

## 4th Easter Sunday - World day of Prayer for Vocations Sunday, May 8, 2022

**First Reading:** Acts 13.14, 43-52 Paul and Barnabas convert many Gentiles in Antioch, but the jealous Jewish authorities drove them out.

**Psalm #100:** We are his people; the sheep of his pasture

**Second Reading:** Revelation 7.9, 14b-17 A great multitude worship God, day and night

**Gospel Acclamation:** John 10.14 I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and my sheep know me.

**Gospel:** John 10.27-30

**Theme:** Jesus is the good shepherd, whom we can trust to always be with us.

### **Commentary:**

What do you know about sheep? Have you seen or heard how they obey the shepherd, following his voice and trusting that they will be well cared for? Sheep are very trusting and faithful to their shepherd.

In today's short gospel Jesus reminds us that he is the good shepherd, is always faithful, always looking out for us and wanting us to listen and cooperate with him. Every day, when we listen carefully, we hear Jesus wanting us to operate with him in some way. Can you hear him remind you to obey your parents, to be kind to your siblings and classmates and to respect everyone?

The more we are faithful in following these little promptings (these tiny whispers we hear of how to act), the easier it is to hear his voice, and the closer we will walk with him and to be more loving to others. This is called 'grace'. It will help us through good and hard times and gives us peace and great joy through it all. A joy so great that we just have to share it with others, as we see in our first reading from the book of Acts. St. Paul and Barnabas told many that Jesus proved he was the Son of God by his dying and resurrection. Thousands believed and became Christian.

In the gospel reading we hear Our Shepherd saying, "Be with me, now and forever." Do we respond, "Yes, Lord, Here is my heart"?

Today is also Vocation Sunday. Have you ever thought that Jesus is asking you to be a priest or a religious brother or sister? Do you enjoy helping and serving others? A good way to consider if God is calling you to this kind of life is by praying about it (talking to God about your heart's desire), reading scripture daily and speaking to family, friends and to Fr. Lukose or other priests about your hope. Then trust that the Good Shepherd will guide you in the path you are to go.

### **Discussion starters: (Choose one or more of these after reading today's scripture readings)**

1. What do you know about sheep, lambs and shepherds?
2. Why do you think Jesus calls himself 'The Good Shepherd'?
3. Can you share a time when you heard the tiny whispering of how to act so you were more like Jesus?
4. Today is Vocation Sunday, have you ever thought about becoming a priest or religious brother or sister?

**Prayer for Families:** Almighty ever-living God, Jesus, we know that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, leading us to be more like you. Help us to hear and to follow your whispers every day. Give us the desire to share the joy you grace us with by the way we treat others, live our life, and tell others about you. We ask this in Jesus' name, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. AMEN.

## Family Activities

### Based on John 10:27-30 Jesus is the Good Shepherd

Choose activities that best suit your family to help remember today's readings.

**HAND DRAWING:** Have the children trace their hand and glue cotton balls inside the hand with little black hooves below the cotton balls to represent sheep. Print Bible verse John 10:29 all around the fingers of the traced hand!

**FUN SHEEP** (for younger children) - Draw circles for younger children to glue cotton balls and little black hooves. The parent can have a shortened version of the Bible verse written under the sheep with a few letters missing for the child to fill in.

**HAND TO REMEMBER** - Trace hand and tape typed Bible verse on hand. Cut out the hand print and tie a red ribbon or yarn to the pointer finger. Discussion for red yarn to show us to REMEMBER something very important - recite the Bible verse again! Some children may enjoy having a red ribbon tied to his/her finger if they can say the Bible verse to REMEMBER!

**HAND GAME** - Place a picture of a child or some other meaningful object on the table. Have all children pile their hands on top of one another.... e.g. - one hand, someone else's hand, another hand, etc - then the HAND GAME of pulling the bottom hand out and putting it on the top, the next hand is pulled out and put on the top, etc --- its fun and funny too (giggles will be expected for sure). Discuss that the object at the bottom of the pile is being "protected" by a hand! HOPEFULLY this won't be too far fetched, but children WILL remember the lesson after the game and the discussion of being in God's hand!!

**HAND VERSE:** Let the children draw or trace each other's hand. The children will then write today's Bible verse up and down and around on the fingers of the traced hand. Lightly colour the hands and let the children display all their Bible Verse hands on a large poster board to hang in the classroom!!

**SHEPHERD AND SHEEP FOLLOWING:** Designate one child of to be the Shepherd, the others will be the sheep. The shepherd will take their sheep to a designated place in the room and will say, "baa, baa, baa" to their group. When the parent tells the sheep to scatter all the sheep will move away from their shepherd to a different part of the room. Then all of the sheep will put on a blindfold. When the parent tells the shepherd to CALL YOUR SHEEP, the shepherd will begin to call out, "baa, baa, baa" and the blindfolded sheep will try to find their way to their own Shepherd by the sound of his voice.

