus said to his disciples:

“I am the good shepherd,  
and the good shepherd gives up his life for his sheep.

“Hired workers are not like the shepherd.

They don't own the sheep,  
and when they see a wolf coming,  
they run off and leave the sheep.

Then the wolf attacks and scatters the flock.

“Hired workers run away because they don't care about the sheep.

“I am the good shepherd.

I know my sheep, and they know me.

Just as the Father knows me,

I know the Father,  
and I give up my life for my sheep.

“I have other sheep that are not in this sheep pen.

I must bring them together too,  
when they hear my voice.

Then there will be one flock of sheep and one shepherd.”

The gospel of the Lord.



## Fourth Sunday of Easter – B Cycle

### Prayer:

Dear God,  
Thank you for sending Jesus to us as Our Good Shepherd. We want to follow our Good Shepherd. Holy Spirit, please help us to always follow Jesus carefully. Amen.

Acts 2:14:36-41

Psalm 118:1-29

1 Peter 2:20-25

John 10:1-10

### Reflection: Following the Good Shepherd

Have you ever seen a real shepherd taking care of real sheep? (Let the children answer) If you haven't, it may be hard to imagine how Jesus would be a Good Shepherd to us. Perhaps, if we thought about the way that you take care of your pets, you would have a better idea of what a shepherd would do to take care of sheep. How many of you have a pet? (Let the children answer) If you don't have a pet, maybe you have helped someone take care of a pet. So, let's think about how pets are taken care of. You probably make sure that your pet has something to eat and drink every day. And I'll bet, you play with them whenever you can. Then, of course, the pets will need to be taken to the Vet for shots when they need them. When they get sick you will make sure they have medicine and give it to them whenever they need it. In other words, you do whatever needs to be done for them to be taken care of, right? And that is exactly what Jesus does for us as our Good Shepherd.

In today's Gospel Jesus is quoted as saying "I am the Good Shepherd; the good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep." And Jesus did exactly that when He died on the cross, so we could be forgiven of our sins and go to be with Him in heaven. Jesus also says, "I am the Good Shepherd, I know my sheep and my sheep know me. Can you think of how Jesus knows you? (Let the children answer.) If we look at the Gospels in the New Testament we can find many ways that Jesus showed us how to live our life, so that we can be following him like sheep follow a shepherd. We will see how kind Jesus is to all those who ask for his help, (Luke 7:11-15) how he treats everyone with respect and understanding, (Matt. 19:13-15) how important being truthful is to Jesus (John 17:17), how he tells us to always forgive others, (Matt 18:22) how he often prays, (Luke 6:12) and how as a child, He was obedient to his parents. (Luke 2: 51-52). (You may want to use other favorite scriptures instead of these.)

### Questions:

How does Jesus want us to treat others?

What will you try to do to be like the Good Shepherd when someone hurts you in some way?

Is always telling the truth one way of being like Jesus the Good Shepherd?

Do you always try to be obedient like Jesus was to Mary and Joseph?

Is it important when learning to be like Jesus, to pray often?

How do you plan to get to know Jesus better?

*(continued on p. 2)*

**Activity:**

Have the students draw a picture on an 8" by 11" piece of drawing paper showing the way they will follow Jesus from now on that is difficult for them. Then ask them to put it on the refrigerator or somewhere in their homes to help them remember to keep following Jesus, the Good Shepherd, in that way.

Other choices might be to learn to sing the hymn, "Shepherd me, O God"

Or sing the round, "The Lord is my Shepherd" (It is hard to find in a book so here are the words.)

The Lord is My shepherd.  
No want shall I know.  
he leads through green pastures  
Where fresh waters flow.

Always, Always  
I'll follow him always.  
Always, Always  
I'll follow him always.