

# PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

## SUNDAY LITURGY



4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

30 April 2023 - Year A

***"I am the gate of the sheepfold."***

### Something to Think About

A shepherd takes care of the sheep and knows each one of them by name. Who are the people in your life that are like 'shepherds' for you? What qualities do they have that made you think of them as a shepherd.

### The Story

In the time of Jesus, shepherds led a very difficult life, being constantly on duty. The sheep needed to be watched at all times and protected against danger and wild animals. The shepherd knew his sheep - often calling them by name. The shepherd led the way and the sheep followed wherever he went. The sheep knew the voice of the shepherd and would not answer to the voice of a stranger. Each of us, called by name, is known to Jesus who is like a shepherd to us all.

### The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

10:1-10

Jesus said to his disciples:

"I tell you for certain that only thieves and robbers climb over the fence instead of going in through the gate to the sheep pen. But the gatekeeper opens the gate for the shepherd, and he goes in through it. The sheep know their shepherd's voice. He calls each of them by name and leads them out.

"When he has led out all of his sheep, he walks in front of them, and they follow, because they know his voice. The sheep will not follow strangers. They don't recognise a stranger's voice, and they run away."

Jesus told the people this story. But they did not understand what he was talking about.

Then Jesus said:

"I tell you for certain that I am the gate for the sheep. Everyone who came before me was a thief or a robber, and the sheep did not listen to any of them. I am the gate. All who come in through me will be saved. Through me they will come and go and find pasture. A thief comes only to rob, kill, and destroy. I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest."

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

### Video

Click to watch the video: ['I am' the Door – John 10](#)



## Group Discussion

Remind them that just like a shepherd knows each sheep by name God knows each of us. Even if there are two children with the same first name discuss the image of Jesus knowing each of us by name but also by who we are - our spirit. Have a name card for each child in front of the group. Invite the children to take turns to pick up their name card. Each one has time to share something special about themselves.

## Praying For Others

*Leader:* Gathered as one with all creation, let us pray for the needs of the world:

*Reader 1:* We pray for Church leaders who lead us in Jesus' name. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 2:* We pray for our parents and teachers and those who care for us. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 3:* We pray that we will appreciate the unique gifts of each person. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 4:* We pray for those who are lost and can't hear the voice of Jesus. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 5:* We pray that we will always follow Jesus, our shepherd. 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 the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

## Prayer



Dear Jesus,  
You are like a good shepherd, always  
there to protect and care for us.  
Help us to follow you so that we can live  
life to the full.  
Amen.

## Group Activity

### Sheep and Shepherd

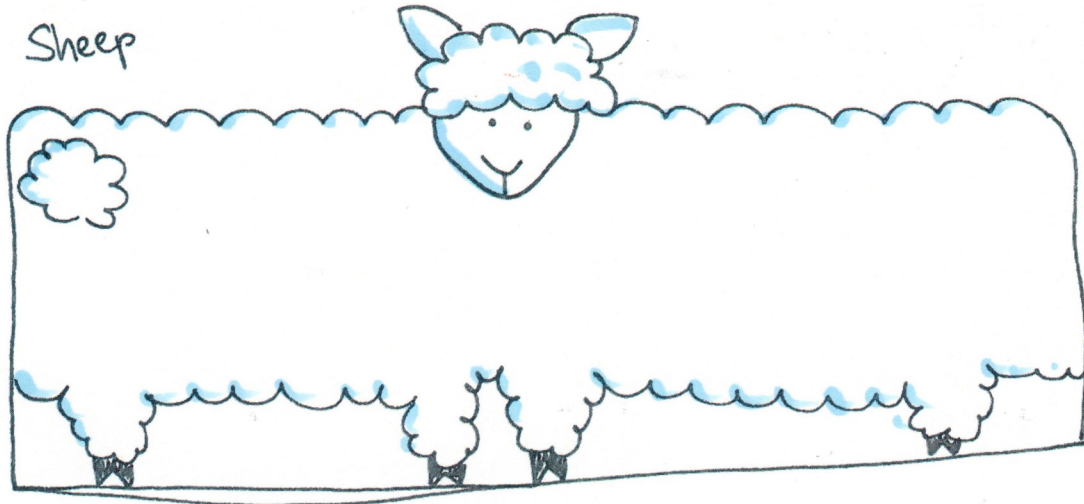
*You will need: template for each child (one shepherd and at least 2 sheep), foam board, green paper, something to poke holes, toilet paper tubes, pipe cleaners, glue, scissors.*

