

Fourth Sunday of Easter B



Entrance Antiphon: The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia. cf Ps 32:5-6

Of all the images we have of Jesus, one of the loveliest is that of the Good Shepherd. It was Jesus himself who used it. How well do we trust and how closely do we follow the Good Shepherd?

Lord Jesus, you are our Shepherd with whom we want for nothing. Lord, have mercy.

You guide us along the path of life. Christ, have mercy.

You are with us even if we have to walk through the valley of darkness. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Let us pray:

Almighty ever-living God, lead us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Acts 4:8-12

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 117

Response: The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in men:

it is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in princes.

Response

I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes.

Response

Blessed in the name of the Lord
is he who comes.
We bless you from the house of the Lord;
I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.
Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
for his love has no end. **Response**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St John.

1 John 3:1-2

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.
Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.
My dear people, we are already the children of God
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;
all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my own sheep and my own know me. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, Lord.

Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern 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 my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock and one shepherd. The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us make our profession of faith:

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offertory:

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Gifts:

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries, so that the renewal constantly at work within us may be the cause of our unending joy. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Preface:

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**And with your spirit.
We lift them up to the Lord.
It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
at all times to acclaim you, O Lord,
but in this time above all
to laud you yet more gloriously,
when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.
He never ceases to offer himself for us
but defends us and ever pleads our cause before you:
he is the sacrificial Victim who dies no more,
the Lamb, once slain, who lives for ever.
Therefore, overcome with paschal joy,
every land, every people exults in your praise
and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts,
sing together the unending hymn of your glory
as they acclaim:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The mystery of faith. **When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

Communion Antiphon: **The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.**

REFLECTION

Working with love.

All work is empty save when done with love. And what is it to work with love? It is to weave the cloth with threads drawn from your heart, even as if your beloved were to wear that cloth. It is to build a house with affection, even as if your beloved were to dwell in that house. If you cannot work with love but only with distaste, it is better that you should leave your work, and sit at the gate of the temple and take alms from those who work with joy. For if you bake bread with indifference, you bake a bitter bread that feeds but half of man's hunger. And if you grudge the crushing of the grapes, your grudge distils a poison in the wine. Work is love made visible.

Prayer after Communion:

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd, and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures the sheep you have redeemed by the Precious Blood of your Son. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Final Blessing:

The Lord be with you.

May almighty God bless you,

the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Go forth, the Mass is ended, alleluia.

**And with your spirit.
Amen.
Thanks be to God, alleluia.**