

The Good Shepherd

Good Shepherd Sunday - Fourth Sunday of Easter – John 10:11-18

The shepherd theme, in today's gospel, gives testimony to two very important truths. The first truth is that Jesus is God. The "I am" statement this week echoes the Divine Voice of God who shared his identity with Moses. The other truth, noted by scripture scholars, is that God and Jesus are in full control of the plan. Jesus as the good shepherd did not happen by accident. This is the will of God.

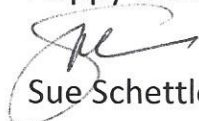
Jesus gives us the genuine attribute of a good shepherd as one who reflects a sacrificial life. **"A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."** A good shepherd is not like those who abandon the flock out of fear or personal gain. Jesus is referring to the mismanagement of the religious leaders of his time. They proclaim righteousness, but practice no care for those in their charge. Leadership for Jesus is different.

Leadership is not to be like political and religious leaders who might be looking for power. Rather, for Jesus, leadership is like that of a shepherd. Christian leadership is tender, personal, and it is intimate. The shepherd knows his sheep because there is a relationship that builds and grows over time. True leadership, whether in the Church or the world should be, first and foremost, about the tender care of the weakest and most vulnerable in any society.

We are reminded this week that we are the flock, having a responsibility to listen to Christ and to build up our relationship with him through our participation in the Eucharist, listening and studying his Word and living in faithfulness to the teachings of the Church. This is not always easy to do. In fact, it is a challenge to be faithful. Thankfully, we have Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who continually calls us home.

Jesus' passion and death led to his resurrection and new life for all of us. We are commissioned to be good shepherds in one's own family, at work and in the community taking on the sacrificial characteristics of Christ. We are good shepherds when we work for justice and peace in all aspects of our lives.

Happy Easter!



Sue Schettler

Happy Easter Christ has Risen, Alleluia!



Readings for the Week of April 22, 2018

Sunday: Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29 [22]/1 Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18

Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 [cf. 3a]/Jn 10:1-10

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 [117:1a]/Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 [2]/Mk 16:15-20

Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27 [2]/Jn 13:16-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab [7bc]/Jn 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 14:7-14

Next Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 [26a]/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8

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