

Fourth Sunday Eastertide Cycle A

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance: Sing a New Song

Refrain: Sing a new song unto our God;

Let your song be sung from mountains high.

Sing a new song unto our God, singing alleluia!

Shout with gladness! Dance for joy! O come before our God.
Play for God on glad tambourines, and let your trumpet sound!

Rise, O people, from your sleep; your Savior now has come.
Christ has turned your sorrow to joy, and filled your soul with
song.

Greeting

Presider: We enter into Liturgy; In the name of God the +
Creator, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Introduction

Presider: Today's Gospel focuses on Jesus' identity as the shepherd using the familiar Hebrew Scripture imagery. Jesus is both the gate to the sheepfold and the shepherd willing to suffer for his flock. The invitation is to follow this wounded shepherd, knowing that we have been healed precisely by his wounds. In a world obsessed with power and strength, what image would motivate someone to follow him?

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Opening Prayer

Deacon: May the grace of Jesus the Risen Christ, the love of God and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you.

All: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray. Good Shepherd, you call us by name, and we know your voice. Open the gate for us, that we may come and go freely, have life, and have it abundantly.

All: Amen

PENITENTIAL RITE

Call to Confession

Presider: God has been made known to us in deeds of power, signs, and wonders, and will not abandon us if we confess the truth about our lives.

All: Loving God, we confess that we have not been faithful to you in our thoughts and actions. We have been selfish in our desires and quarrelsome in our relationships. We have allowed fear to divide us from those who seem different, and let distrust separate us from our brothers and sisters. Shine your light into our darkened hearts. Save us in the same mind as Jesus, the Christ, who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit in perfect harmony.

The Kyrie

Deacon: Christ Jesus, you identify yourself as the gate for the sheepfold: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

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Deacon: Christ Jesus, you are the protective shepherd whose voice conveys life: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Deacon: Christ Jesus, you call us to follow you that we might have life: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Presider: May our Merciful God absolve you and me, a sinner, and with the authority vested in me through Jesus the Christ, I absolve you from all your sins; in the name of God the Creator +, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Deacon: Loving God, we pray that your Holy Spirit will strengthen us to be devoted to the teachings of your Word, that through it we may hear your voice and follow it into eternal life.

All: Amen.

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LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading:

Acts 2:14, 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

"Let the whole house of Israel know beyond any doubt that God made this Jesus - whom you crucified - both Messiah and Sovereign."

When they heard this, they were deeply shaken. They asked Peter and the other disciples, "What are we to do?" Peter replied, "You must repent and be baptized, each one of you, in the name of Jesus the Messiah, that your sins may be forgiven; then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. It was to you and your children that the promise was made, and to all those still far off whom Our God calls."

In support of his testimony, Peter used many other arguments and kept saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation!" They were convinced of his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptized. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

The Word of God. R/. Thanks be to God

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Responsorial Psalm

PS 23:1-2a, 3b-4, 5, 6

Leader: Our response is:

R. God is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

God is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures God gives me repose;
beside restful waters God leads me; God refreshes my soul.

R. God is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

God guides me in right paths for God's name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side.
With your rod and your staff that give me courage.

R. God is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

R. God is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of God for years to come.

R. God is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

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Second Reading:

1 Peter 2:20-25

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

You put up with suffering for doing what is right; this is acceptable in God's eyes. It was for this that you were called; since Christ suffered for you in just this way and left you an example. You must follow in the footsteps of Christ, who did no wrong, who spoke no deceit, who did not return insults when insulted, who, when made to suffer, did not counter with threats.

Instead, Christ trusted the One who judges justly. It was Christ's own body that brought our sins to the cross, so that all of us, dead to sin, could live in accord with God's will. By Christ's wounds you are healed. At one time, you were straying like sheep, but now have returned to the Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.

The Word of God. R/. Thanks be to God

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ALLELUIA!

I am the good shepherd, says the Savior;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

ALLELUIA!

Presider/Deacon: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Gospel Reading:

John 10:1-10

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

All: Glory to you o God!

Jesus said,

"I solemnly assure you;

whoever does not enter the sheepfold through the gate

but climbs in some other way

is a thief and a marauder.

The one who enters through the gate

is shepherd of the sheep,

the one for whom the keeper opens the gate.

The sheep know this one's voice;

the shepherd calls them by name and leads them out.

Having brought all of them out,

the shepherd walks in front of them that they may follow

because they recognize the shepherd's voice.

They will not follow a stranger,

from such a one they will flee,

because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."

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Even though Jesus used this figure of speech with them, they did not grasp what he was trying to tell them. He therefore said to them again:

"My solemn word is this:

I am the sheep gate.

All who came before me were thieves and marauders
whom the sheep did not heed.

I am the gate.

Whoever enters through me will be safe.

You will go in and out and find pasture.

The thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy.

I came that you might have life
and have it to the full."

The Good News of Salvation!

R/. Praise to you Jesus the Christ!

Homily

Deacon/ Speaker/Presider:...

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The Profession of Faith

All: We believe in God who made us all, and whose Divine Presence and infinite love infuses all of life and creation with the sacred.

