

Readings, Hymns and Propers for 25th April 2021, Fourth Sunday of Easter

Collect:

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the 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

Reading: A Reading from the Book of Acts

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.'

Acts 4. 5-12

Gospel:

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.'

John 10. 11-18

Hymns

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.

My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through death's dark
vale,
yet will I fear none ill;
for thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnishèd
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me;
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling-place shall be.

*Francis Rous (1579-1659), William
Whittingham (1524-1579), Scottish Psalter
(1650)*

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To the whole world glad news we bring:
Alleluia!

The Lord of life is risen for ay:
bring flowers of song to strew his way;
let everyone rejoice and say:
Alleluia!

You laid aside your majesty
gave up everything for me,
suffer'd at the hands
of those you had created.
You took all my guilt and shame
when you died and rose again,
now today you reign
in heav'n and earth exalted.

*I really want to worship you, my Lord,
you have won my heart and I am yours;
for ever and ever I will love you.
You are the only one who died for me,
gave your life to set me free,
so I lift my voice to you in adoration.*

Noel Richards

Praise we in songs of victory
that love, that life which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia!

Thy name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing today with one accord
the life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia!

*Cyril A Alington (1872-1955)
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