

Fourth Sunday of Easter

25th April 2021

Preparing the prayer space

Place a white cloth on the table or floor (white – the colour for Easter)
Place a cross, bible and candle on it. Light the candle or use a battery-operated candle for safety. Add any other symbols relevant to your family.

Prepare materials

- YouTube as listed on sheet: Scripture story and song
- Suggested activities: your choice or other related activity on sheet
- Print out sheet if required



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) <http://cdn.www.ministry-to-children.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Sheep-Goats-Jesus-Matthew-25.jpg>

Gather around the prayer space as a family

Parent/Caregiver:

Today, we hear that Jesus is the Good Shepherd and takes care of his flock.

Opening prayer: Lord God, we ask you help us to listen to Jesus' voice and follow him. Amen.

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to John (24:35-48).

All: Glory to you O, Lord.

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, and 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. All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Prayerfully watch the video together

I am the Good Shepherd <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ar732X9uO3I> (3.20 mins)

Scripture reflection and time of sharing:

I wonder why Jesus said he is like the good shepherd ...

I wonder what Jesus meant when he said, "Hired workers run away because they don't care about the sheep..."

I wonder why Jesus said he would give up his life for his sheep ...

I wonder who Jesus is talking about when he talks about sheep...

I wonder if I listen to Jesus' voice...
I wonder how I can help to bring others closer to Jesus...

Let us sing together our beliefs as Christians:

I Believe - John Burland ft. Genevieve Bryant <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvYbfojVkgQ> (4 mins)

Intercessions: Let us now spend some time in prayer asking God to listen to our needs.
(*We respond to the prayers by saying the words 'Lord, hear our prayer'*)

1 We pray for Pope Francis, Archbishop Patrick O'Regan, all Church and world leaders: that they can like Jesus, in being a good shepherd to the people they lead through their example and actions.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

2 We pray for those people who may feel lost and alone, that they will find Jesus the Good Shepherd.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

3 We pray that our Church will continue to bring all people together, just as Jesus desires us to be one flock who follow him.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

4 We pause for a moment and pray in our hearts or aloud for any intentions or people we would like to pray for at this time (*pause*)
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

6 We pray for all people who have died recently and or are suffering at this time. May they find their resting place with Jesus.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

Closing prayer: Loving God, you gave us Jesus who loves us so much, just like a shepherd cares for their flock. Let us be more like Jesus and care for others in the same way he does. Amen.

Closing song: *Joy of the Lord* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8bf-D2-WDc> (3.40mins)

Follow up activity suggestions after the time of prayer has end.

- **Prayer journal**
Write a prayer to Jesus in your prayer journal (special notebook).
- **Good Shepherd: craft & tell**
Create your own shepherd and sheep to retell today's gospel story
<https://www.catholicicing.com/good-shepherd-learning-activity-and/>
- **Family Connection**
Spend some time as a family to make a commitment to one/ action or attitude for the week and to pray together. Use the following as a guide <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/fourth-sunday-of-easter-cycle-b-sunday-connection/>