

Fourth Sunday of Easter

INTRODUCTION

INTROIT HYMN— **497**

Hymns Old & New

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.

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

Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

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

R. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd, lead-
ing us into everlasting life.

Lord, have mercy.

R. 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 sung.

**Glorify 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 4.5–12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

On the next day the rulers and elders and
scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with
Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and
John and Alexander, and all who were of the
high-priestly family. And when they had set
them in the midst, they enquired, "By what
power or by what name did you do this?"
Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to
them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we
are being examined today concerning a good
deed done to a crippled man, by what means
this man has been healed, let it be known to
all of you and to all the people of Israel that by
the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom
you crucified, whom God raised from the
dead – by him this man is standing before you
well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected
by you, the builders, which has become the
cornerstone. And there is salvation in no-one
else, for there is no other name under heaven
given among men by which we must be saved."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

R. 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. R.

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

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. R.

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

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. R.

SECOND READING

1 Jn 3.16–24

A reading from the first letter of John.

By this we know love, that the Son of God laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another,

just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN— 316

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 10.14

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

At the Commemoration of the Departed:

∇. Rest eternal ✠ grant unto them, O Lord;
R̄. **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.

All stand as the priest introduces the PEACE.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN— **10**

The people unite their prayers with the priest, who says 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 sung.

**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.

COMMUNION HYMN—106

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.

RECESSIONAL HYMN—94

The service may be followed by REGINA CÆLI.

**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.**

21.4.24