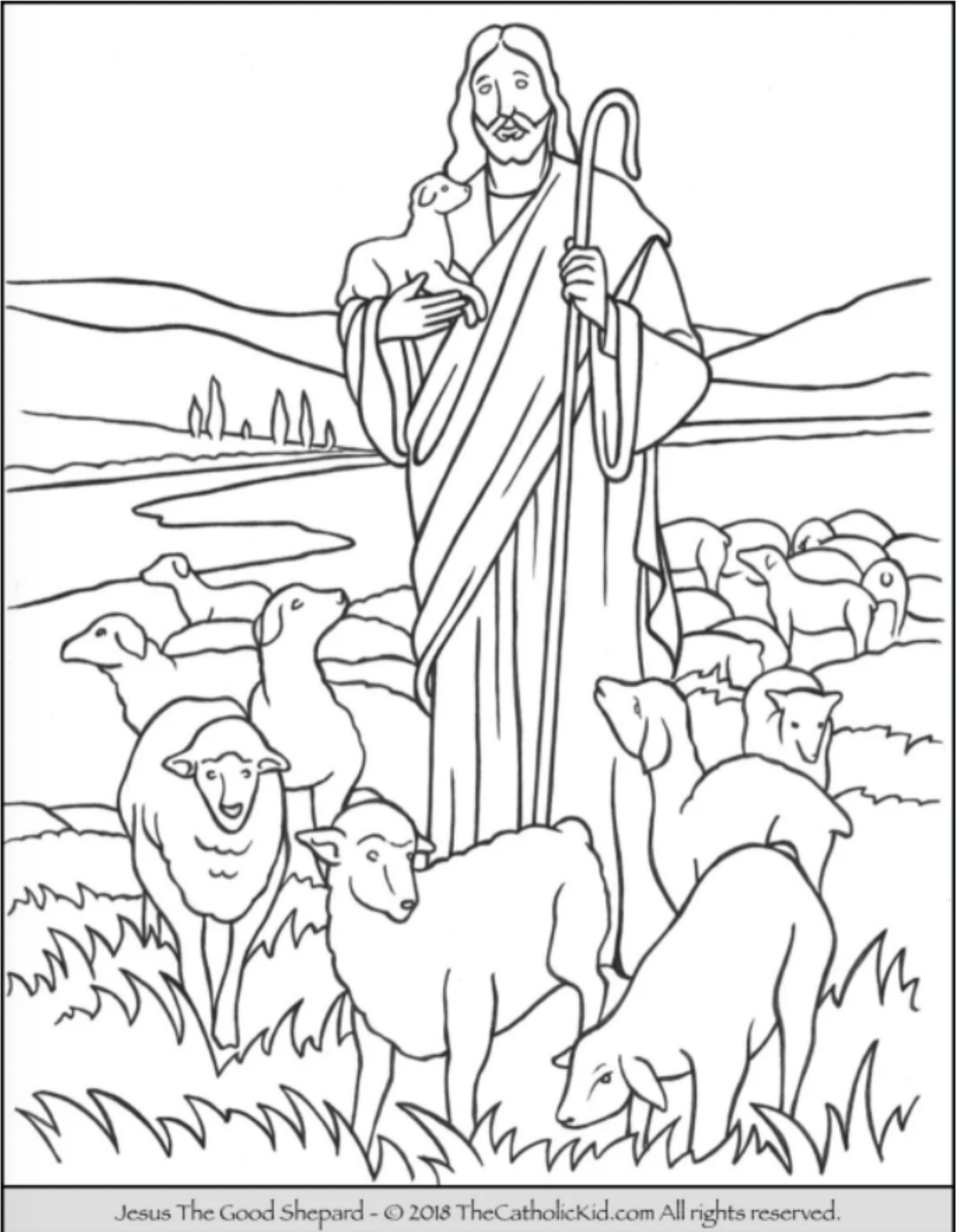
**HAND AND HEART DRAWING:** Provide the children with art supplies to trace their own hand on a piece of paper and then have them draw a large red heart around the hand. Let children colour and decorate their hand and heart drawing and hang it with a ribbon. Children may wish to write on the hearts - JESUS HOLDS US SAFELY IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND.

**PALM PRINTS:** Attach a large sheet of butcher paper to a wall. Let the children place their hands in finger paints and place their hand on the butcher paper to create their hand print. Write in large letters below the children's hand prints, NOTHING CAN TAKE US OUT OF JESUS' HAND.

