

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ~ May 3, 2020**  
**A LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR BROADCAST & LIVESTREAM**  
Book of Alternative Services

**OPENING RITE**

**All:**           **Alleluia! Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
**May his grace and peace be with us. May he fill our hearts with joy.**

Officiant:   Almighty God,

**All:**           **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.**

Officiant:   This is the day which the Lord has made. Alleluia!

**All:**           **Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia!**

***Collect of the Day***

O God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that 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.**

**THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

***First Reading***

*Acts 2:42-47*

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Reader:       The Word of the Lord.

**People:**      **Thanks be to God.**

***Psalm 23*** (please join in at home and say in unison)

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

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

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

**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.**

**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.**

**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 be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit \* as it was in the  
beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

***Second Reading***

*1 Peter 2:19-25*

For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

***The Holy Gospel***

*John 10:1-10*

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

***Homily***

## ***Nicene Creed***

**All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## ***Intercessions & Thanksgivings***

### ***An Easter Litany***

In joy and hope let us pray to the source of all life saying, "Hear us, Lord of glory!"

That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his holy and life-giving resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

**Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the Easter gospel; and that strong and prosperous churches may more fully embody the Easter gospel, let us pray to the Lord.

**Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That the fire of the Holy Spirit may be sent upon all the baptized; and that we may bear faithful witness to the risen Christ; let us pray to the Lord.

**Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That we may be transformed by Christ's indestructible love and have the humility to be subject to one another in that love, let us pray to the Lord.

**Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That by Christ's power disease, war and famine will cease, and healing, peace, and mercy prevail in every land and heart, let us pray to the Lord.

**Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That by Christ's justice those who are in need may be nourished and strengthened by those who have abundance, let us pray to the Lord.

**Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That by Christ's compassion may those who suffer in these pandemic days be comforted and restored by the kindness of others, let us pray to the Lord.

**Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That by Christ's resurrection those who have died may share in eternal life and those who mourn may receive everlasting hope, let us pray to the Lord.

**Hear us, Lord of glory!**

Gracious God, receive our prayers and give us grace to serve the world you love with passion and conviction. This we ask in the name of our risen Saviour. **Amen.**

### ***A Prayer of Thanksgiving:***

We praise and thank you, O God our Father, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him you have enlightened us by revealing the light that never fades, for dark death has been destroyed and radiant life is everywhere restored.

What was promised is fulfilled: we have been joined to God, through renewed life in the Spirit of the risen Lord.

Glory and praise to you, our Father, through Jesus your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Spirit, in the kingdom of light eternal, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

**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 DISMISSAL

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia!

**All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**All: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.**

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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