

April 30th 2023

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

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ 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, ⁴⁷ 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

- ¹ The Lord is my shepherd:
therefore can I lack nothing.
- ² He will make me lie down in green pastures:
and lead me beside still waters.
- ³ He will refresh my soul:
and guide me in right pathways for his name's sake.

- 4 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.
- 5 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.
- 6 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

- 1 Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity,
envy, and all slander.
- 2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it
you may grow into salvation—
- 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.
- 4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet
chosen and precious in God's sight, and
- 5 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.
- 6 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.'
- 7 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',
- 8 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.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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

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