

Like A Good Shepherd

Call to Prayer

(Mark Link, S.J.—adapted)

Leader:

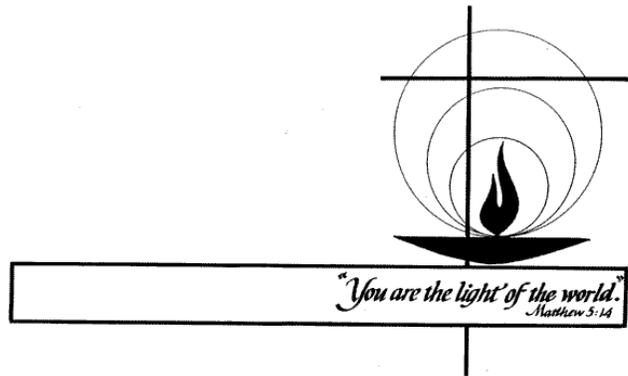
Jesus said,
“I am the light of the world. . . .
Whoever follows me
will have the light of life
And will never walk in darkness.”
(John 8:12)

(Someone lights the candle)

Lord Jesus, you said that where two or three
come together in your name,
You are there with them.
The light of this candle
Symbolizes your presence among us.

And so, let us remember...

All: That we are in the holy presence of God.



Br. Joseph Hiep, FSC

A Reading from John's Gospel

(John 10: 11—15)

I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired hand, 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 the hired hand 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 my sheep.

Like the Good Shepherd (from De La Salle's Meditation for the Second Sunday of Easter)

Jesus compares those who have care of souls to a good shepherd who has great care for his sheep. One quality he must possess, according to our savior, is to know each one of them individually. This is also one of the most essential qualities required of those who teach, for they must get to know their students, and discern the manner in which to act towards them.

They must show more mildness toward some, more firmness toward others. There are those who call for much patience, those who need to be stimulated and spurred on, some who need to be reprov'd and punished to correct them of their faults, others who must be constantly watched over to prevent them from being lost or going astray.

This guidance requires understanding and discernment of spirits, qualities you should frequently and earnestly ask of God, for they are most necessary for you in the guidance of those placed in your care.

It is also necessary, says Jesus Christ, that the sheep know their shepherd in order to be able to follow him/her.

A Scripture Reading

(Ezekiel 34: 2b—6; 11-12; 15-16)

Thus says the Lord GOD: Woe to the shepherds of Israel who have been pasturing themselves! Should not shepherds, rather, pasture sheep? You have fed off their milk, worn their wool, and slaughtered the fatlings, but the sheep you have not pastured. You did not strengthen the weak nor heal the sick nor bind up the injured. You did not bring back the strayed nor seek the lost, but you lorded it over them harshly and brutally. So they were scattered for lack of a shepherd, and became food for all the wild beasts. My sheep were scattered and wandered over all the mountains and high hills; my sheep were scattered over the whole earth, with no one to look after them or to search for them....

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will look after and tend my sheep. As a shepherd tends his flock when he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so will I tend my sheep. I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark...I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest, says the Lord GOD. The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal..., shepherding them rightly.



Prayers of Intercession

Leader: God of love, we ask for your eyes to notice those among us most in need. We pray to you, Lord...

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: God of compassion, we ask for your heart, that we may be moved by the cries of the poor in our midst. We pray to you, Lord...

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: God of justice, we ask for your strength, that we may be moved to take action on behalf of the defenseless. We pray to you, Lord...

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: God of peace, we ask for your spirit, that we may be peacemakers in our community. We pray to you, Lord...

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: *For what else and for whom else shall we pray? (Time for shared prayers)*

Closing

(Mark Link, S.J.—Adapted)

Leader: We conclude our prayer this evening by listening to Jesus speak to us:

“You are the light of the world.

A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.

No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket;

instead, the lamp is put on a lamp stand,

where it gives light to everyone in the house.

In the same way, your light must shine before all people..

—Matthew 5: 14-16



(Someone extinguishes the candle.)

The light of this candle is now extinguished. But the light of Christ in each of us must continue to shine in our hearts and in our lives.

***Saint John Baptist de La Salle...Pray for us!
Live, Jesus, in our hearts...Forever!***