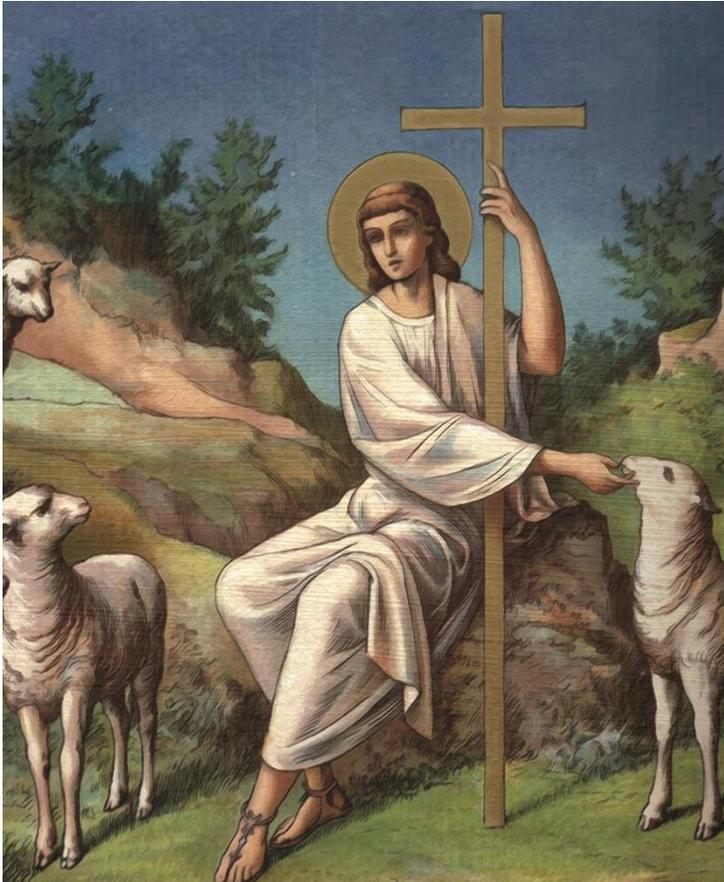


WORSHIP @ HOME

4th Sunday of Easter – Yr B • 25 April 2021

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“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.” - Jn 10:14-15

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Preparation

There are a few things you need to do to get ready before you begin.

- We recommend glancing through the whole service before you start. **Adapt the service for your family**, especially so it will be age-appropriate.
- **Prepare a bowl of water** and a sprig of a plant for the sprinkling rite.
- You could make the setting special by using a **WHITE** table cloth, some candles, and anything else to make your space prayerful. Get the whole family involved in the preparations.
- **Place your family Bible on the table**, if you have one, opened up to the Gospel reading of the day (John 10:11-18).
- **The script has leader and various reader parts.** Anyone old enough to read well can perform these roles.
- **An iPad/tablet computer** or large phone could work well for reading the script. **It would be helpful to have two devices** for multiple people to read. To access the slideshow and hymns, visit: <https://worship.pastoral.center/day/2021-04-25>
- **Don't worry**, you don't have to do this perfectly. Have some fun with it. Let's pray!

JUST BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- **Silence and set aside all phones** or other devices that may interrupt you.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

OPENING SONG

Play the video below and sing along. Find lyrics below the video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gNkGoIsvji0>

Blessed are the poor in spirit
Longing for their Lord
For God's coming kingdom shall be theirs
Blessed are the sorrowing
For they shall be consoled
And the meek shall come to rule the world

Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord
By the light of truth
To seek and to find the narrow way
Be my way, be my truth
Be my life, my Lord
And lead me, Lord, today

Blessed are the merciful, for mercy shall be theirs
And the pure in heart shall see their God
Blest are they whose hunger only holiness can fill
For I say they shall be satisfied

Lead me, Lord, lead me, Lord
By the light of truth
To seek and to find the narrow way
Be my way, be my truth
Be my life, my Lord
And lead me, Lord, today
And lead me, Lord, today

GREETING

Leader: † In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Grace and peace to you from God our Father
and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
Blessed be God forever.
The response is: Blessed be God forever.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Leader: We gather together now to remind ourselves that this is still the season of Easter and God invites us to look around and notice how new life comes out of death. Together with all people of faith around the world, let us join in prayer as we listen to God's Word.

SPRINKLING RITE

Explain to your children that if you were in church now the priest would walk around and sprinkle everyone with water as a reminder of their own baptism. Invite your children to do a home sprinkling blessing now. They may dip the plant sprig (or just their hands if you don't have one) into the bowl of water and use it to sprinkle a blessing on everyone in the family now. Let them enjoy this moment, even if they get you a bit wetter than you would like.

Leader: God has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit.
May we stay faithful to Jesus for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

Pause for a short time for everyone to pray in silence. Then pray the following out loud, carefully and with meaning.

