

# SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

EASTER 4 (YEAR B)

## 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.**

## 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.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Ps 23*



**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 wa-|lters 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 vall-|ley 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 anoint-|ed 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 e-|ver 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.**

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.**

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PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

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.**

POST-COMMUNION

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.**