

**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.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;

<sup>3</sup> he restores my soul.

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

<sup>4</sup> 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.

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

<sup>6</sup> 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*) Cornerstone <https://youtu.be/FI15U2ifYzo>

### **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**

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

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

<sup>12</sup> 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**

<sup>11</sup> 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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/dtJ34n5CT9g>

*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**

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.  
Jesus, light of the world,  
bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations ...  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, bread of life,

give food to the hungry ...  
and nourish us all with your word.  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,  
be with us and all who follow you in the way ...  
Deepen our appreciation of your truth  
and fill us with your life.  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,  
recover the straggler,  
bind up the injured,  
strengthen the sick  
and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,  
we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you ...  
Raise us with them to eternal life.  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
in your mercy, hear us,  
accept our prayers, and be with us always.  
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)* Love Won't Stop <https://youtu.be/ILoMzs0Vxk0>

**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.

Song: *(click link)*

*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.*