

JOHN 10:11-18

Jesus said: 'I am the good shepherd:
the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.
The hired man, since he is not the shepherd
and the sheep do not belong to him,
abandons the sheep and runs away
as soon as he sees a wolf coming,
and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep;
this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern
for the sheep.

'I am the good shepherd; I know my own
and my own know me, just as the Father knows me
and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep.
And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold,
and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice,
and there will be only one flock, and one shepherd.

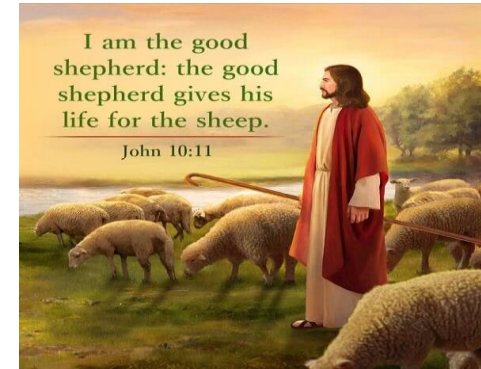
'The Father loves me, because I lay down my life
in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me;
I lay it down of my own free will,
and as it is in my power to lay it down,
so it is in my power to take it up again;
and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

COMMENTARY:

- **God is faithful because of love.**
- **God doesn't abandon us.**
- **God constantly calls.**
- **God has proved his love.**

Liturgy of The Word

21st April, 2024
4th SUNDAY OF EASTER



The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

Give thanks to the Lord for God is good,
This love has no end.
It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in all;
it is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in princes.

I will thank you for you have answered
and you are my saviour.
The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.

Blessed in the name of the Lord
is the one who comes.
We bless you from the house of the Lord;
You are my God, I thank you. My God, I praise you.
Give thanks to the Lord for God is good;
This love has no end.

ACTS 4:8-12

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: ‘Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. *For of all the names in the world given to humanity, this is the only one by which we can be saved.*’

COMMENTARY: The apostles are quick to attribute any miracles performed through them to the Risen Jesus. This for us is proof that the earthly Jesus and the Risen Jesus are one and the same. Christ is still among us, using us if we allow him. It is important to understand this if we wish to be involved in ministry and in parish reform. Nothing can happen unless in our personal lives we are deeply rooted in a belief that He is still with us. This belief is the cornerstone of what we desire to build.

1 JOHN 3:1-2

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God’s children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

COMMENTARY: It is often said that the Eastern Churches have a much stronger emphasis on our divinity than the Church of the West. In St John’s letter, our growth into the divine is exactly what is being put before us. Being children of God does not mean we remain as mere sinful human beings. Rather, it means we are growing into Christ. Being divinised is our destination.

The concept then of being ‘freed from sin by the once and for all sacrifice of Jesus’ has to be followed by the realisation that we can grow in our humanity. Become fully human, just as Jesus did. This is not something we achieve by ourselves. Rather, it is something that is gift. It just happens, but according to our desire. And the desire itself is a gift, freely given to those who ask.