

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



Fourth Sunday of Easter

21 April 2024 - Year B

“The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.”

Something to Think About

Shepherds look after their sheep and keep them safe from danger.

Who protects you and makes you feel safe?

The Story

In today's gospel, Jesus tells the disciples that he is like a good shepherd who cares for his sheep. The good shepherd does not run away when trouble comes, but protects the sheep, even giving his life for them. The sheep know the good shepherd and they follow his voice. In the story, we are the sheep and Jesus is the good shepherd.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

10:11-16

Jesus said to his disciples:

"I am the good shepherd,
and the good shepherd gives up his life for his sheep.

"Hired workers are not like the shepherd.
They don't own the sheep,
and when they see a wolf coming,
they run off and leave the sheep.
Then the wolf attacks and scatters the flock.

"Hired workers run away because they don't care about the sheep."

"I am the good shepherd.
I know my sheep, and they know me.
Just as the Father knows me,
I know the Father,
and I give up my life for my sheep.

"I have other sheep that are not in this sheep pen.
I must bring them together too,
when they hear my voice.
Then there will be one flock of sheep and one shepherd."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Click to watch the video: [Good Shepherd Children's Story](#)

Group Discussion

Wolves were a dangerous threat to sheep in Jesus' time – and they still are in some places today.

What are some things that threaten to harm us or cause us to feel afraid?

Praying For Others

Leader: Trusting in God's love and encouragement, we pray for the needs of the world.

Reader 1: We pray that world leaders will work to keep people safe. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for people who are lost or afraid. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray that we will have courage when times are difficult. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray for faith to follow Jesus our Shepherd. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray for our parents and teachers who look after us. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to our prayers in the name of the risen Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd.

Thank you for caring for us.

Be with us when we are afraid
and help us to follow your voice.

Amen.

