

The 4th Sunday of Easter

3 May 2020

Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iu83WQdQ7-Y>

**The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am his,
and he is mine forever.**

**Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth;
and where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.**

**Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me;
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.**

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.**

**Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!**

**And so through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.**

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Ps 32.5-6

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

Greeting

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Christ is risen, alleluia.

He is risen indeed, alleluia.

Penitential Act

Dear friends,
this water will be sprinkled on us
as a memorial of our Baptism.
May the Lord our God help us by his grace
to remain faithful to the Spirit we have received.

The celebrant sprinkles all present with holy water, moving through the church.
Meanwhile, the chant I saw water (Vidi aquam), or another appropriate chant is sung.

The chant, in Latin,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=429smHGuy3I>

I saw water flowing from the Temple,
from its right-hand side, alleluia:
and all to whom this water came
were saved and shall say: alleluia, alleluia.

Verses from Psalm 118 and the doxology Glory to God may also be sung.

The celebrant says:

May almighty God cleanse us of our sins,
and through the celebration of this Eucharist
make us worthy to share at the table of his Kingdom.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Collect

Let us pray.

God of all power,
you called from death our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep:
send us as shepherds to rescue the lost,
to heal the injured,
and to feed one another with understanding;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Acts 2.14a, 42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Many were baptized and were added to the community. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

For the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Psalm Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He shall feed me in a green pasture,
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
- 3 He shall convert my soul,
and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.
- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
- 5 Thou shalt prepare a table before me in the presence of them that trouble me;
thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.
- 6 Surely thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Second Reading

1 Peter 2.19-24

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Brothers and sisters: It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For

to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

For the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 10.14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my own sheep, and my own know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 10.1-10

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'

For the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Pause to reflect on the Word.

Reflection

Fr Graeme Kaines

At this stage in our history, even before Covid-19, most of us keep our doors and gates firmly locked. We do this out of fear – either of unwelcome intruders or of losing our ability to be insured. When I was young I recall our home being unlocked even when everyone was out. There was a time, a few decades ago when Anglican churches were nearly always open to the public at least during the day if not overnight as well. At some stage we stopped this practice and began to lock. I suspect that St Mary Magdalene's Church would have been one of the last churches to lock up.

It is interesting that Jesus says in today's Gospel reading that he is "the gate of the sheepfold". Gates and arches are often significant because they signify entry to a special area or even a new experience or venture. Jesus the Gate falls into this category. He is ready to welcome us into his new world of the Kingdom of God. Will we recognise the voice of Jesus as he calls us through his Gate? It is fascinating to know that in rural areas of Turkey the shepherds actually sing to their sheep. It is this singing voice which the sheep come to know and appreciate.

This thought leads us to another point of this Gospel teaching. Jesus warns us about voices we shall hear which will distract and lead us astray. They have their own agendas which are to do with goals or offers which are not those of Jesus. Jesus teaches that he is the way, the truth and the life. He will lay down his life for his sheep whereas the false shepherds will not. They have their own agenda.

A teaching from the Gospel today is that we are free to come and go through Jesus the Gate as we negotiate our ways through life. We shall know when it is time to return to the sheepfold through the Gate and know when it is time to venture out into the demands of life.

Today we have the two images of Jesus – the Good Shepherd and the Gate of the sheepfold. Both are reassuring and the encouraging as we experience the successes and failures our lives. But there is another personal matter raised in the Gospel. How easily do we help other people find the Gate? To what extent do we mirror the example of Jesus the Gate? How hospitable are we? Are we as closed as our locked homes? This is worth thinking carefully about. For us to take a risk may well be us trying a commendable venture. The Church, too, always asks us to be open in our relationships with the poor – this can be risky but potentially rewarding, too.

The Apostles' Creed

Let us profess the faith of the church:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Pray for the world and the church.

Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ.

God's Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

When all is prepared, the Priest says,

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God, the Father almighty.

**May the Lord accept our sacrifice
for the praise and glory of God's name,
for our good, and the good of all God's holy Church.**

Prayer over the Offerings

God of loving care,
you spread before us the table of life,
and give us the cup of salvation to drink.
Keep us always in the fold of your Son Jesus Christ,
our Saviour and our shepherd. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

All glory and honour, be yours now and always,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

He is the true Paschal Lamb
who was offered for us
and has taken away the sin of the world.
He is the Good Shepherd
who knows the sheep
and calls them each by name.

By his death, he has destroyed death
and by his rising to life again
has restored us to eternal life.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.

This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence to the Father
in the words our Saviour against us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the bread, saying –

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

While the bread is broken Agnus Dei is sung –

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

Act of Spiritual Communion

St Alphonsus Liguori

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Music for Reflection

Postlude “Founded on an old Irish air” by Charles Villiers Stanford
(A popular tune for “The King of love my Shepherd is”)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2RW9rFpaLk>

Communion Antiphon

Lk 24.35

The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

God of steadfast love,
watch over the Church redeemed by the blood of your Son.
May we who share in these holy mysteries
come safely to your eternal kingdom,
where there is one flock and one shepherd.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. **Amen.**

Postcommunion Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5uIWEbXgF0>

**Love's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won:
lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er,
lo, he sets in blood no more.**

**Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened paradise.**

**Lives again our glorious King;
where, O death, is now thy sting?
dying once, he all doth save;
where thy victory, O grave?**

**Soar we now where Christ has led,
following our exalted Head;
made like him, like him we rise;
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.**

**Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to thee by both be given:
thee we greet triumphant now;
hail, the Resurrection Thou!**

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Blessing and Dismissal

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the everlasting covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you what is pleasing in his sight;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

At the Shrine of Our Lady

Regina Coeli

**Joy to thee, O Queen of heaven, alleluia!
He whom thou was meet to bear, alleluia!
As he promised hath arisen, alleluia!
Pour for us to God thy prayer, alleluia!**

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God,
Who gave joy to the world
through the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
grant we pray, that with his mother, the Virgin Mary,
we may obtain the joys of everlasting life.
Through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**