



Liturgy of the Word 4th Sunday Easter – Good Shepherd Sunday, Day of Prayer for Vocations

SONG: The Lord is my Shepherd ©Brian Boniwell <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGaRSf5CS8w>

SIGN OF THE CROSS: In name of the Father... OR Ki te ingoa... *Extend a warm welcome anyone else with you.* Today, the fourth Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday, we are reminded again of the great reason we have for rejoicing: Christ has died, Christ is risen and Christ walks with us as Shepherd. Today is also vocations Sunday; we pray that the Holy Spirit will bring forth in our communities the vocations the needed to help God’s merciful love be known to all people. And, it is Mother’s Day – we applaud the work of mother’s and pray for them with gratitude. Now, as we begin, let us recall God’s abundant mercy

You are the shepherd of the sheep, Lord have mercy	(All) Lord have mercy
Your sheep hear your voice, Christ have mercy	(All) Christ have mercy
You have come that we may have life, Lord have mercy	(All) Lord have mercy

A Litany – Let us recall God’s presence and love even within life’s struggles.

When good health abandons me	All: The Lord is my shepherd and loves me
When financial hardship strikes me	All: The Lord is my shepherd and loves me
When failure bites me	All: The Lord is my shepherd and loves me
When grief consumes me	All: The Lord is my shepherd and loves me
When hardship presses in on me	All: The Lord is my shepherd and loves me
When emptiness echoes through me	All: The Lord is my shepherd and loves me
When doubt and uncertainty undermine me	All: The Lord is my shepherd and loves me
When humiliation empties me	All: The Lord is my shepherd and loves me
When hope disappears from me	All: The Lord is my shepherd and loves me
When loneliness breaks me	All: The Lord is my shepherd and loves me
When darkness surrounds me	All: The Lord is my shepherd and loves me
When fear over-runs me	All: The Lord is my shepherd and loves me

COLLECT: Let us bring to mind all we want to pray for. *(Allow silence, 1 minute)*

Almighty and 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 forever and ever. **All: Amen.**

First READING: Acts 2:14, 36-41 *Allow a time of silence after the reading. (1-2 minutes).*

PSALM: Psalm 23

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| 1. The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want.
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me
The quiet waters by. | 3. Yea though I walk in death’s dark vale
Yet will I fear no ill,
For thou art with me; and thy rod
And staff me comfort still. |
| 2. My soul he doth restore again
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths or righteousness
The quiet waters by. | 4. My table thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint
And my cup over flows. |

5. Goodness and mercy all my life, Shall surely follow me
And in God's house forevermore, My dwelling place shall be.

Second READING: 1Peter 2:20-25

Allow a time of silence after the reading (1-2 minutes).

GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

SILENT REFLECTION: Recall a few words from the reading that seemed to stand out as you read or listened. Sit quietly and let these words go over and over in your mind. Then, if you are with someone else, talk about these things that stood out for you. **Allow 5 or more minutes for this.**

ALL: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. **All Amen.**

Prayer of the Faithful: As God's people, we are called to pray for the needs of the whole world.

If you are by yourself pray the petition and the whole response.

For the Church – that we find new ways and new energy to preach the gospel and share the good news of Jesus' life and resurrection.

Silence: **Reader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen! **All:** Alleluia. Let us rejoice!

For all, who through the Covid-19 pandemic, have lost their job or business – that they not lose hope, but find encouragement and practical help, in the support of government, community, neighbours, friends and family.

Silence: **Reader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen! **All:** Alleluia. Let us rejoice!

For leaders of nations – that they protect the right of all people, to religious freedom.

Silence: **Reader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen! **All:** Alleluia. Let us rejoice!

For vocations – that all the baptized have a deepened sense of their priestly vocation, and that this bears the fruit of more people hearing and responding to the call to ordained priesthood and religious life.

Silence: **Reader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen! **All:** Alleluia. Let us rejoice!

For mothers – that they guide with wisdom and tenderness the children trusted to their care, helping them to encounter the eternal love in which they are held.

Silence: **Reader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen! **All:** Alleluia. Let us rejoice!

For people burdened by a sense of sin, failure or inadequacy – that through the consoling words of family, friends, and all who proclaim the gospel, they will experience the freeing touch of God's mercy.

Silence: **Reader:** Christ has died, Christ is risen! **All:** Alleluia. Let us rejoice!

For people responsible for the care of animals – that as shepherds in the natural world, they exercise their responsibilities towards creatures with care, and have an abiding reverence for God, the supreme Shepherd.

Silence:

Reader: Christ has died, Christ is risen!

All: Alleluia. Let us rejoice!

THE LORD'S PRAYER: We pray the prayer Jesus gave us.

COLLECTION: Part of our commitment as Christian is to give to those in need. Think about what you might like to make a donation to, or offer to help in another way. These are some ideas.

- **Your Parish:** your parish and presbytery still have operating costs.
- **The Caring Foundation Covid-19 appeal** to donate, click [here](#)
- **Catholic Social Services Auckland** to donate, click [here](#)
- **The Catholic aid agency Caritas** to support their work, click [here](#)
- **St Vincent de Paul** contact your parish or click [here](#)
- **Pacific Islands after cyclone Harold**

Let us go in peace to love and serve God –**All:** Thanks be to God.

READER: *Let's sing.*

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Another shepherd song you might enjoy https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSJXi_wXLi4