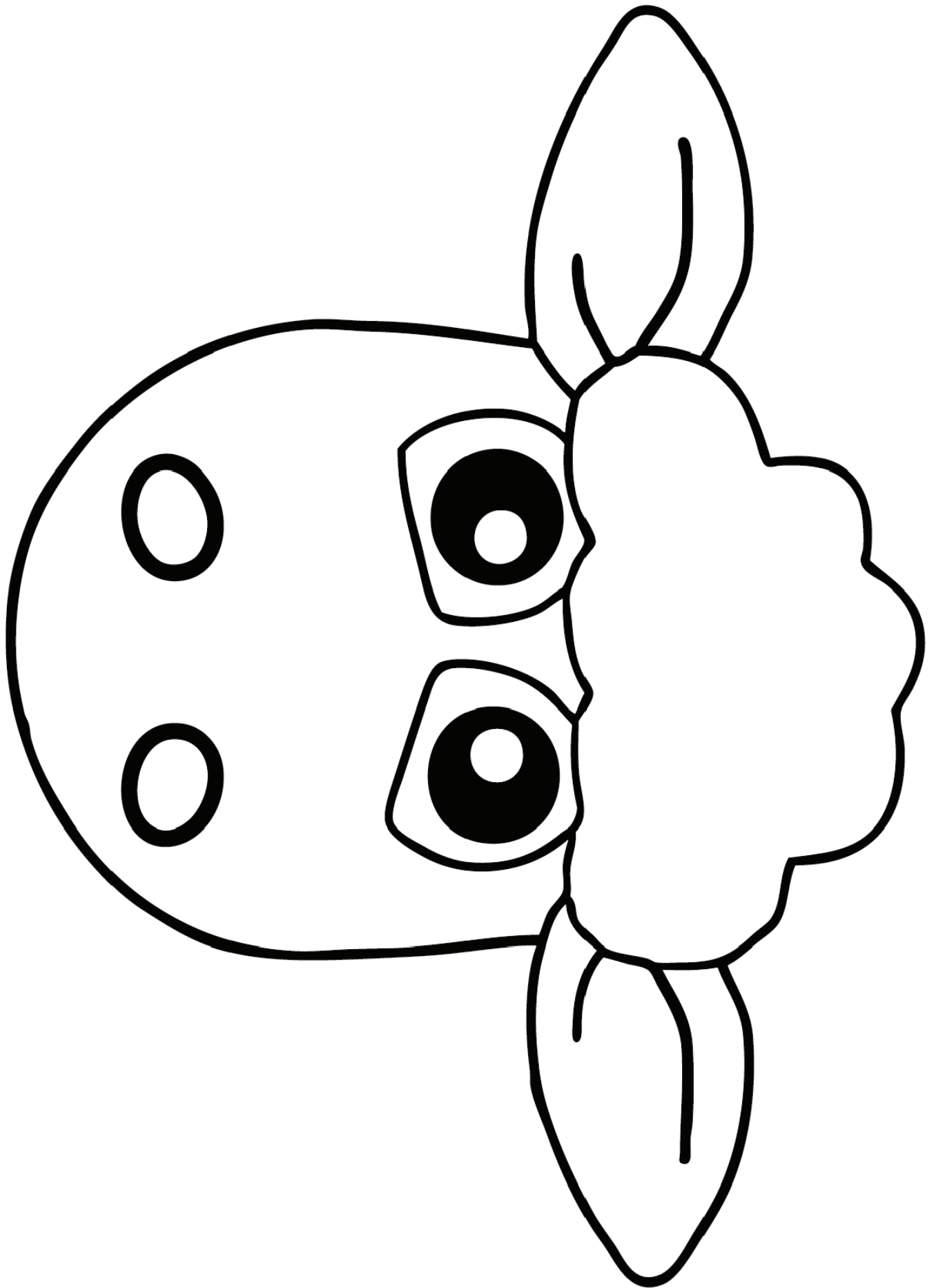
Group Activity

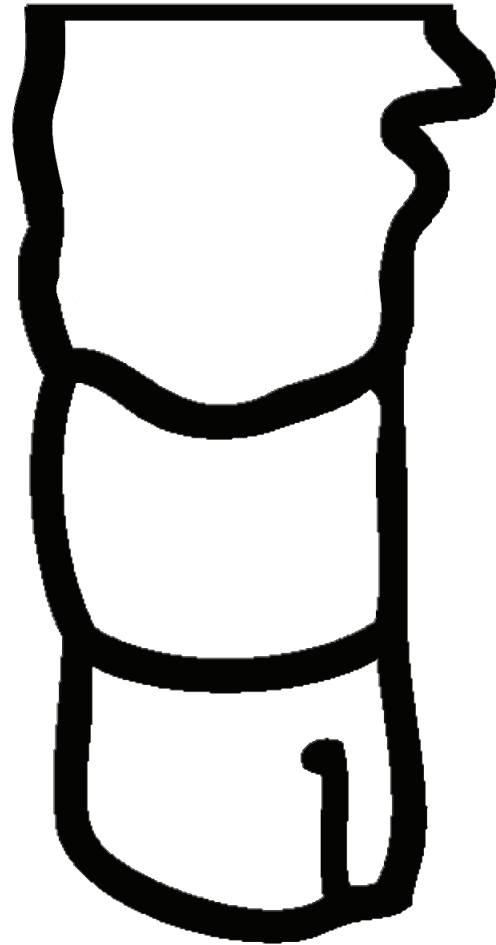
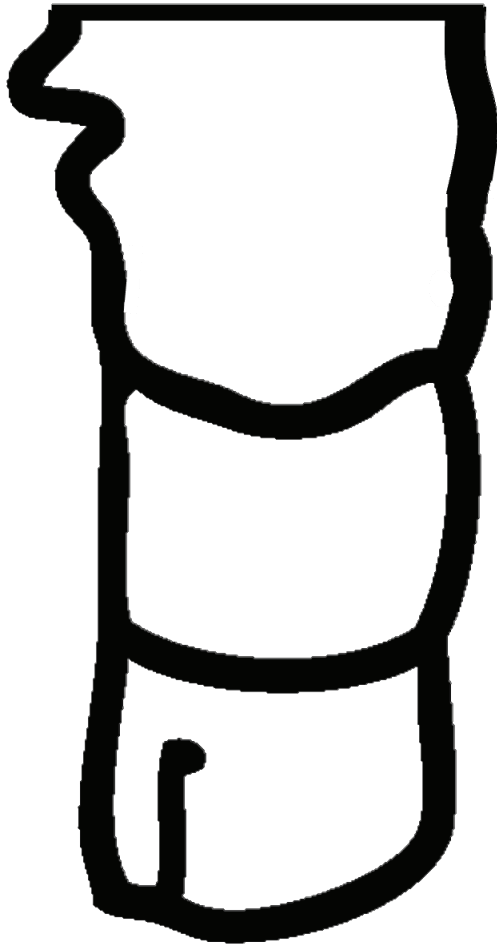
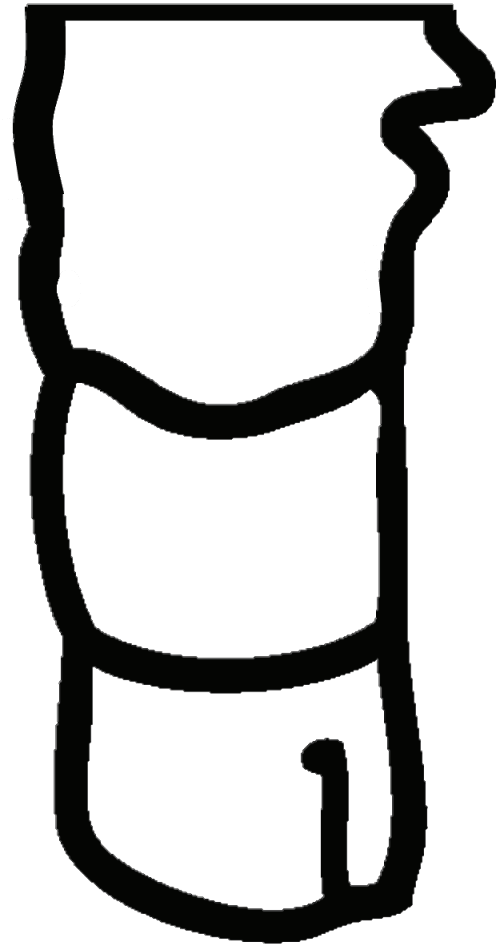
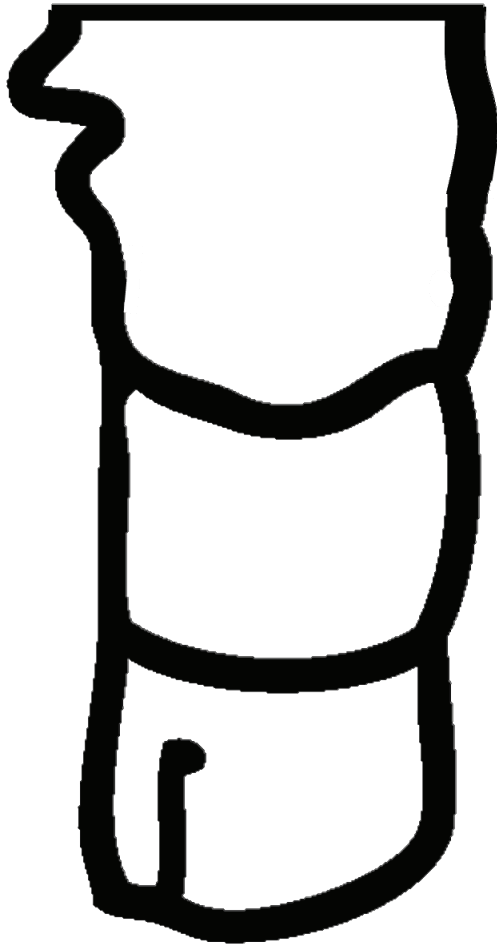
Jesus the Good Shepherd looks after his sheep.

You will need for each child: paper plate, templates, cotton balls, glue and scissors.

1. Print the template on card stock. (See below.)
2. Colour and cut out the face and legs of the sheep.
3. Cover the paper plate with cotton balls.
4. Glue the head onto the paper plate.
5. Finally glue the legs onto the paper plate. Make sure the back legs are slightly higher than the ones in front.







WHAT DOES THE GOOD
SHEPHERD DO FOR HIS SHEEP?

WHAT DOES THE
HIRED WORKER DO?

HERE IS A GOOD SHEPHERD WITH HIS TRUSTY SHEEPDOG, LOOKING AFTER HIS SHEEP.

JESUS SAID: I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD!

