Good morning everyone!

Welcome

Today we are going to hear Jesus tell a story. He calls himself the good shepherd, who cares for his sheep. This story shows us that Jesus knows and cares for all people. Let's think about how we can care for all people too, no matter where they are in the world.

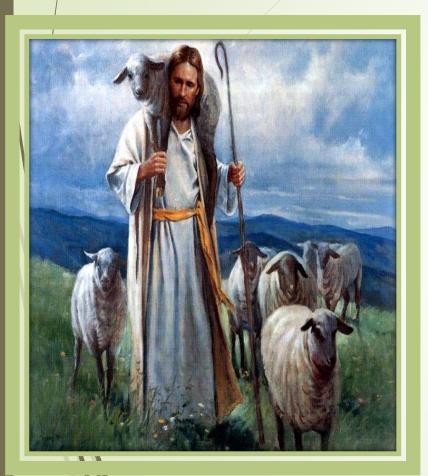
Opening prayer

Dear Loving God,

You know us and care for us. Help us to remember that all people are loved by you no matter who they are, and to care for others in the world as you do.

Amen.

Gospel: John 10:11-18

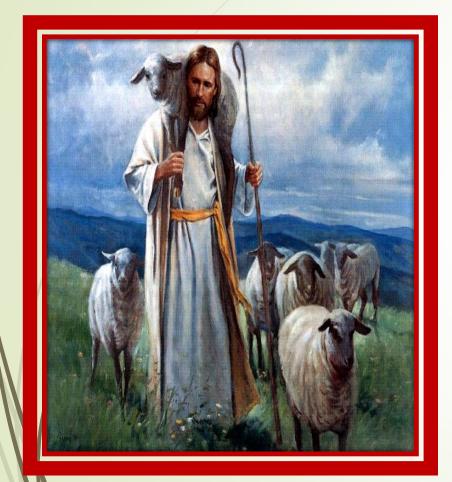


"I am the good shepherd, who is willing to die for the sheep. When the hired man, who is not a shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees a wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away; so the wolf snatches the sheep and scatters them.

The hired man runs away because he is only a hired man and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd.

As the Father knows me and I know the Father, in the same way I know my sheep and they know me. And I am willing to die for them. There are other sheep which belong to me that are not in this sheep pen. I must bring them, too; they will listen to my voice, and they will become one flock with one shepherd.

Gospel: John 10:11-18



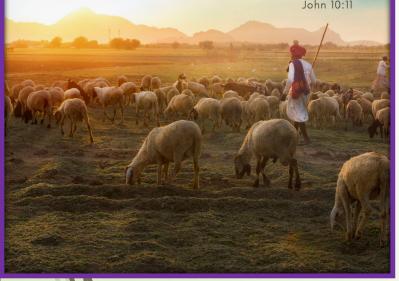
"The Father loves me because I am willing to give up my life, in order that I may receive it back again. No one takes my life away from me. I give it up of my own free will. I have the right to give it up, and I have the right to take it back. This is what my Father has commanded me to do."

Gospel reflection

What do you remember from today's reading?

I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

John 10:11



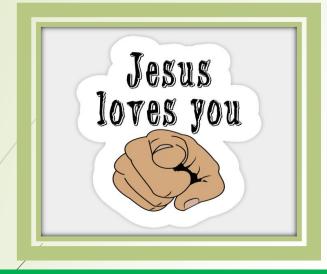
Jesus calls himself the good shepherd, who carefully looks after his sheep.

Why do you think Jesus calls himself a shepherd?

Who do you think that the sheep are that Jesus talks about in this story?

When he says sheep, Jesus means us, because he cares for us and for all people around the world.

Gospel reflection



Sometimes it can be very difficult to stop someone or something that we do not like or that we know is wrong. We might be afraid that we will be hurt or laughed at.

Have you ever felt like running away and hiding instead of standing up for someone?

What happened?

What did you do?

How does it make you feel to know that Jesus loves and cares for you that much?

If a wolf came to attack the sheep in a field, someone who did not care about them would run away, and the sheep would scatter.

But Jesus loves his sheep so much he is prepared to die to save them from danger!

Gospel reflection

There are many things that happen in the world that are not right.

Can you think of some?

There are people around the world who have been forced to leave their homes because of fighting. There are people who do not have enough food to eat or clean water to drink. Do you think this is fair?

How does this make you feel?



Jesus wants us to follow his example. He asks us to care for all our brothers and sisters around the world, no matter who they are or where they come from.

And he doesn't want us to run away when things are difficult.

He wants us to stand up for what we believe and know to be right.

Let us Pray



We know that Jesus is our shepherd who cares for us and listens to us, and so we pray together: We pray for world leaders: that they may follow Jesus' example and love and care for their people. Lord in your mercy... All Response : Hear our prayers We pray for our school community, parish, family and friends: that we may not run away when things are hard, but instead look for what we can do to make the world a fairer place for everyone to live. Lord, in your mercy... All Response : Hear our prayers Loving God, help us to love and care for all your people throughout the world and to work together to make the world a better place. Lord, in your mercy... All Response : Hear our prayers

THIS WEEK, I WANT YOU ALL TO STAND UP FOR WHAT YOU KNOW IS RIGHT AND SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR EVERYONE THIS WEEK.

Stand up for what is right even if you Stand Alone.



