

Year B
Acts 4:5-12

Ps. 23

April 25, 2021
1 John 3: 16-24

Good Shepherd Sunday
John 10:11-18

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Processional Hymn # 600 You Call Us Out to praise You

You call us out to praise you, one God for all the earth;
to gather in communion, and treasure human worth;
we are your living story, to hear and to be heard;
we praise your name, who write us, the Writer and the Word.

For varied hues and textures, new patterns, still you search
to weave your seamless garment, the fabric of your church;
our tattered faith you cherish, reclaim from wear and moth;
we praise your name, who twine us, the Weaver and the Cloth.

The church that speaks forgiveness confesses its own need;
the church that feels its hunger finds grace to care and feed;
our famished world is crying, its future filled with dread;
we praise your name, who fill us, the Baker and the Bread.

The church that offers healing discerns its wounds and loss;
the church that faces dying shares life beyond the cross;
to people torn and broken your mercy is revealed;
we praise your name, who love us, the Healer and the Healed.

Our feeble voices struggle to sing your justice clear;
the world has sunk in silence, each discord echoes fear.
One voice alone is ragged; together, we are strong,
we praise your name, who breathe us, the Singer and the Song.

THE GREETING

Celebrant
People

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

Celebrant
People

May his grace and peace be with you.
May he fill our hearts with joy.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known
and from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your
Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify
your holy name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant

O God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do your will, and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

1st Reading: Acts 4:5-12

Reader

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let 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,^[c] whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Reader

The word of the Lord

People

Thanks be to God

PSALM 23

Please remain seated

Leader

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

People

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

Leader

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

People

**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.**

Leader

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.

People

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 you, Jesus Christ, our good shepherd. In the waters of baptism you give us new birth, at your table you nourish us with heavenly food, and in your goodness and mercy, you guide us beyond the terrors of evil and death to your Father's home to dwell in eternal light. Glory to you for ever.

2nd Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

Reader

A reading from the first letter of John

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

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

Reader

The word of the Lord

People

Thanks be to God

HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:11-18

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

All

And also with you.

Celebrant

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

All

Glory be to thee, O Lord

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No 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."

Celebrant

The Gospel of Christ

All

Praise be to thee, O Christ

Homily

The Rev. Canon Gloria Master

THE CREED

Celebrant

All

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,
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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader

Let us pray in faith to God our Father, to his Son Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit, saying, "**Lord, hear and have mercy.**"

Leader

For the Church of the living God throughout the world, let us ask the riches of his grace.

All

Lord, hear and have mercy.

Leader

For all who proclaim the word of truth, let us ask the infinite wisdom of Christ.

All

Lord, hear and have mercy.

Leader

For all who have consecrated their lives to the kingdom of God, and for all struggling to follow the way of Christ, let us ask the gifts of the Spirit.

All

Lord, hear and have mercy.

Leader

For Elizabeth our Queen, for the Prime Minister of this country, and for all who govern the nations, that they may strive for justice and peace, let us ask the strength of God.

All

Lord, hear and have mercy.

Leader

For scholars and research-workers, that their studies may benefit humanity, let us ask the light of the Lord.

All

Lord, hear and have mercy.

Leader

For all who have passed from this life in faith and obedience, let us ask the peace of Christ.

All

Lord, hear and have mercy.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Celebrant Let us humbly confess our sins to almighty God.

Silence is kept.

Celebrant **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things and judge of all people: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we from time to time most grievously have committed, By thought, word and deed, Against thy divine majesty. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
All **And with thy spirit.**

The members of the community greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Offertory Hymn # 576 For the Healing of the Nations

**For the healing of the nations, God, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords.
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.**

**Lead us, Father, into freedom; from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.**

**All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice, may we hallow life's brief span.**

**You, Creator God, have written your great name on human kind;
for our growing in your likeness, bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find.**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Celebrant **God of loving care, you spread before us a 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 good shepherd. Amen**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer 4

Celebrant
People

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Celebrant
People

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
People

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

People

It is right to give you thanks and praise, O Lord, our God, sustainer of the universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our fragile home; by your will they were created and have their being.

People

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill; you made us the stewards of creation.

People

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant

But we turn against you, and betray your trust; and we turn against one another. Again and again you call us to return. Through the prophets and sages you reveal your righteous law. In the fullness of time you sent your Son, born of a woman, to be our Saviour. He was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities. By his death he opened to us the way of freedom and peace.

People

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant

Therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

All

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.

Celebrant

Blessed are you, Lord our God, for sending us Jesus, the Christ, who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, gave it to his friends, and said, "Take this, and eat it: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup of wine; he gave you thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new

covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

People

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant

Gracious God, we recall the death of your Son Jesus Christ, we proclaim his resurrection and ascension, and we look with expectation for his coming as Lord of all the nations. We who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring you these gifts. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this offering of your Church, that we who eat and drink at this holy table may share the divine life of Christ our Lord.

People

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant

Pour out your Spirit upon the whole earth and make it your new creation. Gather your Church together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, where peace and justice are revealed, that we, with all your people, of every language, race, and nation, may share the banquet you have promised; through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, all honour and glory are yours, creator of all.

People

Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant

And now, as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say:

All

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of Bread

Celebrant

Lord, we died with you on the cross.

All

Now we are raised to new life.

Celebrant

We were buried in your tomb.

All

Now we share in your resurrection.

Celebrant

Live in us, that we may live in you.

Celebrant

The gifts of God for the people of God.

All

Thanks be to God.

AGNUS DEI

Celebrant

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

All

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Celebrant

Those wishing to do so may make their spiritual communion by joining in this prayer with me now:

People:

I worship and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, present in the Holy Sacrament and in your people, who are gathered in spirit. In this moment I join with them to receive you in my heart, and in our community. May you, enthroned on the altar, now be enthroned in my heart; may you who give yourself to us again, fill us with grace, and heavenly blessing. Even as I am fed, may my hunger for you and for your reign of justice and peace increase, that I may, with your Spirit, work for that day when your reign shall come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Hymn during communion # 657

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit, you have chosen me to be—

you have drawn me to your wonder, you have set your sign on me.

**Like a mother, you enfold me, hold my life within your own,
fed me with your very body, form me of your flesh and bone.**

**Like a father, you protect me, teach me the discerning eye,
hoist me up upon your shoulder, let me see the world from high.**

**Friend and lover, in your closeness I am known and held and blessed
in your promise is my comfort, in your presence I may rest.**

Loving Spirit, loving Spirit, you have chosen me to be—

you have drawn me to your wonder, you have set your sign on me.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant All your works praise you, O Lord.
All **And your faithful servants bless you.**

Gracious God we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. May we, who share his body, live his risen life; we, who drink his cup, bring life to others; we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen

The Blessing

Celebrant This day and every day, may the faithful shepherd protect you from all evil, strengthen you with goodness, and lead you to the fullness of his love. The blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you this day and always.

Recessional Hymn #425 Joyful, joyful

**Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, God of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**

**All the works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee, centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.**

**Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father and our Mother, all who dwell in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.**