

came that they may have life and have it abundantly.'

## THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

It is as if this gentle loving Word, my Son, were saying to you: 'Look, I have made the road and opened the gate for you with my blood. Do not fail, then, to follow it. Do not sit down to rest out of selfish concern for yourself, foolishly saying you do not know the way. Do not presume to choose your own way of serving instead of the one I have made for you in my own person, eternal Truth, incarnate Word, the straight way hammered out with my own blood.' Get up, then, and follow him, for no one can come to me the Father except through him. He is the way and the gate through whom you must enter into me, the sea of peace.

*(St Catherine of Siena, The Dialogue)*

### Prayer over the Offerings

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries, so that the renewal constantly at work within us may be the cause of our unending joy.

### Communion Antiphon

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

### Prayer after Communion

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd, and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures the sheep you have redeemed by the Precious Blood of your Son.

### Solemn Blessing

*May God, who by the Resurrection of his Only Begotten Son was pleased to confer on you the gift of redemption and of adoption, give you gladness by his blessing. Amen.*

*May he, by whose redeeming work you have received the gift of everlasting freedom, make you heirs to an eternal inheritance. Amen.*

*And may you, who have already risen with Christ in Baptism through faith, by living in a right manner on this earth be united with him in the homeland of heaven. Amen.*

*And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. Amen.*

# Fourth Sunday of Easter

Year A

26<sup>th</sup> April 2026

### Jesus, Shepherd, Gate of the Sheepfold

*Today, the Fourth Sunday of Easter is commonly known as 'Good Shepherd Sunday' because in all three years of the cycle of readings the gospel is taken from St John chapter 10, in which Jesus is revealed as the loving shepherd. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus has become the gateway through which we enter into new life. I am the way, the truth and the life (John 14: 1-6) He is the shepherd who walks ahead of the flock, showing the path, calling us to follow. Let us be attentive to the voice of the Good Shepherd.*

### Entrance Antiphon

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

### Collect

Almighty ever-living God, lead us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before.

### ACTS 2: 14, 36-41

On the day of Pentecost Peter, standing with the Eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the Apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is

for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.' And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this crooked generation.' So those who received his word were baptised, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

#### THE WORD OF THE LORD

Today we listen to the conclusion of Peter's address at Pentecost and the reaction to it. We are given the principle elements in Christian conversion. First there is repentance; a recognition of our weakness, failings and need for someone stronger than ourselves. Next comes the acknowledgement of Jesus as Lord and Christ. Thirdly there is baptism into the name of Jesus and lastly there is the gift of the Spirit, by which the Christian is enabled to live as Christ and with Christ's life. (*Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB*)

**PSALM: 23(22):1-3-4. 5. 6.**

**Response:** *The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me; he revives my soul.

He guides me along the right path, for the sake of his name. Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death, no evil would I fear, for you are with me. Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.

You have prepared a table before me in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

In the LORD's own house shall I dwell for length of days unending.

#### 1 PETER 2: 20-25

Beloved: If when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten,

but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

#### THE WORD OF THE LORD

We continue reading the First Letter of Peter, composed before 64 AD. If you remember, it is more of a collection of random sermons, than a formal letter. In today's passage, Peter addresses himself to Christians who are living as slaves and he encourages them to turn their suffering to good. He reminds them, as he reminds us, that if we must bear suffering it is a great inspiration that we can join our sufferings to the sufferings which Christ offered for the world. For Jesus is not only the lamb that was slain to take away our sins, but he is also our shepherd and guardian of our souls.

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

#### JOHN 10: 1-10

At that time: Jesus said, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.' This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus again said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I