

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, lead us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

1st. READING (Acts 2, 14.36-41)

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and, with a loud voice, addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all foreigners now staying in Jerusalem, listen to what I have to say. Let Israel then know for sure that God has made Lord and Christ this Jesus whom you crucified. " When they heard this, they were deeply troubled. And they asked Peter and the other apostles, "What shall we do, brothers?" Peter answered: "Each of you must repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins may be forgiven. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise of God was made to you and your children, and to all those from afar whom our God may call." With many other words Peter gave the message and appealed to them saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." So those who accepted his word were baptized; some three thousand persons were added to their number that day.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 23)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want./He makes me lie down in green pastures./He leads me beside the still waters,he restores my soul./He guides me through the right paths for his name's sake./You spread a table before me in the presence of my foes. You anoint my head with oil;/my cup is overflowing./Goodness and kindness will follow me/all the days of my life, I shall dwell in the house of the Lord as long as I live.

2nd. READING (1 Pe 2, 20-25)

What merit would there be in taking a beating when you have done wrong? But if you endure punishment when you have done well, that is a grace before God. This is your calling: remember Christ who suffered for you, leaving you an example so that you may follow in his way. He did no wrong and there was no deceit in his mouth. He did not return insult for insult and, when suffering, he did not curse but put himself in the hands of God who judges justly. He went to the cross burdened with our sins so that we might die to sin and live an upright life. For by his wounds you have been healed. You were like stray sheep, but you have come back to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

GOSPEL (Jn 10,1-10)

Jesus said to the Jews: I say to you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate, but climbs in some other way, is a thief and a robber. But the shepherd of the sheep enters by the gate. The keeper opens the gate to him and the sheep hear his voice; he calls each of his sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them and the sheep follow him for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, rather they will run away from him because they don't recognize a stranger's voice." Jesus used this comparison, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, I am the gate of the sheep. All who came were thieves and robbers, and the sheep did not hear them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved; he will go in and out freely and find food. The thief comes to steal and kill and destroy, but I have come that they may have life, life in all its fullness.

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries, so that the renewal constantly at work within



us may be the cause of our unending joy. Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer after Communion

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd, and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures the sheep you have redeemed by the Precious Blood of your Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.