

**The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, Verona, NJ**  
**The Lessons for the Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**Good Shepherd Sunday**  
**April 21, 2024**

**The Collect**

**O** God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**A Reading from the First Book of Acts 4:5-12**

**T**he 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."

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying  
to God's people.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 23**

**T**he LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.  
2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.  
3 He restoreth my soul:\*  
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.  
4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the  
shadow of death, I will fear no evil:\*  
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff  
they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the  
presence of mine enemies:\*  
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup  
runneth over.  
6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all  
the days of my life:\*  
and I will dwell in the house of  
the LORD for ever.

**Leader and People: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.**

## A Reading from the First Letter of St. John 3:16-24

**W**e 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.

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## The Holy Gospel

*Celebrant:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 10:11-18.

*Congregation:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

**J**esus 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."

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*Congregation:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**