

Sunday, April 29, 2012
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion

Worship Assistants

FIRST READING: Acts 4:5–12

A reading from _____.

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he is able to proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

⁵The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let 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. ¹¹This Jesus is
 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
 it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 23

Refrain: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

¹The LORD ¹is my shepherd;
 I shall not ¹be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down ¹in green pastures
 and leads me be- ¹side still waters.**

³You restore my ¹soul, O LORD,
 and guide me along right pathways ¹for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall ¹fear no evil;
 for you are with me;**

your rod and your staff, they | comfort me. R

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

**⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever. R**

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16–24

A reading from _____.

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

¹⁶We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us — and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How 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?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And 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. ²⁴All 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 10:11–18

The holy gospel according to _____.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The 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. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and

my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I 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. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No 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."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Enlivened in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the life of the church, for those in need, and for all of God's creation.

Holy, compassionate God, our Lord Jesus laid down his life for the sake of your people. Lead us to put aside our own lives, that your life may abound in us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You are the source of all life. Lend your creative power to ranchers, herders, and farmers who encourage growth in their animals and strive to give them what they need to live. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You humble the proud and lift up the lowly. Give your wisdom and humility to political and economic leaders. Teach them how to care for all over whom they have authority. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your Spirit brings healing in extraordinary ways. Grant hope to all who seek treatment for illness, addiction, and emotional strain (*especially*). Heal them in ways they cannot imagine. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your resurrection creates new ways to live. Dance your Spirit in communities that seek transformation. Open new opportunities for cooperation in areas of work and recreation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In thanksgiving for the faithful work done by your saints (*like Catherine of Siena, whom we commemorate today*), engage us in faithful work until your will is accomplished. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your abundant mercy, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray into your care, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

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