We believe that Jesus is the face of God on earth in whom we best see the divine justice, divine mercy, and divine compassion to which we are all called. He celebrated with outcasts and sinners and touched the broken so that they could leap and dance.

We believe that Jesus suffered so that we might realize that the spirit in us can never be killed, whatever price we have to pay for staying true to the mind of God. That Jesus died and was raised on the third day. He changed all of life for all of us thereafter. He ascended into the life of God, the life beyond life, and waits there for us. He lived in those he left behind and lives in each of us as well.

We believe in the Christ who is One with the Creator and who shows us the presence of God in everything that is and calls out the sacred in ourselves. The Christ who calls us beyond the boundaries of ourselves to forgiveness, and to everything that stretches our hearts to the infinite dimensions of God.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, who gives light to hearts now blind and infuses energy into spirits yet weary, isolated, searching and confused. That this Spirit is ever present and urges us to live joyfully and walk hopefully.

We believe in the Church as a community of the sons and daughters of God, the mystical body of Christ.

We believe that we will live forever in the embrace of God and trust that creation goes on creating in this world and in us forever. Amen.

Prayers of the Faithful

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Deacon: In a world where power speaks with a loud voice, we pray for all whose lives are endangered.

Leader: Our response is...Risen Christ, hear our Prayer.

All: Risen Christ, hear our Prayer.

Leader: For the church: that it may embody an alternate image to unbridled power: We pray.

All: Risen Christ, hear our Prayer.

Leader: For victims of war and violence, especially refugees, women and children. We pray.

All: Risen Christ, hear our Prayer.

Leader: For those who exhibit bullying behavior to the weak and suffering. We pray.

All: Risen Christ, hear our Prayer.

Leader: For those afraid to acknowledge their woundedness, and those who cannot find advocates. We pray.

All: Risen Christ, hear our Prayer.

Leader: For those who take risks to attend to the needs of others, especially in dangerous situations at hospitals. We pray.

All: Risen Christ, hear our Prayer.

Leader: For the ministers of our Jurisdiction and our community: that they may truly be light for others and led by your truth. We pray.

All: Risen Christ, hear our Prayer.

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Leader: For the growth of St Marguerite Faith Community, that we will be prayerful in witnessing to others Jesus' Gospel message of love and inclusion. We pray.

All: Risen Christ, hear our Prayer.

Leader: For all who suffer because of illness, injury, or age and for those who care for them including any you wish to mention at this time. (Pause)

and for all those recently deceased to rest in the everlasting domain of Christ including any you wish to mention at this time.

(Pause)

We pray:

All: Risen Christ, hear our Prayer.

Leader: For our neighbors, close to home and around the world, including any you wish to mention at this time. (Pause) We pray.

All: Risen Christ, hear our Prayer.

Leader: And for all the prayers that we hold in the quiet of our hearts. (Pause) We pray:

All: Risen Christ, hear our Prayer.

Presider: Abba God, who leads, protects and beckons us, we pray for open ears to hear your voice in new and different ways. Help us to resist arrogance and the temptation to reject vulnerability. Show us how to be open to the call of Jesus, the Shepherd, who comes to give us life. We ask this in His holy name.

All: Amen.

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The Sign of Peace

Deacon: If you are offering your gift, and remember your sister or brother has something against you, leave your gift there and go; first to be reconciled to your sister or brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Presider: The peace of God be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Presider: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another with a sign of His peace.

Offertory: Shepherd Me, O God

**Refrain: Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
Beyond my fears, from death into life.**

God is my shepherd, so nothing I shall I want,
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace.

Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
You lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
My spirit shall sing the music of your name.

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LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparations

Presider: Blessed are you, God of the universe, through Your goodness we have this bread to offer; which earth has given and human hands have made, let it become the bread of life.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Presider: By the mystery of this wine and water, may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled Himself to share in our humanity.

Presider: Blessed are you, God of the universe, you are the giver of this wine, fruit of the vine and of human labor. May it become the cup of Love.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Presider: As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside and now reunited on this table in bread and wine, O God, may your whole church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.

Presider: Merciful God, we ask You to receive us and be pleased with the gifts we offer You with humble and contrite hearts.

Washing of the Hands

Presider: Creator God, cleanse my heart, and open it to whatever You wish for me.

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Presider: Pray, my brothers and sisters, that these gifts may be acceptable to God.

All: **May God accept these gifts, for the praise and glory of Your name, for our good and the good of all Your Church.**

Prayer over the Gifts

Presider: O God, be pleased with the gifts we bring to you. Bless + this bread and this wine and make them a sacred offering of thanksgiving for our everlasting life. We ask this through Jesus, the Christ.

All: Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer (Offertory)

Deacon: God dwells in you.

All: And also with you.

Deacon: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

Deacon: Come to the table with thankful hearts.

All: We open our hearts to God and one another.

Preface

Presider: It is truly right to glorify you, Creator God, and to give you thanks, for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and forever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing, you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day, and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them,

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and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we glorify your name and lift our voices in joyful praise:

All: Holy, holy, holy God! God of wonder and awe; heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of Our God. Hosanna in the highest!

