

Sunday 25th April 2021

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Reading 1: Acts 4: 5 - 12

Gospel: John 10: 11 - 18

Proclamation:

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed, Alleluia.

Grace mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm: 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

Song: (*click link*) Praise my Soul the King of Heaven

<https://youtu.be/60JgQoJK9J8>

Invitation to Confession:

Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

Confession:

Lord God, we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing
and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution:

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by His Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessed be the Lord
for he has heard the voice of our prayer;
Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy
and in our song will we praise our God.

Reading 1: Acts 4: 5 – 12

⁵ The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶ with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷ When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ 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, ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ This Jesus is

"the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone."

¹² 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.

Gospel: John 10: 11 – 18

¹¹ 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² 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. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Talk: (click link) <https://youtu.be/hiQSe7xwYzI>

Let us declare our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Lord God, we come to You today with thankful hearts knowing that you hear our heartfelt prayers to you and we ask for your loving peace and we await your answers for the way forward. Some of us come with real concerns on our minds, concerns that overwhelm us at times, and especially in this present time real concerns for your world and the turmoil we hear daily of wars and the repercussions of starvation and homelessness it often brings to people. We see changing weather patterns causing chaos through climate change. We can bring to You so many prayer needs Lord each as important as the other. Your Word says that blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, help us Lord God to pray continually for our world leaders and all those in authority

to seek your wisdom and your peace in all circumstances so we can care for people and your world in a better way.

Lord in Your mercy... Hear our prayer

We thank you Father God that our Lord Jesus is our Good Shepherd who leads us as His sheep, He keeps us safe and loves us so much and longs for us to live a life full of your blessings. Just as a shepherd knows each one of his sheep, You, Lord God, know each one of us by name and those we have concerns about. You say blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted and we lift in our hearts those known to us who need your touch this day in their grief. We also lift in our hearts those who are sick and have ongoing health needs. We pray for your blessing on them and those who care for them in whatever capacity.

Lord in Your mercy...Hear our prayer

We pray Lord God for our Annual Parochial Church Meeting today, a time of thanksgiving and reflection for all you have done for us and for how we have been able to serve you and others through Your provision. May all those of us who take up a position of service today continue on to do all things in your strength and guided by your wisdom.

Lord in Your mercy... Hear our prayer

Lord God, we thank you that it is Global Action week for education. Please help us to guard our children's hearts and minds by teaching them your ways at home, in church and in school. We thank you for our really good relationship with our local school and for the hard work of those of your people who go in faithfully to take assemblies and other activities to help the children learn more of you, please continue to pour your blessings on them, both those who teach and those who learn.

Lord God, we thank you for hearing our prayers and for your patience with us in keeping us on the right path with You. And so we ask You to accept these prayers offered, both out loud and in our hearts for the sake of Your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silence is kept.

Collect:

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come

Your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread
and forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil
For the kingdom the power and the glory
are yours now and forever. Amen.

*Let us pause for a moment to bring ourselves
and all that we offer to God
and give Him thanks.*

Song: *(click link)* You Shall go out with Joy https://youtu.be/Qb7ES_ZDje8

Blessing:

The God of peace
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
make us perfect in every good work to do His will.....

.....and the blessing of God almighty;
Father Son and Holy Spirit,
be with us, and remain with us
and all those whom we love,
now and forever.
Amen.

*As we come to the end of this service we can fellowship with each other in Spirit, with tea, coffee
and biscuits, and continuing to pray for each other.*

Post something on the Facebook page to bless others.