

# Fourth Sunday of Easter

26 April 2026

## Sentence

'I am the good shepherd,' says the Lord. 'The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.'

John 10.11

## Collect

God of all power,  
you called from death our Lord Jesus,  
the great shepherd of the sheep:  
send us as shepherds to rescue the lost,  
to heal the injured,  
and to feed one another with understanding;  
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## 1st Reading

### Acts 2.42-47

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

## Psalm

### Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd:  
therefore can I lack nothing.

<sup>2</sup> He will make me lie down in green pastures:  
and lead me beside still waters.  
<sup>3</sup> He will refresh my soul:  
and guide me in right pathways for his name's sake.  
<sup>4</sup> 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 comfort me.  
<sup>5</sup> You spread a table before me  
in the face of those who trouble me:  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup shall be full.  
<sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and loving-kindness  
will follow me all the days of my life:  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

## **2nd Reading**

### **1 Peter 2.1-10**

<sup>1</sup> Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity,  
envy, and all slander.  
<sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it  
you may grow into salvation—  
<sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.  
<sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet  
chosen and precious in God's sight, and  
<sup>5</sup> like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to  
be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God  
through Jesus Christ.  
<sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture:  
'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'  
<sup>7</sup> To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not  
believe,  
'The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner',  
<sup>8</sup> and  
'A stone that makes them stumble,

and a rock that makes them fall.'They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

## **Gospel**

### **John 10.1-10**

<sup>1</sup> 'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.