Song: "He's Got the Whole World in His Hand" (find it on YouTube)

## COLOURING PAGE

Based on John 10:27-30 Jesus is the Good Shepherd



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# CROSSWORD

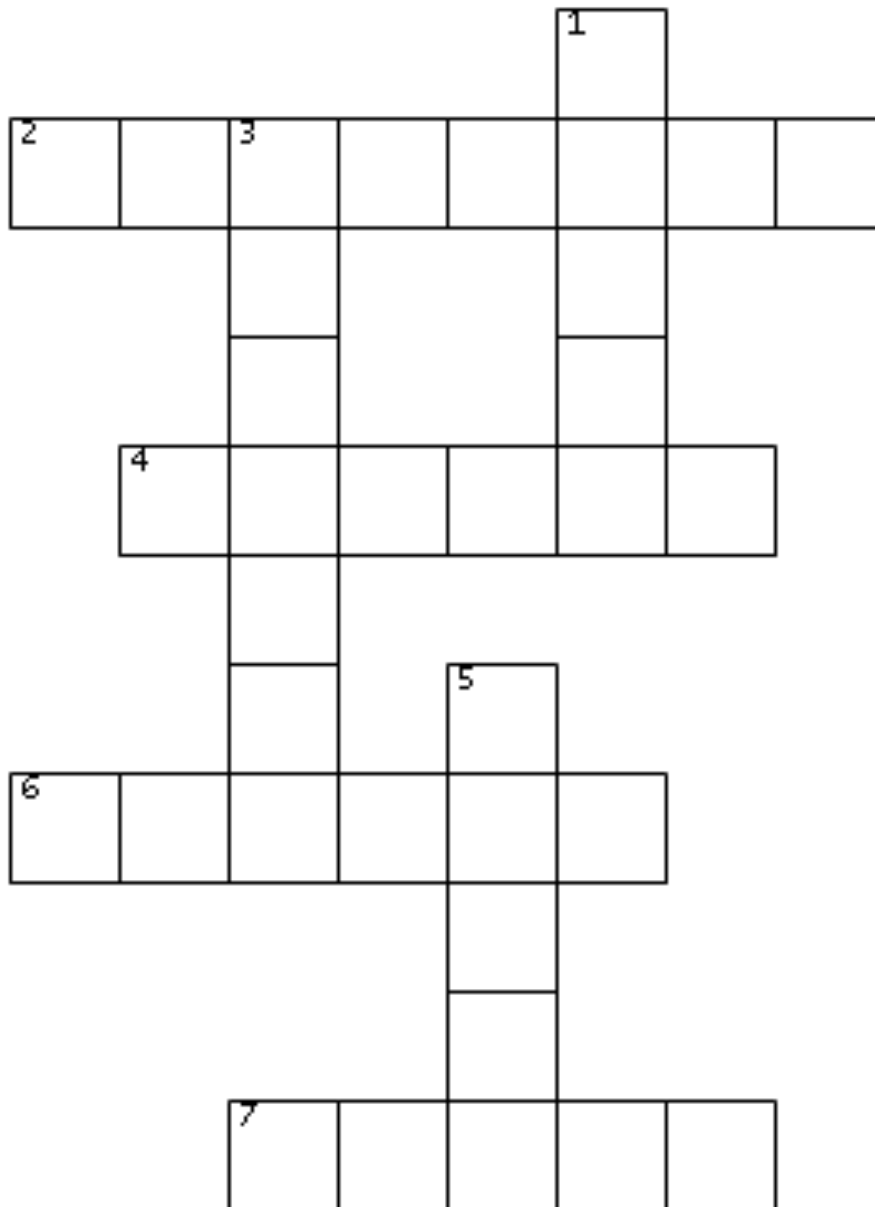
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A	H	V	S	G	K	Y	J	K	E	Z	D	E	G	K
S	S	M	M	J	E	S	U	S	C	E	H	T	V	K
T	J	K	N	E	F	I	L	Y	C	T	R	B	O	C
N	L	Y	C	U	D	Z	B	V	O	S	H	P	C	F
M	J	Q	I	E	U	S	O	R	V	I	Y	P	A	N
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X	F	J	B	S	R	Y	I	D	E	R	B	L	N	C
U	W	S	H	A	Q	N	N	Z	V	H	Q	O	S	X
B	T	E	F	M	X	S	A	Z	I	B	P	F	F	I
K	E	F	G	X	A	A	F	L	C	Y	F	E	N	Z
P	S	L	B	M	D	T	T	Z	T	B	O	D	H	V
X	B	H	X	U	Z	U	F	Y	W	Q	Q	J	C	S

BROTHER	ETERNAL	FOLLOW	JESUS	JOY	LIFE
PRIEST	SHEEP	SHEPHERD	SISTER	VOCATIONS	VOICE

# WORD SEARCH

Based on John 10:27-30 Jesus is the Good Shepherd



## ACROSS

- 2. A person who guards herds of sheep
- 4. The leader of a church or parish
- 6. To go behind or to come after
- 7. An adult lamb

## DOWN

- 1. The name of the second person of the Trinity
- 3. Existing without beginning or end...forever
- 5. The sound produced by speech