

SUNDAY, April 25, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Prayer for the Morning

We, your people, the flock of your pasture,/ will give you thanks for ever and ever;/ we will tell your praise from age to age, alleluia! (cf. Ps 79:13)

Glory to the Father... Amen Alleluia.

Hymn

Meter: 76 76 D

So lately sprung from glory,
A shepherd seeks his sheep,
Across a desert country,
Through lonely rocks and steep.
A rumor fills the valleys,
Glad tidings sweep the plain,
Good news comes from the mountains:
God's Christ has come to reign.
A steady drum of thunder
Awakes the human world.
The great procession gathers
With banners all unfurled.
Each secret heart's allegiance
Is suddenly made known—
As "Holy, holy, holy!"
Rings round the heav'nly throne.
Sing praise to God the Father,
Creator of the earth.
Praise to his Son, Christ Jesus,
Whose blood gives us new birth.
Praise to the Holy Spirit,
Who speeds us on our way
Through halls of shining glory
To God's eternal day.

Psalm

84:2-8

My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. (Jn 10:27)

Let us listen for his voice in the Word of God proclaimed to us during the Eucharist, and in those appointed to lead us in his name, that after we have passed through the dark valley, we may join with all the angels and saints in singing, "Holy, holy, holy" around God's throne!

How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord, God of hosts.
My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.

My heart and my soul ring out their joy to God, the living God.

The sparrow herself finds a home
and the swallow a nest for her brood;
she lays her young by your altars,
Lord of hosts, my king and my God.
They are happy, who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

They are happy, whose strength is in you,
in whose hearts are the roads to Zion.

As they go through the Bitter Valley
they make it a place of springs,
the autumn rain covers it with blessings.
They walk with ever growing strength,
they will see the God of gods in Zion.

Glory to the Father

Word of God

Numbers 27:15-17

Moses said to the Lord, "May the Lord, the God of the spirits of all mankind, set over the community a man who shall act as their leader in all things, to guide them in all their actions; that the Lord's community may not be like sheep without a shepherd."

Be attentive to him and heed his voice. (Ex 23:21)

Canticle of Zechariah

God brought forth his people like sheep;/ he guided his flock in the desert./ He led them safely with nothing to fear. (cf. Ps 78:52-53)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father...

Intercessions

Let us pray for all those who have been appointed to the task of shepherd in the Church:

R/O Shepherd of Israel, hear us.

O Shepherd of all shepherds, guide and strengthen our Holy Father, – that he may always shepherd your flock in the image of Christ: **R/**

O Shepherd of all shepherds, inspire our local bishops, – that they may lead your people safely with nothing to fear: **R/**

O Shepherd of all shepherds, be with our local pastors, – that they may care for the lost: **R/**

Personal intentions

Our Father....

O God our Shepherd, you care for your flock across every desert and through every dark place.

Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, seek out and restore all those who have lost their way, that we may all come together into the glory of the Kingdom of your risen Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Mass - Sunday, April 25, 2021
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Reading 1 Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said: “Leaders of the people and elders: If we are being examined today about a good deed done to a cripple, namely, by what means he was saved, then all of you and all the people of Israel should know that it was in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead; in his name this man stands before you healed. He is the stone rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is

there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved.”

Reading 2 1 John 3:1-2

Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Gospel John 10:11-18

Jesus said: “I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why 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 on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father.”

Men of St. Joseph Prayer

St. Joseph, help me to be like you. Help me to be obedient to the teachings of the Church and faithful to God’s commands. Help me to patiently endure my cross each day. Let me be a model of holiness and a pillar of virtue. I solemnly promise to embrace God’s will and I accept the challenge to work tirelessly for my family’s salvation. Be my guide and companion on this journey. St. Joseph, terror of demons, pray for us!

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