

# livingtheword

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hearing and living the Sunday Readings

## Reading 1 Acts 4:8-12

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said:  
"Leaders of the people and elders:  
If we are being examined today about a good deed done to a cripple, namely, by what means he was saved, then all of you and all the people of Israel should know that it was in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead; in his name this man stands before you healed.

He is the stone rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved."

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29

R. (22) The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

or:

R. Alleluia.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever.

It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.

It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.

R. The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

or:

R. Alleluia.

I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me

and have been my savior.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes.

R. The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

or:

R. Alleluia.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD;

we bless you from the house of the LORD.

I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me

and have been my savior.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his kindness endures forever.

R. The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

or:

R. Alleluia.

## Reading II 1 Jn 3:1-2

Beloved:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are.

The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Gospel  
Jn 10:11-18

Jesus said:

"I am the good shepherd.

A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

A hired man, 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 he 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 the sheep. I have other  
sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must  
lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one  
flock, one shepherd.

This is why the Father loves me,  
because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.  
No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own.  
I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up  
again. This command I have received from my Father."

### Reflection Questions

- What word, phrase or idea struck you in the reading?
- What do you think God is trying to say to you personally?
- The Church celebrates 'Good Shepherd Sunday' today. It is an opportunity to consider service of Christ in the Church and World through a vocation in single life, married life, priesthood, religious life. Imagine living each vocation - what attracts you? What desire is strongest?
- Vocation means 'call'. If God writes his hopes into my desires, what does that mean God may be calling me too?
- 'laying down one's life for the sheep' is contrasted with being a 'hired man' who works for pay and has no 'concern' for the sheep. What do you think is the difference between Vocation and Career?
- One of the actions done by a good shepherd is to 'lay down' in the 'gateway' of a small low fenced circle of stones to care for the sheep and protect them from harm. The good shepherd was willing to fight to the death any wolf seeking to harm the sheep. It is another scriptural picture of the way Jesus lay down his life on the cross - as the good shepherd. Does 'laying down your life' appeal to you?
- 'No-one takes it from me, I lay it down on my own'. A vocation is something freely chosen. Are there any areas of my life where I am not feeling 'free'? Are there any fears I need to share with someone?
- What is one action that you will do to 'livetheword' this week?