

**Introduction to the First Reading:** After St. Peter and St. John had cured the crippled man at the Temple gate he followed them into the Temple. The authorities were alarmed and brought them before the Sanhedrin. Trying to find something to accuse them with, the authorities questioned Peter. He used the occasion to preach to them about Jesus.

**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.**

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.**

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.**

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.**

**Introduction to the Second Reading:** This beautiful reading needs no introduction.

**Reading 2 [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.

**Alleluia [Jn 10:14](#)**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;  
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**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.”

**Homily:** After Vatican Council II changes began to be made in the Sunday liturgy. Something called the Sign of Peace was introduced, and the priests were asked to explain it and introduce it to the people. As part of my duties I ran a small parish in Canada. So one Sunday I explained it to the people.

I told them that it went back to the words of Jesus when he said: "If you are about to offer your gift to God at the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar, go at once and make peace with your brother, and then come back and offer your gift to God." (Mt. 5, 23-24) Reconciliation is that important. So the Sign of Peace is saying: "I'm doing my best to make peace in my family, in my world and also here in my Church. Let's forgive the anger of the past and try to live at peace with one another for Jesus' sake."

I also explained that there were several possible ways of doing it. You could say something like "Peace" or "The peace of Christ" or "Peace be with you." Also you could bow or give a hug or shake hands as you saw fit. So when the time finally came I announced: "Let us offer each other a Sign of Peace."

I couldn't help but notice the front row on my right. There was a middle aged man standing between his wife and an attractive young woman. He immediately turned to the young woman on his left and gave her a big hug. Then he turned to his wife and shook her hand! I often wondered what happened when he got home.

Since it was the first time we were doing this, and it was a small congregation, I also went to each person and wished them a Sign of Peace shaking each person's hand. When I finally got to the back row on the right there were three people there, a man, a woman and a 4 year old boy. I shook the man's hand and wished him peace, then the woman's hand and wished her peace, then reached out for the boy's hand saying "Peace be with you." As he looked up at me and took my hand his eyes were as big as saucers, and there was a look of awe on his face as he slowly said: "Peace, God." I gave him a big smile and returned to the altar.

Thinking about it later I realized that his parents had probably taught him that they were taking him to God's house and that he should be on his best behavior. Since that was the only place he had seen me, and I seemed to be running things, he naturally assumed that it was my house and I must be God. I can still see his little face, full of wonder and awe, that God would actually come to him personally and wish him peace!

I'm sure that his parents explained things to him a little more carefully, but do you know what? That little boy actually got it right. That was God's house. And God did come to him personally and wish him peace. God does the same and more for everyone one of us. It is his house. He really is here. And we become his house. Through this Mass and this Sacrament he comes into our lives, into our bodies, into our minds and into our hearts. He fills us with his love and his peace. Then he sends us out to share that love and that peace with others. And when we bring God's love and God's peace to others we are actually bringing God to others, because God is love.