

# SUNDAY GOSPEL BIBLE SHARING



## Wednesday April 17th for the Fourth Sunday of Easter

**OPENING PRAYER:** God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, though your people walk in the valley of darkness, no evil should they fear, for they follow in faith the call of the Shepherd whom you have sent for their hope and strength. Attune our minds to the sound of his voice and lead our steps in the path he has shown, that we may know the strength of his outstretched arm and enjoy the light of your presence forever. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen

- In the words of Saint Benedict, “Listen with the ears of your heart.”
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today’s passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

## READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

### John 10:11-18

11 I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.<sup>c</sup>

12 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.<sup>d</sup>

13 This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep.

14 I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me,

15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep.<sup>e</sup>

16 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.<sup>f</sup>

17 This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.<sup>g</sup>

18 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.”<sup>h</sup>

## Notes

\* [[10:1–21](#)] The good shepherd discourse continues the theme of attack on the Pharisees that ends [Jn 9](#). The figure is allegorical: the hired hands are the Pharisees who excommunicated the cured blind man. It serves as a commentary on [Jn 9](#). For the shepherd motif, used of Yahweh in the Old Testament, cf. [Ex 34](#); [Gn 48:15](#); [49:24](#); [Mi 7:14](#); [Ps 23:1–4](#); [80:1](#).

\* [[10:1](#)] Sheepfold: a low stone wall open to the sky.

\* [[10:4](#)] Recognize his voice: the Pharisees do not recognize Jesus, but the people of God, symbolized by the blind man, do.

\* [[10:6](#)] Figure of speech: John uses a different word for illustrative speech than the “parable” of the synoptics, but the idea is similar.

\* [[10:7–10](#)] In [Jn 10:7–8](#), the figure is of a gate for the shepherd to come to the sheep; in [Jn 10:9–10](#), the figure is of a gate for the sheep to come in and go out.

\* [[10:8](#)] [Before me]: these words are omitted in many good early manuscripts and versions.

\* [[10:16](#)] Other sheep: the Gentiles, possibly a reference to “God’s dispersed children” of [Jn 11:52](#) destined to be gathered into one, or “apostolic Christians” at odds with the community of the beloved disciple.

\* [[10:18](#)] Power to take it up again: contrast the role of the Father as the efficient cause of the resurrection in [Acts 2:24](#); [4:10](#); etc.; [Rom 1:4](#); [4:24](#). Yet even here is added: This command I have received from my Father.

## QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

1. How might the belief that you are an unconditionally loved child of God impact your prayer and the way you relate to Jesus and others?

2. Why is the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd so popular with people? What other image of Jesus do you like?

3. What is the difference between a hireling and a good shepherd when it comes to caring for people? When might we act like a hireling, showing no real concern for those in need of good shepherd care?

4. Name 1 thing today's Gospel says to us that we disciples of Jesus need to heed/ act on.

### **Commentary**

Jesus uses the popular and well-loved image of a shepherd to describe himself. The chapter follows the healing of the man born blind. Not only do the Pharisees treat the man shamefully, but they also reject Jesus' claim that he is from God. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, defends his authority and rejects that of the Pharisees. Like the hired hand, they have no true concern for their people. There are two qualities that make Jesus a good Shepherd. First, he lays down his life for his sheep, and second, he and his sheep know one another. The former quality is the central point of this passage. Jesus' reference to other sheep and to one flock underscores universality and unity, which are to characterize this new community of believers. In Jesus' day, the other sheep may have referred to the poor, the tax collectors and sinners generally ostracized by society. For the Early Church, the other sheep may have been the Gentiles and others who had yet to hear the Good News. For us, the other sheep might be people of non-Christian religions and non-believers. Jesus' way of shepherding the flock is not one of domination, but one of care and concern. On the other hand, true sheep are the ones who hear the Shepherd's voice. In a world of a million lies, we sheep find our anchor and truth in Christ and his Word.

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord's Prayer

Bible Sharing Room 5 and Zoom  
Wednesday, April 17 6:30 – 7:30pm  
Weekly on Wednesday  
Zoom Meeting

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting

Time: April 17, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZolduisqDosE923wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPg/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-jwpiFdj\\_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZolduisqDosE923wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPg/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-jwpiFdj_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY)

Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85136740699?pwd=Q2pXLzdzZFdNNU1NajVpeEtKU0hJQT09>

Meeting ID: 851 3674 0699

Passcode: 284566