

A service of the Word for the 4th Sunday of Easter

Welcome to all and introduction of those who have contributed to the service. *[Priest]*

Notices – if any

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

O Lord, open our lips and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Hymn

Collect

[Priest] Risen Christ,

faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:

teach us to hear your voice

and to follow your command,

that all your people may be gathered into one flock,

to the glory of God the Father.

Bible Reading: Acts Chapter 2 vv 42-47

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.

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

3 He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 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, 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 shall be full.

6 Surely goodness and loving 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 shall be for ever. Amen.

Gospel: St John 10 vv 1-10

Sermon

[Priest] Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Hymn

[Priest] Let us join in prayer for forgiveness:

Friend of sinners, you bring hope in our despair.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Healer of the sick, you give strength in our weakness.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Destroyer of evil, you bring life in our dying.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

[Priest] May the God of love and power
forgive *you* and free *you* from *your* sins,
heal and strengthen *you* by his Spirit,
and raise *you* to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Our Service draws to a Conclusion

[Priest]

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Blessing