



**Wednesday, March 3, 2021**

**A scripture passage offered  
for this day's Lenten contemplation,  
and a brief question for spiritual reflection**

After reading the scripture passage, I suggest *alectio divina* approach:

1. re-reading the passage, noticing words or thoughts that stand out to you;
2. then re-reading it again, and sitting in silence with it for a few minutes;
3. then deciding whether to engage with the question for reflection that follows. That may help to prevent the question itself from becoming merely a trite lens through which the scripture passage appears smaller and less consequential than it is.

*K.G.*

**13th Day of Lent –Wednesday, Mar. 3, 2021**

**John 10:11-18**

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must

bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason 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 of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

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Is there any person in the world, or any cause, that, if circumstances called for it, you would be willing to die for?  
**(FB)**

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#### **ABBREVIATIONS (Sources of questions for reflection)**

**CF** Charles de Foucauld, “O Beloved Bridegroom,” in Foucauld, *Essential Writings* (Ellsberg, ed. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1999), 37

**FB** Frederick Buechner, “Lent,” in Buechner, *Whistling in the Dark* (HarperSanFrancisco, 1988), 74-75

**IL** Ignatius of Loyola, *Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius* (trans. Mottola. New York: Doubleday, 1989), 54-59

**JOD** John O’Donohue, “At the End of the Day: A Mirror of Questions,” in O’Donohue, *To Bless the Space Between Us* (New York: Doubleday, 2008), 98

**LK** Linda Kranz, *Through My Eyes: A Journal for Teens* (Flagstaff, AZ: Rising Moon, 1998)

**MO** Mary Oliver, “Six Recognitions of The Lord (5),” in Oliver, *Devotions* (Penguin Publishing Group, Kindle Edition), 127

**MW** Macrina Wiederkehr, “The Prayer of the Empty Water Jar,” in Wiederkehr, *Seasons of Your Heart* (New York: HarperCollins, 1991), 32-33

**SB** Coleman, et. al., eds., *The NIV Serendipity Bible* (Zondervan, 1989)