APRIL 25, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

taking faith home

As Jesus shepherds us, we shepherd one another.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	**John 10:11-18**	**The Good Shepherd**
Monday	**Acts 4:5-12**	**Peter and John before the council**
Tuesday	**1 John 3:16-24**	**Love one another**
Wednesday	**Genesis 49:22-28**	**Jacob blesses his sons**
Thursday	**Mark 6:30-44**	**Jesus the compassionate shepherd**
Friday	**Ezekiel 34:20-31**	**God the true shepherd**
Saturday	**Psalm 23**	**The Lord is my shepherd**
Sunday	**John 15:1-8**	**Jesus the true vine**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **John 10:11 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
God, we thank you for pursuing us with your goodness and mercy all the days of our lives through Christ, our Good Shepherd. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
God of abundance, as a shepherd you provide us with daily food; give us the faith and love to care that others have daily food on their tables, too. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May Jesus the Good Shepherd pursue you with goodness and mercy all the days of your life.

MILESTONES MINISTRY

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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

taking faith home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What does a shepherd do?
- What does Jesus do to shepherd us?
- How can we shepherd fellow Christians in the faith and in daily life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 John 3:16-24.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as the Good Shepherd Sunday. John 10 and Psalm 23 give clear attention to this shepherd theme. However, so does 1 John 3. Just as Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, lays down his life for the sheep (John 10:11), so we as brothers and sisters who follow Jesus are to lay down our lives for one another (1 John 3:16). We lay down our lives—we shepherd one another—by loving one another "in truth and action"—not just words (v. 18). We, as fellow shepherds, abide in the Good Shepherd by believing in Jesus Christ and loving one another with our whole being. As we give thanks for Jesus as the Good Shepherd, we also give thanks that we are surrounded by a community of faith that shepherds one another to believe in Jesus Christ and to lay down our lives for one another. Why is it important that Christians not only care for the needs of the world but also care for each other as followers of Jesus Christ?

Pray: **Almighty and living God, strengthen us in faith and love to shepherd one another to live with hope and good courage through Christ, the Good Shepherd. Amen.**

SERVICE

Be a servant this week by shepherding someone. Make a visit and listen to the person. Read Psalm 23 together. Talk about what it means to have Jesus as our shepherd and close with the Lord's Prayer.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The sheep listen to the voice of the shepherd. There will be one flock, one shepherd. (John 10:16) If there are children in your home, play "Follow the Leader." Blindfold the followers and have the leader guide them by using only their voice. Think about what it means to listen to Jesus' voice and to follow him as sheep of the Good Shepherd.

MILESTONES MINISTRY

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: **www.milestonesministry.org**