

Morning Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020

Hymn 193

That Easter Day with joy was bright

That Easter Day with joy was bright,
The sun shone out with fairer light,
When, to their longing eyes restored,
The apostles saw their risen Lord.

His risen flesh with radiance glowed;
his wounded hands and feet he showed;
those scars their solemn witness gave
that Christ was risen from the grave.

O Jesus, King of gentleness,
Do Thou Thyself our hearts possess
That we may give Thee all our days
The willing tribute of our praise.

O Lord of all, with us abide
In this our joyful Eastertide;
From ev'ry weapon death can wield
Thine own redeemed for ever shield.

All praise, O risen Lord, we give,
To Thee, who, dead, again dost live;
To God the Father equal praise,
And God the Holy Ghost, we raise.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed: Come let us adore him.
Alleluia.

Christ our Passover *Pascha nostrum*

1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Romans 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

Alleluia.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; *
therefore let us keep the feast,

Not with old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, *
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; *
death no longer has dominion over him.

The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; *
but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So also consider yourselves dead to sin, *
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ has been raised from the dead, *
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since by a man came death, *
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, *
so in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

Psalm 23

Dominus regit me

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

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble
me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.

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 to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Acts 2:42-47

Those who had been baptized 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.

Here ends the reading.

18 A Song to the Lamb *Dignus es*
Revelation 4:11, 5:9-10, 13

Splendor and honor and kingly power *
are yours by right, O Lord our God,
For you created everything that is, *
and by your will they were created and have their being;

And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, *
for with your blood you have redeemed for God,
From every family, language, people, and nation, *
a kingdom of priests to serve our God.

And so, to him who sits upon the throne, *
and to Christ the Lamb,
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, *
for ever and for evermore.

1 Peter 2:19-25

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.

Here ends the reading.

Hymn 708

Savior like a shepherd lead us

Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;

Early let us seek Thy favor;
Early let us learn Thy will;
Do Thou, Lord, our only Savior,
With Thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still;

John 10:1-10

Jesus said, “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.”

Here ends the reading.

Sermon

Once again, I do not believe that it is a coincidence that Good Shepherd Sunday has come up during this uncertain time that we are living in right now. Psalm 23 has always brought comfort during times of stress. It is frequently heard at funerals and is present on the cards given out at funeral homes. It is one of David’s most well-known poems and many have it memorized from saying it so often.

“The Lord is my shepherd”. Yes, Christ is our shepherd. In the Gospel of John, he tells us that himself. In fact, in our reading today, he tells us he is not only the shepherd but the gate into the sheepfold as well. He is both. He lets us into safety and keeps us from harm. He knows each of us by name and cares for each of us. We know his voice and follow where he leads.

It will be even more important than ever that we follow him in the weeks ahead. As the precautions we have been living with lately are loosened, we will have to rely on Jesus to let us know how to stay safe. There are already many would be shepherds who would lead us. The news is full of ideas and lists of how to proceed from the strict guidelines we have been following. And not all the shepherds are looking after our welfare. We will have to be vigilant and careful and prayerful as we move forward.

The bishop has asked me to join the Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee of the diocese as it looks at when and how

we can open the churches to community worship once again. It is a very complicated issue and there are suggestions from federal, state and local sources, both secular and spiritual. It can be overwhelming and confusing. There are timeline and guideline differences which must be aligned for the bishop to give a clear response to the church.

I think this is a time when prayer is vitally important. Pray that right decisions are made to keep people safe. Pray that people can once again work, children attend school, churches have worship services, meetings be held, restaurants serve food and concerts be played. Please pray diligently that decisions are made with care and expertise, that the good that has been done is not undone.

The Lord is our shepherd. Let us pray that we allow the shepherd to lead us faithfully and with care and love.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.

The Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.	Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.	Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.	Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.	For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Form III

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and
humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and
Sacraments.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations
of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The Collect of the Day

O God, whose Son Jesus 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 Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for the Renewal of Life

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Hymn 205 Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing
Now is the triumph of our King
To all the world glad news we bring

Chorus:

Alleluia alleluia alleluia

The Lord of Life is risen today!
Sing songs of praise along his way,
Let all the world rejoice and say (Chorus)

Praise we in songs of victory
That Love, that Life which cannot die
And sing with hearts uplifted high (Chorus)

Your name we bless O risen Lord,
And sing today with one accord
The life laid down, the Life restored (Chorus)

To God the Father, God the Son,
To God the Spirit, always One,
We sing for life in us begun. (Chorus)

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.
Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14