

## Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Easter - 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

### Sentence

'I am the good shepherd,' says the Lord. 'I know my own and my own know me.' John 10.14

### Collect

Jesus, good shepherd of the sheep,  
by whom the lost are sought  
and guided into the fold:  
feed us and we shall be satisfied,  
heal us and we shall be whole,  
and lead us that we may be with you,  
where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### Acts 4: 5-12

Our first reading is taken from the Book of Acts,  
Chapter 4, beginning at verse 5

<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.'

Hear the word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 23

Our psalm today comes from Psalm 23, I will read one verse, and I invite you to respond with the next verse

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd:  
therefore can I lack nothing.

<sup>2</sup> **He will make me lie down in green pastures:  
and lead me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> He will refresh my soul:  
and guide me in right pathways for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **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.**

<sup>5</sup> You spread a table before me  
in the face of those who trouble me:  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup shall be full.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely your goodness and loving-kindness  
will follow me all the days of my life:  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

## 1 John 3: 16-24

Our second reading is taken from the first Letter of John, Chapter 3, beginning at verse 16

<sup>16</sup> We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup> 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? <sup>18</sup> Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup> And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup> whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup> Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup> and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> 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.

Hear the word of the Lord,     **Thanks be to God.**

## **John 10: 11-18**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, chapter 10, beginning at verse 11, **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<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. <sup>18</sup> 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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**