

**PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

God of loving care,  
you spread before us the table of life,  
and give us the cup of salvation to drink.  
Keep us always in the fold of your Son Jesus Christ,  
our Saviour and our shepherd. AMEN

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of steadfast love,  
watch over the Church redeemed by the blood of your  
Son. May we who share in these holy mysteries  
come safely to your eternal kingdom,  
where there is one flock and one shepherd.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord.  
AMEN

Parish of the Ascension

Easter IV

April 21, 2024

**COLLECT**

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

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**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS**

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with  
Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all  
who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made  
the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what  
power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled  
with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and  
elders, 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, 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 Jesus is 'the  
stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become  
the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there  
is no other name under heaven given among mortals by  
which we must be saved." **ACTS 4:5-12**

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

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## **PSALM**

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

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. **R**

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. **R**

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. **R PSALM 23**

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## **A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF JOHN**

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us - and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. 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? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. 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. 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. **1 JOHN 3:16-24**

Reader: The Word of the Lord  
**People: Thanks be to God**

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Reader: The Lord be with you  
**People: And also with you**

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN**

**People: Glory to, you Lord Jesus Christ**

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 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. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 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. For this reason 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 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."  
**JOHN 10:11-18**

Reader: The Gospel of Christ  
**People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

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