



## Gospel Reflections Fourth Sunday of Easter

Gospel for Sunday, April 25, 2021 - John 10:11-18

**Reading:** Jesus said:

“I am the good shepherd.

A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

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.

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

I am the good shepherd,

and I know mine and mine know me,

just as the Father knows me and I know the Father;

and I will lay down my life for the sheep.

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.

This is why the Father loves me,

because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.

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.”

**Meditation<sup>1</sup>:** What does this text say to me, today, and to my life?

*“I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me.”*

How do other people know that I belong to God?

<sup>1</sup> Meditation Question is from *Lectio Divina of the Gospels for the Liturgical Year 2020-2021*. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. 2020, p. 120

- What word or words in this passage caught my attention?
- What in this passage comforted me?
- What in this passage challenged me?

**Prayer:** What can I say to the Lord in response to His word? I bring to the Lord the praise, petition, or thanksgiving that the Word inspires in me.

**Contemplation<sup>2</sup>:** What conversion of the mind, heart, or life is the Lord asking of me? I spend quiet time in God's presence.

*How can I lead those whom I meet to God?*

**Action:** How can I make my life a gift for others in charity?

Suggested actions to consider – *Can I give up a small pleasure and donate the savings (in time or money) to those in need? Can I volunteer to help in our parish food bank or bring the Eucharist to those who are sick or homebound?*

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<sup>2</sup> Contemplation and Action focus are chosen from *Lectio Divina of the Gospels for the Liturgical Year 2020-2021*. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. 2020, p. 122