Eucharistic Prayer: (Canon) THANKSGIVING

Presider: We give thanks to You, Creator God, through Your beloved Son, Jesus, the Christ, whom in these last days You have sent us as Savior, Redeemer and Messenger of Your will. He is Your Word, inseparable from You. Through Him You have made all things and in Him You were well pleased. You sent Him from heaven to a virgin's womb. There He dwelt, and was made flesh. He was revealed as Your Son, born through the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin. When he suffered, He fulfilled Your will and gained for you a holy people. He stretched out His hands to free from suffering those who believed in You.

Institutions

Presider: When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

***Take this all of you, and eat it:
This is my body. Do this in memory of me.***

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Presider: After supper in the same way, he took the cup, filled with wine. He gave you thanks, blessed it and gave the cup to his disciples, and said:

*Take this, all of you, and drink:
This is the cup of my blood,
the blood of the new and everlasting covenant.
It is poured out for you and for all.
Do this in memory of me.*

Acclimation

All: Remembering your gracious acts, we offer our lives to you in service and praise as we keep the feast that Christ prepares: bread of heaven, cup of love, celebration and life.

Deacon: Great is the mystery of faith:

All Sing: *Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.*

Epiclesis

Gracious God, as your Spirit hovered over creation, as your Spirit descended like a dove on Jesus, your beloved Son, may your Spirit hover over us, and descend on these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may they be for us the + body and + blood of Christ.

Commemorations

All: Remember o God, your one holy catholic and apostolic church, rejuvenated by the Spirit and your Son. Reveal its unity, guard its faith and preserve it in peace.

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Remember our bishops and all who minister in your church. Grant that the various ministries we share may be a sign of the unity in diversity that is your kingdom.

Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.

Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith are known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

Conclusion

All: In addition, grant that we may find our inheritance, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with prophets, apostles and martyrs, St Marguerite and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son, Jesus, the Christ.

Great Amen

All: Through Christ, may all creation unfold.

With Christ, may all creation be one.

In Christ, may all life be healed.

We eat this bread, we drink this cup.

We share as one body of Christ.

We give our thanks!

Amen, amen, amen!

Our Father

Deacon: Now let us praise, thank and petition our God, as Jesus the Christ taught us:

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

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trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Following Prayer

Presider: Grant us peace, Your most precious gift, O Eternal Source of peace, and give us the will to proclaim its message to all the peoples of the earth. Strengthen the bonds of friendship among the inhabitants of all lands, and may the love of Your name hallow every home and every heart. Blessed is the Eternal God, the Source of peace.

Doxology

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Presider: This cup which we bless, is it not a participation in the Blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the Body of Christ?

All: Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

Lamb of God

All: Lamb of God, You call us to the Gospel of Peace,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You call us to the Gospel of Love,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You call us to the Gospel of Hope,
grant us peace.

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Presider: May the union of divinity and humanity + in Jesus Christ bring us sanctification and eternal life.

All: Amen.

Communion Prayer

All: Jesus the Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, Your death brought life to the world. By Your Holy Body and Blood, free us from every evil. Keep us faithful to Your teaching and never let us be parted from You.

Presider: We will take the Bread of heaven and call upon the name of the Christ.

All: Jesus, you have made us worthy to receive you, by saying the word and healing us.

Presider: The gifts of God are given by Jesus who said: I am the bread of life; feed on Him in faith with thanksgiving.

All: Amen.

Holy Communion - Communion Song

Communion: Easter Alleluia

Refrain: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Now in our midst the Risen Christ will appear,
Shine in the faces of all of us here,
Fill us with joy and cast out all our fear. Alleluia!

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Call us, Good Shepherd, we listen for You,
Wanting to see You in all that we do.
We would the gate of salvation pass through. Alleluia!

Jesus, we are open to all that you say,
Ready to listen and follow your way,
You are the potter and we are the clay. Alleluia!

CONCLUDING RITE

Prayer after Communion

Presider: God works through you.

All: And also through you.

Presider: In peace let us pray to our wondrous God:

All: God of Compassion, through your son Jesus the Christ you reconciled your people to yourself. Emulating his example of prayer and fasting, may we follow you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love.

Amen.

Announcements

Final Blessings

Deacon: Bow your heads and ask for God's blessing.

Blessing

when Bishop presides:

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Bishop: Blessed be the name of God

All: Now and forever

Bishop: Our help is in the name of God

All: Who made Heaven and Earth.

Presider: May the God who calls us by name lead you out to green pastures and lead you in to the safety of Christ's fold.

All: Amen.

Presider: May Almighty God bless you: our Creator, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Dismissal

Deacon: This mass is ended; go forth to devote yourself to the teachings of the gospel, to your prayers and our Christian fellowship day by day, for they will lead you to a glad and generous heart. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Fourth Sunday Eastertide Cycle A

Closing: Joyful, Joyful We Adore You (Hymn to Joy Melody)

Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
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 your works with joy surround you
earth and heav'n reflect your rays,
Stars and angels sing around you,
center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea.
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,
praising you eternally.

Always giving and forgiving; ever blessing, ever blest.
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Loving Father, Christ our brother, let your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.