Leader: Good and gracious God,
through Jesus' resurrection you have promised that suffering and death will never have the final word.
Hear us as we ask your blessing for all those who are living in fear, sadness, anxiety, or any kind of darkness.
Help them to know that life will come out of this time of suffering.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

ALLELUIA

Play the video below. Listen to the refrain the first time, then sing together when it repeats.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6aTe0M_n_cE

GOSPEL

Lead your family in this action prayer, making the Sign of the Cross over your forehead, lips, and heart at each step.

Reader 1: Today we hear talk about sheep and shepherds and how good shepherds care for their sheep.

We now do this action prayer together:

May the Lord be on my mind, †
on my lips, †
and in my heart †
as we hear the Gospel today.

A reading from the holy Gospel of John.

This text is based on the translation used in the Lectionary for Masses with Children and is easier for young people to understand.

Reader 1: 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 Father loves me, because I give up my life, so that I may receive it back again.
No one takes my life from me. I give it up willingly!
I have the power to give it up and the power to receive it back again, just as my Father commanded me to do.

John 10:11-18. From the Contemporary English Version, copyright © American Bible Society, 1991, 1995.

Reader 1: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL VIDEO REFLECTION

Here's a seven minute video for kids that will help you enter into this story.

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

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

If your parish has provided a homily video online, you could play it here. Either way, take some time to talk together about what the readings mean to each of you. You can do this however you would like, but here are some suggestions.

- In Jesus' time, everyone knew the difference between a "good shepherd" and other people who weren't good shepherds because they just did the job to get paid without really caring about the sheep. Maybe you've experienced something like this with people in other jobs - some who do their

work well because they really care about the people they are working with and for, and others who don't. Who are some good teachers, babysitters, coaches, or even good janitors or car mechanics (or any other profession) you know who are like Jesus because they really care about the work they are doing?

- This Sunday is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday" because of today's Gospel reading. Jesus compares himself to a good shepherd because he would rather die than abandon the people he loved (and he loved EVERYONE), just like a good shepherd would do whatever he or she could to save the sheep from danger. Can you think of anyone like Jesus who did the same thing? (Parents, you may choose this time to talk with your children about famous Christians like Martin Luther King, Jr or Oscar Romero, or less famous people that you have known or learned about in your life.)
- At the end of the reading, Jesus says that there are other people he leads too, who aren't a part of our flock. It's a good reminder for us that just because some people don't belong to our parish, or our denomination, or some other group we belong to, doesn't mean that Jesus isn't leading them too, even if we can't see how. Who are some people you know who don't belong to the same "flock" as you? How are you called to show respect for and be loving to them?

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Leader: Now let's pray together to God for what we need.

Reader 2: We pray for our country as we continue to learn how to work for safety, healing, and justice for all,
especially those who have been discriminated against
because of the color of their skin, their race, their language, or their religion,
let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for those who are hungry, who don't have a safe or clean place to live,
and those who are lonely with no one to help them.
Open our eyes, God, to see how we are called to serve them,
let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: For those who are worried, lonely, or scared now,
let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: For what else and for who else shall we pray?

Allow time for anyone else to speak prayers aloud.

LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Jesus taught us to call God our Father, and so we have the courage to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

SIGN OF PEACE

Leader: Let us now offer each another a sign of peace.

Share some hugs!

A LITANY FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Leader: The response is: Lord, bring us closer to you!

All: Lord, bring us closer to you!

Leader: Lord our God,
we wish we could gather today with our parish community,
but we gather here out of love and concern for others.
You teach us that when two or three are gathered in your name,
you are there.
Together, we pray:

All: Lord, bring us closer to you!

Leader: Christ Jesus, you are present in a special way
when bread and wine are turned into your Body and Blood.
Since we cannot receive you in this way today,
We ask that you enter our hearts
so that we may receive you spiritually.
Together, we pray:

All: Lord, bring us closer to you!

Leader: Lord our God,
watch over your family
and keep us safe in your care,
for all our hope is in you.

All: Lord, bring us closer to you!

Concluding Rite

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Leader: Christ is risen! Alleluia, alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

CLOSING SONG

Choose one of the videos below. The first is a simple one for very young children. The second is a familiar musical setting of Psalm 23.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGPOX3vQtU8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YFgZGlZ5t80&t=30s>

After the Service

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

Take a picture of your family in your worship area and share it on social media (tag it with **#HolySpiritStClairWorshipAtHome**).

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PARISH

Your parish still has to pay the electric bill and your staff, even when public Masses are cancelled. If you haven't already, sign up for electronic payments or mail in a check today. Planned Giving Forms and online donation portal are available on the parish website: <https://holyspiritstclair.com.au/donations/>. Or you can send your donation to:

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