



The Fourth Sunday of Easter



Holy Communion

The Gathering of God's People

Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia! *Luke 24: 34*

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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.

The Penitence

Let us affirm our trust in God's mercy,
and confess that we need forgiveness.

Lord God, you created the world, and made us in your own image.
Forgive us when we turn away from you.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord God, through your Son you overcame evil and death.
Rescue us from slavery to sin.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord God, by your Spirit you restore us to fellowship
with you and with one another. Breathe your love and
freedom into our lives.

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy.

The Absolution

May the Father of all mercies cleanse you from your sins,
and restore you in his image to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Fourth Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Proclaiming and Receiving the Word

The First Reading

Acts 4. 5 - 12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

5 The Jewish rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, 6 with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. 7 When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, 9 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, 10 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, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 23

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.

The Second Reading

1 John 3. 16 - 24

A reading from the first letter of John

16 We know love by this, that the Son of God laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. 17 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? 18 Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. 19 And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him 20 whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. 21 Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; 22 and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases God. 23 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. 24 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.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Holy Gospel

St. John 10. 11 - 18

Hear the gospel of our Saviour Christ according to St. John, Chapter 10 beginning at verse 11.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ Christ

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 11 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 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. 13 The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 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. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 18 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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

The Sermon

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

The Prayers of God's People

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.

Jesus, light of the world,
bring the light and peace of your gospel to all the nations
Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, bread of life,
give food to the hungry
and nourish us all with your word.
Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,
be with us and all who follow you in the way, Deepen our appreciation of your truth
and fill us with your life.

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep, recover the straggler,
bind up the injured,
strengthen the sick and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,
we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you
Raise us with them to eternal life.

Jesus, Lord of life, in your mercy, hear us,
accept our prayers, and be with us always. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer



The Peace

(all stand please)

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, Peace be with you. The disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The Peace of the risen Lord be with you always
And also with you

Celebrating at the Lord's Table

At the eucharist we are with our crucified and risen Lord. We know that it was not only our ancestors, but we who were redeemed and brought forth from slavery to freedom, from mourning to feasting. We know that as he was with them in the upper room so our Lord is here with us now.

Until the kingdom of God comes let us celebrate this feast.

The priest takes the bread and wine and says

Priest Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us

People therefore let us celebrate the feast.

Priest The Lord is here.

People His Spirit is with us.

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Father, almighty and everliving God, at all times and in all places it is right to give you thanks and praise:

above all we praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, the true paschal lamb who was sacrificed for us; by dying he destroyed our death; by rising he restored our life:

And so with all your people, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

**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!

Blessed are you, Father, the creator and sustainer of all things;
you made us in your own image, male and female you created us;
even when we turned away from you, you never ceased to care for us,
but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin,
giving your only begotten Son to become man and suffer death on the cross to
redeem us; he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice for the sins of
the whole world: he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a
perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again:

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread; and when he had given thanks to
you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is my body which
is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks to you,
he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new
covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as
often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we do as Christ your Son commanded:

**we remember his passion and death,
we celebrate his resurrection and ascension,
and we look for the coming of his kingdom.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of praise and
thanksgiving; and as we eat and drink these holy gifts, grant by the power of the life-
giving Spirit that we may be made one in your holy Church and partakers of the
body and blood of your Son, that he may dwell in us and we in him:

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, for
ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God, who has taken away the sins of the world.

Happy are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

Going out as God's People

The Post Communion Prayers

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

The Blessing and the Dismissal

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