

FAITH FOR SUNDAY

April 21, 2024 Year B

Fourth Sunday of Easter



OPENING PRAYER

+In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

Father God, thank you for this time with you. May the Holy Spirit be upon me, that I may receive wisdom from your Word, be open to Your holy Will and give glory to You always. Through Christ our Lord, Amen

Our Father + Hail Mary + Glory Be

LECTIO DIVINA

Invite the Holy Spirit - Read - Reflect - Respond in Prayer - Rest in Silence

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."

Today is called Good Shepard Sunday. What makes a shepard good? The relationship between shepard and sheep is at the heart of what makes a shepard good or bad. What kind of relationship do you have with Christ? Jesus also mentions his relationship with others who do not belong to the fold. What do you think it would take to have one flock and one shepard?

Reading I: Acts 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."

St. Peter announces an act of healing in the name of Jesus Christ. This speech is confrontational, and the disciples are met with skeptical questioning. St. Peter boldly clarifies that it is the power of Jesus Christ and God who saved the crippled man. Have you experienced a time in your life where your faith was questioned? How did you respond?

Notes

RESPONSORIAL PSALM RESPONSE: The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

Reading II: 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.

God revealed his love for us by calling us children of God. The message, though simple and clear is still complex. How would the world come to know God? In what ways could we become the face of God to others? Knowing that we are His children, how do we act in ways that point to God?

Feast days this week

SUNDAY 21 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MONDAY 22 EASTER WEEKDAY

TUESDAY 23 EASTER WEEKDAY

WEDNESDAY 24 EASTER WEEKDAY

THURSDAY 25 ST. MARK, EVANGELIST, FEAST

FRIDAY 26 EASTER WEEKDAY

SATURDAY 27 EASTER WEEKDAY

reflect

In what ways do I feel the Shepard's love and care in my life?

pray

Father God, help me to be like you, to show to others that I am a child of God!
Through Christ our Lord,
Amen

live

Live a life knowing you are truly cared for and fully loved by God.