- 1) Children colour the templates (or use the pre-coloured ones) and glue around toilet paper tubes.
- 2) To make pasture with a fence, trace a circle onto foam board using a mixing bowl and cut it out.
- 3) Glue the green paper circle onto foam board circle with glue stick.
- 4) Poke holes around the outside edge of the 'pasture' for the fence, leaving an opening for the sheep to come in and out.
- 5) Cut pipe cleaners into thirds and insert them into the holes for the fence. Placing one drop of glue on each hole before inserting makes for a sturdier fence.





Sheep

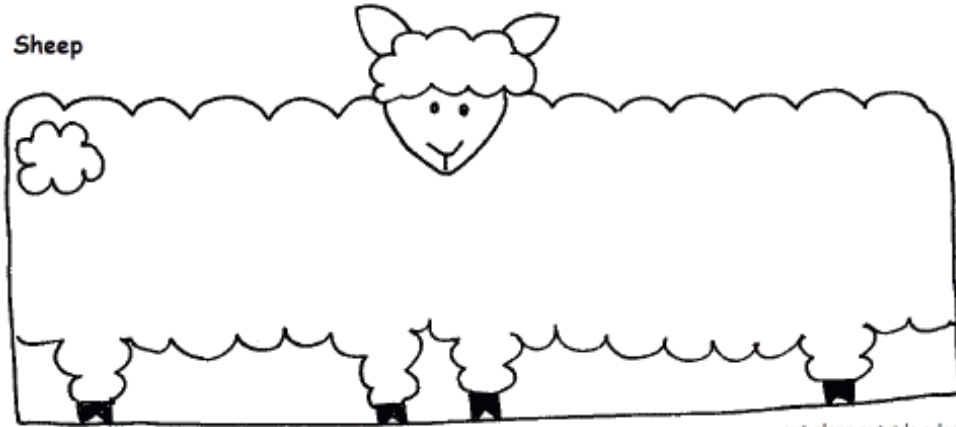


Palm Tree

Catholic Icing

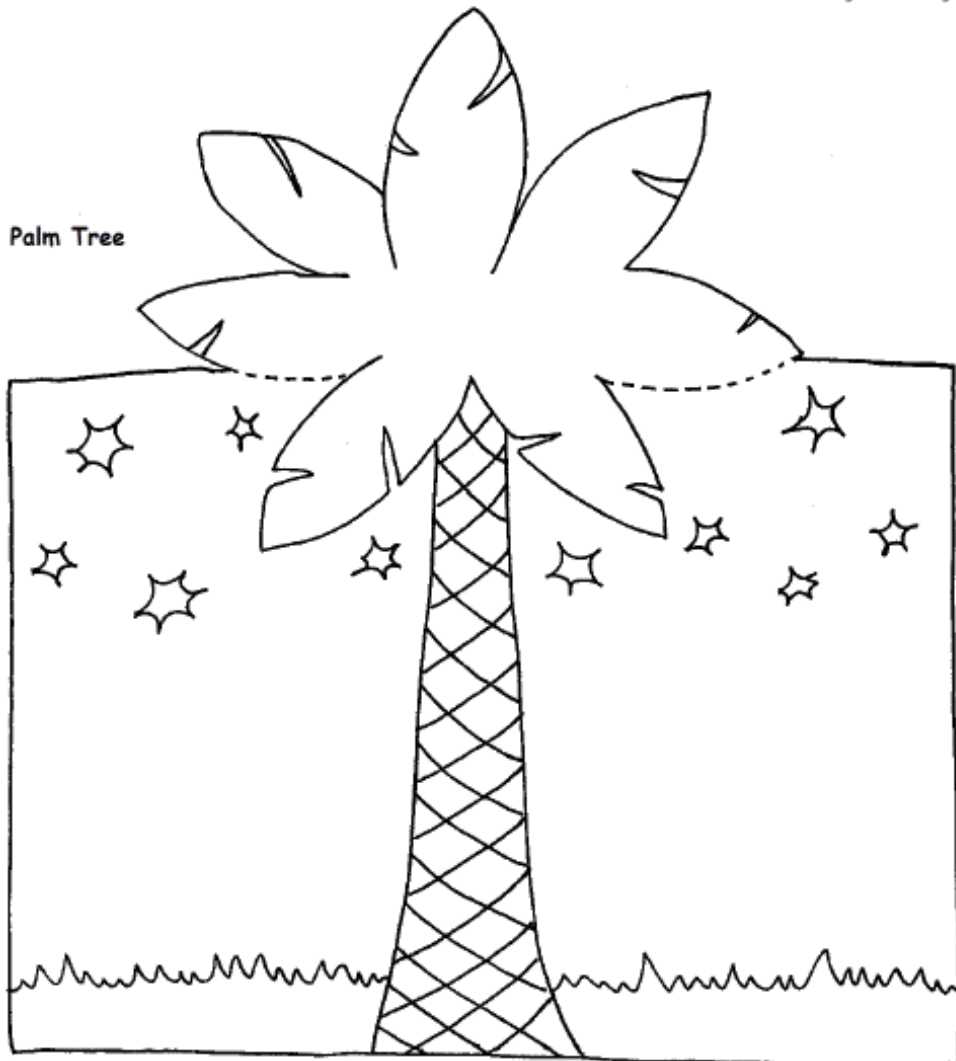


