TEACHING THE LITURGICAL YEAR

The Good Shepherd
(Lower Elementary)

April 25, 2021 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Overview
In this week’s Gospel, Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd. He tells us that a good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep. Of course, here in the Easter season, we joyously celebrate that Jesus, our Good Shepherd, did exactly that for us, His sheep. In this lesson, students will learn about how real shepherds call their sheep and reflect on how they can better follow Jesus in their own lives.

Directions
A. Read the Gospel passage aloud to your students as they follow along. Then discuss the focus questions with them as a class.
B. Show your students the video of a shepherd calling his sheep located at the following link: SophiaOnline.org/SheepCalling. Then, discuss the video with your students using the following questions:
   - What happens when the man in the video calls out? (Note: He speaking a foreign language, so we don't know what he is saying specifically.) The sheep come running to him.
   - Do the sheep seem happy to come to the shepherd when he calls them? What makes you think so? They seem to be happy that he is calling them as evidenced by the noises they make, and their running and jumping.
   - What does the shepherd do when all of his sheep arrive? He feeds them.
   - Does it seem like the shepherd knows all of his sheep? What makes you think so? Yes. He talks about how some of the sheep haven’t figured it out yet (that is, that he is feeding them when he calls them, even though they still came when he called.)
C. Have your students solve the Easter Code worksheet. You may have students color the cartoons on the page when they have finished.
Answer Key

1. He is the Good Shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
2. The hired man will run away and leave the sheep alone when he sees a wolf coming because he does not care for the sheep, only his pay, while a good shepherd will lay down his life for the sheep because he knows his sheep.
3. Jesus means that there are others who do not know Him yet, whom He must call and make members of His flock.
4. His sacrifice on the Cross.
5. Jesus leads us to salvation, and He feeds us with His Body and Blood