

The Fourth Sunday of Easter Year B

Sunday, April 25, 2021

Readings: 1) Acts 4:8-12 2) 1 John 3:1-2 3) John 10:11-18

Sunday Liturgy

The focus for today's Mass is: **We are God's children; we are the flock of the Good Shepherd, who lays down his life for us.**

God loves us so much that we are not simply *called* God's children, but in fact *are* God's children now. This love is that of a good shepherd, who knows and cherishes his sheep, and who, unlike others, will sacrifice his own life for the safety of his flock.

In the first reading, Peter proclaims to the elders that the cripple who has been healed and saved was done so in the name of Jesus. This is the Jesus that they had crucified and *whom God raised from the dead*. The First Letter of John says that through the love of God we are now the children of God; what we shall become is not yet revealed. In the Gospel, Jesus says, *I am the good shepherd...[who] lays down his life for the sheep*.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

PRIEST:

We now bring our needs and the needs of the world before our Merciful Father.

For the pope, bishops, and all leaders of the Church, may God guide them in their efforts to shepherd his people.

We Pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

For an end to violence across and among nations, may the peace of Christ prevail in every heart.

We Pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who are sick in mind, spirit and body, may God's presence offer comfort and healing.

We Pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer.

For our beloved dead, may they rest in eternal peace.

We Pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

For this community of faith, may the Holy Spirit help us and guide us to hear the Shepherd's voice in our lives.

We Pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our own personal intentions... (pause).

We Pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

PRIEST:

Father, we ask that you hear and answer our prayers in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.