

# Sunday 21 April 2024 Fourth Sunday of Easter

## COLLECT

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  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING

The reading from Acts must be read  
as either the First or Second Reading.  
Either **Acts 4:5-12**  
A reading from the Acts of the  
Apostles.

The Jewish 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."

Or **Genesis 7:1-5. 11-18;**  
**8:6-18; 9:8-13**

## PSALM Psalm 23

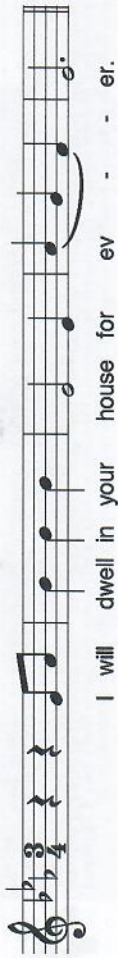
**R** I will dwell in your house for ever.

The Lord is my shepherd;  
therefore can I lack nothing.  
He makes me lie down in green  
pastures

and leads me beside still waters. **R**

He shall refresh my soul  
and guide me in the paths of  
righteousness for his name's sake.  
Though I walk through the valley of  
the shadow of death,  
I will 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 shall be full.  
Surely goodness and loving mercy



shall follow me all the days of my  
life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the  
Lord for ever. **R**

## SECOND READING

Either **1 John 3:16-end**

A reading from the first letter of  
John.

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. 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 God. 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.

Or **Acts 4:5-12**

**GOSPEL John 10:11-18**  
Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus  
Christ according to John.

Jesus said to the Pharisees: "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."

## POST COMMUNION

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.

redemptorist  
publications

Sunday. The Revised Common Lectionary is copyright © the Consultation on Common Texts, 1992. The  
Christian Year, Calendar, Lectionary and Collects, 1977, which includes The Common Worship Lectionary  
(the Church of England's adaptations of the Revised Common Lectionary, published as the Principal  
Service Lectionary) and the compilation of Collects and Post-Communion Prayers, is copyright © The  
Archbishops' Council, and material from it is reproduced with permission. Sole readings from NRSV published by  
Or permission; All rights reserved. Copyright © Redemptorist Publications, Publications Unit, GUS4-3HC, A Registered  
Charity limited by guarantee. Registered in England 03261721. www.rpbbooks.co.uk Email customer.care@rpbbooks.co.uk

