

Daily Homily
The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
Solemnity
Week Twelve in Ordinary Time, Friday
24 June 2022
[USCCB Daily Reading](#)

So this image of the sheep and shepherd, going to find the lost sheep, or Jesus being the Good Shepherd, these images are not original to Jesus. He grew up with this image in his prayer and in his mind and in his heart.

In praying over Scripture this morning, I can just imagine, Jesus, as an adult, into his ministry and he walks into the synagogue one Sabbath and they unroll the scroll of the Prophet Ezekiel. Now he's heard this reading all through his childhood, but today is different. There is an openness, a readiness for something more. The Father wants the Son to receive much more. They read the section that we read for our first reading today... and Jesus hears again: "as a shepherd tends his flock ... so I will tend my sheep" and he hears "I will rescue them ... where they are scattered." And he hears "The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, and the sick I will heal."

Jesus walks away with that, thinking "wow, that's really good" ... he takes it to his alone time, to his mountain top time, he takes it to the Father and the Father shares his heart with the Son. In that moment of prayer perhaps that is when Jesus hears "My Beloved Son, you are that Good Shepherd." And so in time Jesus shares with the hearts of his Apostles what the Father's heart has revealed to him, as he says, "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

Heart sharing and giving and revealing to heart. That's what this solemnity is about in part... The Father's heart sharing, giving, revealing to our heart. May we pray that our hearts may be receptive and open to receive what more the Father has in store for us, may we pray that Jesus' Most Sacred Heart can make us men and women after his own heart.