

***Nurturing Faith...  
Every Day in Every Way***



April 22, 2018

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**Acts 4:5-12**  
**Psalm 23 (1)**  
**1 John 3:16-24**  
**John 10:11-18**



***The Good Shepherd.***

**Object:** Pictures of dogs, cats, or some other animals which someone might own as a pet.

How many of you have a pet? If you choose to have a pet, it is a big responsibility. You must be willing to take care of it. You have to feed it and make sure it has plenty of water. You must keep it clean and take it to the veterinarian when it is sick. You have to make sure your pet is kept in a safe place and, if it wanders off and gets lost, you must go and look for it and bring it back home.

As I think about having a pet and taking care of it, I am reminded about something that Jesus said about himself. Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd." A shepherd is a person who takes care of sheep. Sheep can't take care of themselves. They need someone to watch over them and care for them. They need someone to protect them from harm. Jesus said he knows his sheep and his sheep know him. He said that he was even willing to lay down his life for his sheep. Jesus must really love his sheep!

As you might have guessed, Jesus wasn't really talking about sheep. He was talking about you and me. We are his "sheep." He loves us, he takes care of us, he makes sure that we have everything that we need. He was even willing to give his life so that you and I could have a relationship with him forever.

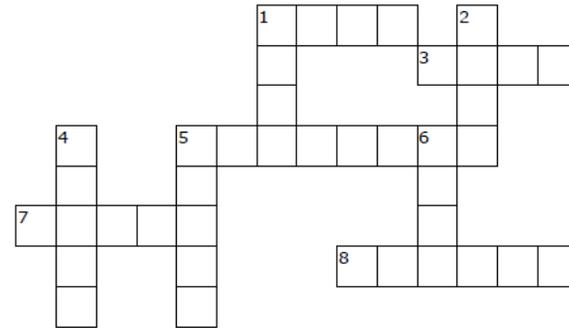
There is no doubt about it. Jesus really loves his sheep!

Dear Jesus, we are thankful to you for being our Good Shepherd. Thank you for loving us and taking care of us. Most of all, we thank you for laying down your life for us so that we can have a relationship with you forever. Amen.

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**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia. Jesus says, I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. Alleluia. (John 10:14)

**Crossword Puzzle**



**ACROSS**

1. The period from birth to death
3. A wild animal that look like a dog and hunts in a pack
5. One who takes care of the sheep
7. What we use to speak
8. To hear or pay attention to something

**DOWN**

1. A strong feeling of affection
2. The opposite of bad
4. A group of sheep herded together
5. Wooly animals which are similar to goats
6. Goes faster than walking

SHEPHERD	GOOD	LIFE	SHEEP	WOLF
FLOCK	RUNS	VOICE	LISTEN	LOVE

**GOOD SHEPHERD POSTER:** Give the child construction supplies to cut out the letters J-E-S-U-S and glue onto a sheet of poster board. Glue pieces of cotton balls around the edges of the poster board to form a border and write **THE GOOD SHEPHERD** above the words J-E-S-U-S!



# THE GOOD SHEPHERD