Sheep



cut along outside edge

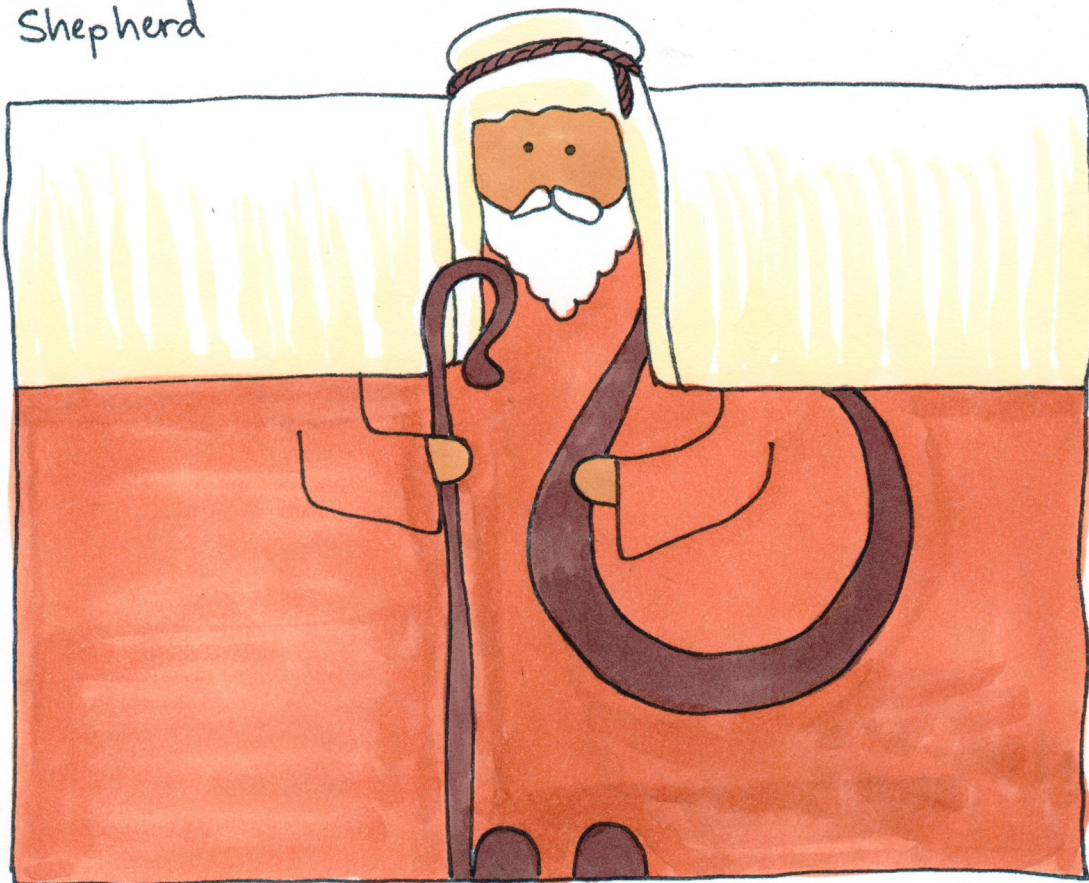
Palm Tree



cut along outside edge  
and dotted line

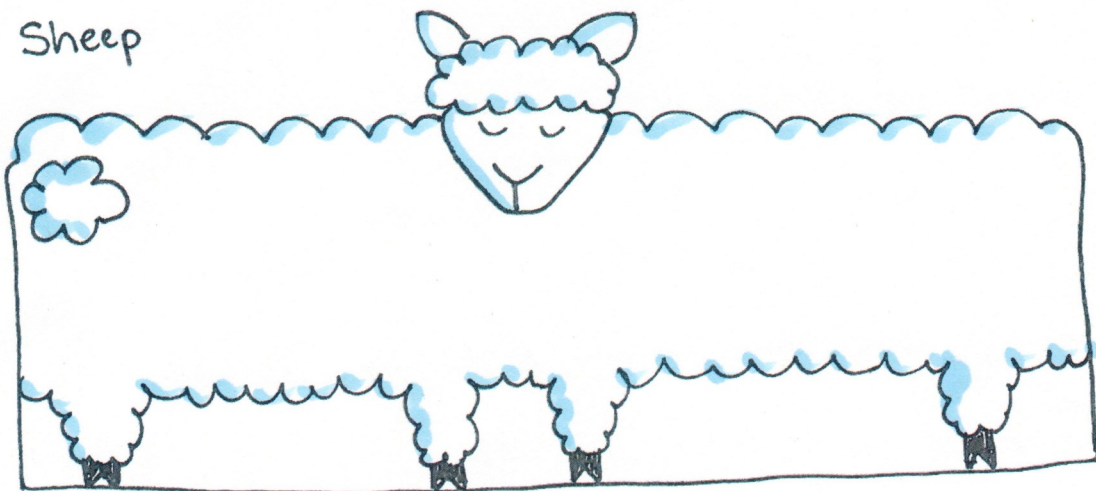


Shepherd

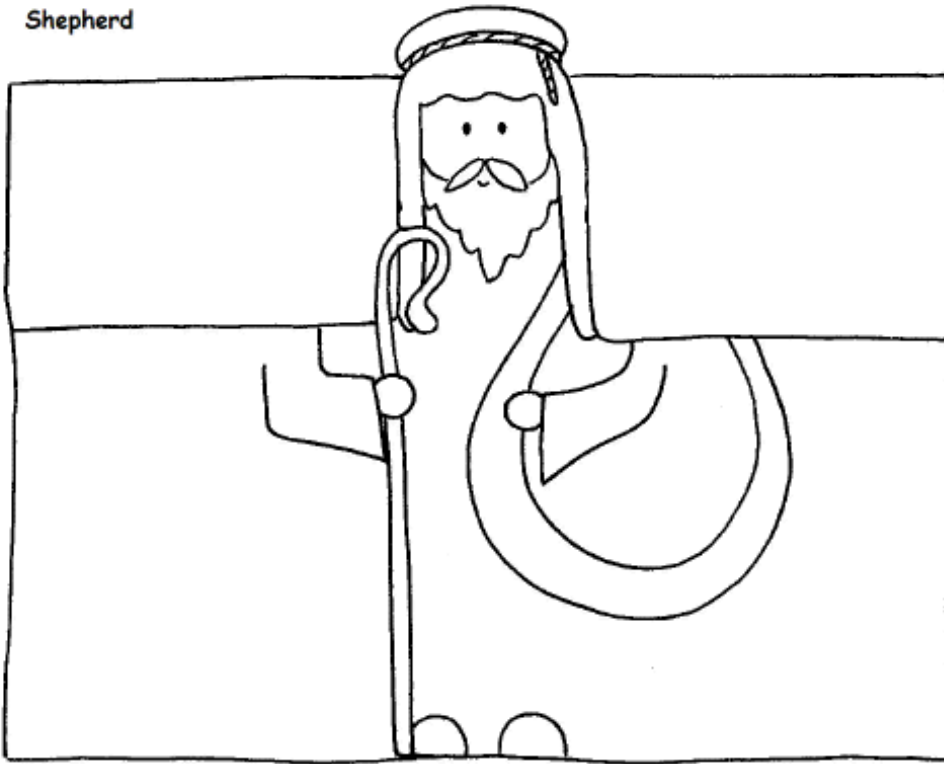


Catholic Icing

Sheep



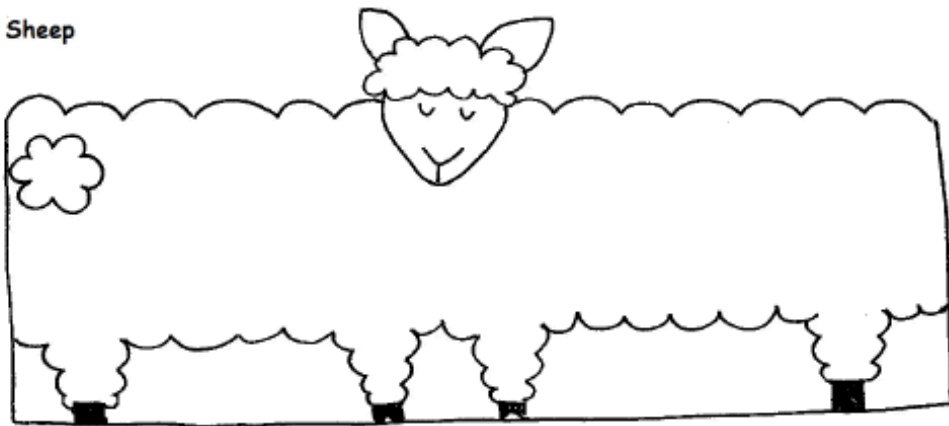
Shepherd



cut along outside edge

