

[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

Peter 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

Beloved:

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

Jesus 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

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."

(continued on page 2)

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:

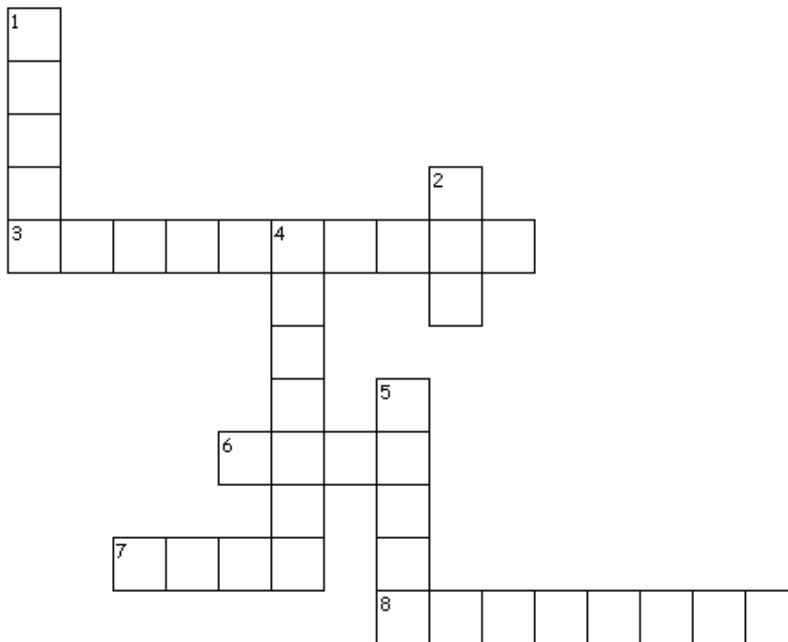
If you have access to the music, sing "I'll Be A Sunbeam."

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