

April 21

❖ FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ❖

(LECT. 50—YEAR B)

"I am the good shepherd," Jesus tells his disciples, "[who] lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). Much later, after Jesus' death and resurrection, his disciples realized that he meant that literally. Jesus loves us and cares for us so much that he sacrificed his life for us, giving his life to save us. He calls us now to care for those *we* love, to put their needs and desires before our own. In this way, we imitate him, our Good Shepherd. Moreover, he tells his disciples that he is also the good shepherd for the "other sheep that do not belong" (10:16). Indeed, he gives his life on the cross so that all may be saved. In today's first reading, Peter invokes this saving power after healing a handicapped person, who could be called one of the "other sheep that do not belong." Peter asserts that he is healed through Christ's power over illness, injury, and even death. Similarly, we are challenged to care not only for those we love, but also for the other sheep that do not belong, for we are, through God's love, all children of God.

How can you imitate the Good Shepherd in caring not only for the members of your own flock but also for others who "do not belong"?

SIT

First Reading

Acts 4:8-12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said: "Leaders of the people and elders: If we are being examined today about a good deed done to a cripple, namely, by what means he was saved, then all of you and all the people of Israel should know that it was in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead; in his name this man stands before you healed. He is *the stone rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone*. There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118:1, 8-9, 21-23,
26, 28, 29



R/. The stone re-ject-ed by the build-ers has be-come the cor - ner-stone.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, / for his mercy endures forever.
 It is better to take refuge in the LORD / than to trust in man.
 It is better to take refuge in the LORD / than to trust in princes. **R/.**
 I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me /
 and have been my savior.
 The stone which the builders rejected / has become the cornerstone.
 By the LORD has this been done; / it is wonderful in our eyes. **R/.**
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD; /
 we bless you from the house of the LORD.
 I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me /
 and have been my savior.
 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; /
 for his kindness endures forever. **R/.**

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

STAND

Gospel Acclamation

John 10:14

85 

R/. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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(LPGA B49) James O. Gerrish

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

Gospel

John 10:11-18

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the

wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.