

SUNDAY 21st APRIL 2024
4th Sunday of Easter

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.



1st Reading - Acts 4.5-12

The Jewish rulers, elders, and scribes assembled
in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest,
Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of
the high-priestly family. When they had made the
prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired,
'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
questioned today because of a good deed done to
someone who was sick and are asked how this man
has been healed, 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. This Jesus is "the stone that
was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the
cornerstone." There is salvation in no one else,
for there is no other name under heaven given
among mortals by which we must be saved.'

Psalm - Psalm 23



The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
He shall refresh my soul
And guide me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake. **℟**
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, they comfort me. **℟**
You spread 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. **℟**
Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. **℟**

2nd Reading - 1 John 3.16-24

We know love by this, that the Son of God laid
down his life for us - and we ought to lay down
our lives for one another. How does God's love
abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees
a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?
Little children, let us love, not in word or speech,
but in truth and action. And by this we will know
that we are from the truth and will reassure our
hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us;
for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows
everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn
us, we have boldness before God; and we receive
from him whatever we ask, because we obey his
commandments and do what pleases God. And this
is his commandment, that we should believe in the
name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another,
just as he has commanded us. All who obey his
commandments abide in him, and he abides in
them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by
the Spirit that he has given us.

Gospel Reading - John 10.11-18

Jesus said to the Pharisees:
'I am the good shepherd.
The good shepherd lays down
his life for the sheep. 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. The hired hand runs
away - because a hired hand
does not care 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. 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. For this reason
the Father loves me, because
I lay down my life in order
to take it up again. No one
takes it from me, but I lay
it down of my own accord.
I have power to lay it down,
and I have power to take it
up again. I have received
this command from my
Father.'



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.

