

Family Liturgy – Easter Week 4 (Year A)

Sunday 3 May 2020

Preparing the prayer space

Place a white or gold cloth on the table or floor (white or gold colour for Easter Season).

Place a cross, a bible and a candle on it. Some holy water if you have some or a bowl with water as a reminder of our baptism; add a sheep/s from a playset or from your Christmas crib set or a picture of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

Light the candle or use a battery-operated candle for safety. Add any other symbols relevant to your family.

Prepare materials

You tube as listed on sheet: Gospel stories and song

Suggested activities: your choice or other related activity on sheet

Print out sheet if required



<https://pixy.org/4854706/> - free image

Gather around the prayer space as a family

Parent/Caregiver: Today we hear the story of Jesus who is the Good Shepherd who will always be here for us. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, knows us each by name. We can listen to him and hear his voice. We can follow him with all our heart and in all that we do. We celebrate that Jesus is risen and is with us in a new way! We join ourselves to Jesus and listen to what he is asking of us today.

Opening prayer: God of the Resurrection, you have sent Jesus to us as the Good Shepherd to lead us to new life. Help us to listen to Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and to follow him with all our heart and in all our actions. Help us now to listen to your Word to us. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to John (10: 1-10)

All: Glory to you O, Lord

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I tell you for certain that only thieves and robbers climb over the fence instead of going in through the gate to the sheep pen.

But the gatekeeper opens the gate for the shepherd, and he goes 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 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 recognise 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 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. **All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

(Gospel text © Lectionary for Masses with Children (1993) Catholic Book Publishing Co. New York)

Prayerfully watch the Gospel story of Jesus the Good Shepherd

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKtW_3yQXBw

or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ar732X9uO3I>

Gospel reflection and time of sharing:

I wonder why the people did not understand, at first, that Jesus was talking about himself being the Good Shepherd?

I wonder how they felt when Jesus did tell them that he knew the name of each of his sheep, that they know his voice and can follow him?

I wonder if we are like the sheep in the story and hear Jesus call us by name in our heart?

I wonder if we are like the sheep in the story and follow Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

I wonder how we can show Jesus that we follow him each day?

I wonder how we, as a Church, as part of the flock of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, come together as believers of Jesus and how we can show his love in action?

Parent/Caregiver:

Let us pray quietly and listen to Jesus' message to us.

Let think about how we can become closer to Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

(pause for a moment)

Let us share with each other how we can show Jesus and others that we believe in him as the Good Shepherd

Intercessions: Let us now spend some time in prayer asking God to listen to our needs.

(We respond to the prayers by repeating the words 'Jesus, the Good Shepherd, hear our prayer')

1 We pray for our Church and world leaders: that they will be open to listen and follow Jesus, the Good Shepherd, as he guides us in our life. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, hear our prayer.

2 We pray for all people in our parishes who are not able to meet together at this time: that they may be united to each other around Jesus, the Good Shepherd.
Jesus, the Good Shepherd, hear our prayer.

3 We pray for people in our world who are suffering in any way at this time: may they feel the joy and peace that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, brings to them. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, hear our prayer.

4 We pray for all people who have died recently and especially for people we know and love: that they will be share in the new life of the resurrected Jesus, the Good Shepherd who leads us to new life.
Jesus, the Good Shepherd, hear our prayer.

Closing prayer: God who shepherds us to new life, we believe in your love – your love created the world. We believe in your love – your love sent Jesus, the Good Shepherd, to live with us on earth. We believe in your love – your love sent the Holy Spirit to breathe life through us. Amen.

Closing song:

The Baa Baa Song (He's the Good Shepherd)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGPQX3vQtU8>

or We are the Church of God by Michael Mangan

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIAgcmdax40&list=PLDkIFCmBytnbX5R1Gk0gVsPocRzKvV_oj&index=50

Follow up activity suggestions after the time of prayer has come to a close.

- Write a prayer in your prayer journal (special notebook).
Ask the children to write a prayer and draw a picture speaking with Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who knows them by name. Add to this prayer journal each day.
- Write down the ways how you will follow Jesus, the Good Shepherd, this week and decorate the page.
- Act out the story of the shepherd who Jesus is telling the story about himself, the Good Shepherd who looks after us, his sheep.
- Write a story or poem of how Jesus is with all people at this time who are sick, suffering or worried.
- Choose some family group activities: https://sermons4kids.com/good_shepherd_group_activities.htm
- Shepherd colouring page <https://sundayschoolzone.com/?s=good++shepherd>
or <https://pixy.org/4854706/>
- Crossword https://sermons4kids.com/good_shepherd_crossword.htm