

# The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Good Shepherd Sunday

April 21, 2024

## The Collect of the Day

O God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd of your people: Grant that, when we hear his voice, we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## A Reading from Acts 4:23-37

When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, “‘Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’— for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, 1 and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for

as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 23

*The Psalm will be chanted.*



© 1956, Jerome Webster Meachen.

- 1 The LORD is my **shepherd**; \*  
therefore I can lack **nothing**.
- 2 He shall feed me in green **pastures** \*  
and lead me forth beside the waters of **comfort**.
- 3 He shall refresh my **soul** \*  
and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness for his Name's **sake**.
- 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no **evil**, \*  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff **comfort me**.
- 5 You shall prepare a table before me, in the presence of those who **trouble me**; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be **full**.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my **life**, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for **ever**.

Glory be to the Father, and to the **Son**, and to the Holy **Spirit**:  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever **shall be**, world without end.  
**A-men**.

## **A Reading from 1 John 3:1-10**

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** *Thanks be to God*

## **The Holy Gospel according to St. John 10:11-16**

*All standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Holy Gospel, first saying*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to \_\_\_\_\_.

**People:** *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

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.

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## **Proper Preface**

### *Easter*

*For the Celebrant to read after the Sursum Corda.*

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world; who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again has won for us everlasting life.