

Fourth Sunday of Easter

INTRODUCTION

In the name of the Father,
and of ✠ the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All respond: Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The PRAYERS OF PENITENCE are introduced.

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God. Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Lord Jesus, you have shown us the way to the Father.

Lord, have mercy.

℟. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, your word is a light to our path.

Christ, have mercy.

℟. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd, leading us into everlasting life.

Lord, have mercy.

℟. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us ✠ our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS is recited.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you

are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

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.

All remain standing for the COLLECT.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Readings for Year B

FIRST READING

Acts 4.8–12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said: ‘Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is “the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.” There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.’

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

℟. His goodness shall follow me always,
to the end of my days. (*All repeat*)

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose. ℟.

Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name. ℟.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness,
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. ℟.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. ℟.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. ℟.

SECOND READING

1 Jn 3.16–24

A reading from the first letter of John.

We know love by this, that the Son of God laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases God. And this is his

commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 10.14

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord:
I know my own sheep and my own know me.
℟. **Alleluia.**

GOSPEL READING

Jn 10.11–18

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the Pharisees:

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing 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.

“And I have other sheep that are not of 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 that I may take it up again. No-one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

All stand to recite the NICENE CREED.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(all bow) **was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**

(all rise) **For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again 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.**

We 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 worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

The INTERCESSIONS are introduced, and all kneel. One of these responses may be used:

∩. Lord, hear us. ∩. **Lord, graciously hear us.**
or ∩. Lord, in your mercy, ∩. **Hear our prayer.**

At the Commemoration of the Departed:

∩. Rest eternal ✠ grant to them, O Lord;
∩. **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

The Intercessions end:

Merciful Father,
Accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

All stand as the priest introduces the PEACE.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All may sit for the OFFERTORY. *The priest may praise God for his gifts, to which all respond:*

Blessed be God for ever.

All stand for the PRAYER *over the* OFFERINGS.

Pray, my 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 Church.

Grant, Lord, that we may always find joy in this sacrament of your Son's death and resurrection, so that the grace of our redemption may ever be at work in our souls to bring us to the everlasting joy of heaven; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The PREFACE follows.

All respond with the SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, 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.

All kneel. After the Consecration, all acclaim:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

Dying, you destroyed our death;

rising, you restored our life.

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

The Eucharistic Prayer continues, and ends:

... for ever and ever. Amen.

RITE OF COMMUNION

The priest introduces the LORD'S PRAYER.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The priest breaks the Host; AGNUS DEI is said.

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
grant us peace.**

The priest gives the COMMUNION INVITATION.

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Holy Communion is distributed.

The priest says the POST-COMMUNION prayer.

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONCLUSION

The priest gives the BLESSING and DISMISSAL.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

... The blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

The service may be followed by REGINA CAELI.

**Joy to thee, O Queen of Heaven, alleluia:
He whom thou wast meet to bear, alleluia,
As he promised hath arisen, alleluia.
Pour for us to God thy prayer, alleluia.**

∿. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia:
℟. **For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia.**

Let us pray. O God, who by the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, brought joy to the whole world: grant, we pray, that through the intercession of his mother the Virgin Mary, we may lay hold of the joys of eternal life; through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

25.4.21