Welcome children to their worship space.

Introduction

Explain: Jesus leads us and helps us know what to do. He takes care of us because we have... what? <faith>

Introduce symbol

Say: Our symbol today is a shepherd.

Ask: What do you remember about what shepherds do? <discuss>

Explain: Many of the early Christians who were learning about Jesus were shepherds. Those are men who take care of sheep. They took their jobs very seriously and took good care of each and every lamb.

Introduce readings

Ask: Does anyone remember what part of the Bible the first readings usually come from? <Old Testament>

Say: Today the first reading comes from the book of the prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 23:3-6).

Ask: Does anyone know what a prophet is? <A prophet is a spokesperson of God—not a person who tells the future>

Explain: In the Old Testament, God often spoke through holy men who were prophets. Which prophets have we heard about recently? <Amos and Ezekiel> Jeremiah was also a prophet. Jeremiah tells us what the Lord said about gathering his people together and providing them with a leader. Listen closely and see if you can figure out who the leader is that God is going to send.

Have the reader read the first reading.

FIRST READING   A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah 23:3-6

   See https://www.pflaum.com/readings/

The word of the Lord.   All: "Thanks be to God"

Ask: Jeremiah told about the leader that God was going to send to lead his people. He described the leader as "a king from the family of David." Did you figure out who that leader was going to be? <Jesus>

Say: Now it is time for the Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 6). Your part is to say: **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

See https://www.pflaum.com/readings/

Say: The Gospel reading was written by St. Mark (Mark 6:30-34). St. Mark tells about the people who had heard Jesus and how they loved him so much that they followed him everywhere. Mark describes the people as acting like a certain animal. Listen closely and hear what kind of animal it was.

Say: Now we will get ready to hear the Gospel. <mark>Please stand up.</mark>

GOSPEL   Mark 6:30-34

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
(Demonstrate we cross our foreheads, lips, and hearts when we say "a reading from the holy Gospel...")

See https://www.pflaum.com/readings/

The Gospel of the Lord.   **All: "Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ."**

<mark>Please have the children sit</mark>

Ask: What kind of animal did you hear about? <sheep> Why did St. Mark say the people were like sheep? <because they followed Jesus around like they did not know what to do, they needed someone to lead them> Jesus and the apostles just wanted to rest and have some food together, but the people kept interrupting them. Did Jesus get mad about that? <No, even though they were all probably frustrated, Jesus felt sorry for the people and taught them many things>

If there is time, ask questions and go over the parts of the lessons you think they may need to hear one more time to help them remember.

Today's symbol is a shepherd.

Dear Parents,

Today your children heard a simplified version of the same readings that you heard: Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Mark 6:30-34.

To reinforce at home:

Today we talked about how much Jesus cares for all of us. We talked about how frustrated Jesus and the apostles must have been since they couldn't manage to get any time alone but how Jesus only showed caring for the people who followed them.

The 23rd psalm was read today. It is a beautiful psalm to memorize and/or pray with your children in that it shows how much they are loved and cared for by God.

Activities to do at home:

*Help your child understand the ways that God cares for us by helping them to learn to care for others. Helping them to care for siblings, plants, or pets might be one way to teach them about how much God cares for each of them.

*Read the 23rd psalm together and have your child illustrate one of the lines in it.