# Catholic Icing

Sheep



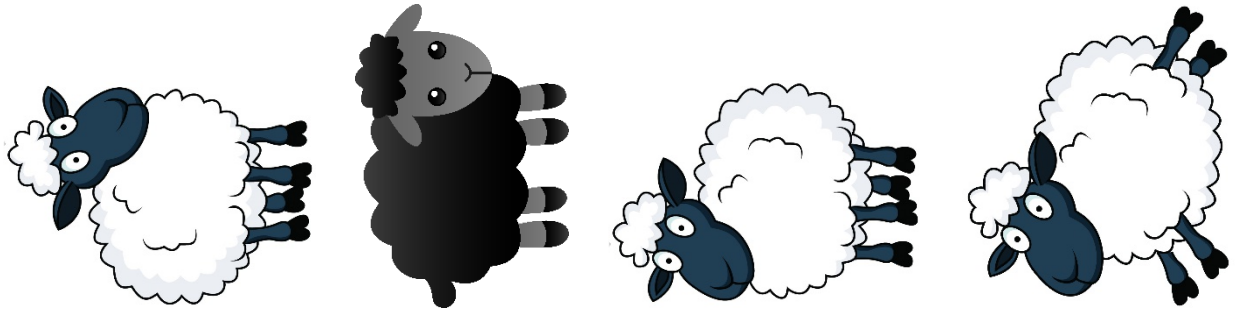
Cut TP Tube to this height



cut along outside edge

**CUT OUT THE SHEEP AND PUT THEM IN THE PEN WHERE THE SHEPHERD  
WILL KEEP THEM SAFE FROM THE WOLF AND THE ROBBER**

EASTER 4 – YEAR A  
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**JESUS - THE GOOD SHEPHERD**