

**Sunday 21st April
2024
Easter 4**

THE 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.

FIRST READING

Acts 4.5-12

The next day their rulers,
elders, and scribes
assembled in Jerusalem,
⁶ with Annas the high priest,
Caiaphas, John, and
Alexander, and all who were
of the high-priestly family.
⁷ When they had made the
prisoners stand in their
midst, they inquired, 'By
what power or by what name
did you do this?' ⁸ Then
Peter, filled with the Holy
Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers
of the people and elders, ⁹ 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, ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ This Jesus
is "the stone that was
rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the
cornerstone." ¹² There is
salvation in no one else, for
there is no other name
under heaven given among
mortals by which we must
be saved.'

SECOND READING

1 John 3.16-24

We know love by this, that
he laid down his life for us—
and we ought to lay down
our lives for one another.
¹⁷ 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? ¹⁸ Little
children, let us love, not in
word or speech, but in truth
and action. ¹⁹ And by this we
will know that we are from

the truth and will reassure
our hearts before him ²⁰
whenever our hearts
condemn us; for God is
greater than our hearts, and
he knows everything. ²¹
Beloved, if our hearts do not
condemn us, we have
boldness before God; ²² and
we receive from him
whatever we ask, because
we obey his commandments
and do what pleases him.
²³ 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. ²⁴ 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.

GOSPEL

John 10.11-18

'I am the good shepherd.
The good shepherd lays
down his life for the sheep.
¹² 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. ¹³ The hired
hand runs away because a
hired hand does not care for
the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good
shepherd. I know my own
and my own know me, ¹⁵ just
as the Father knows me and
I know the Father. And I lay
down my life for the sheep.
¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ For this reason
the Father loves me,
because I lay down my life in
order to take it up again.
¹⁸ 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.'

PSALM 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd,
I shall not want.
² He makes me lie down
in green pastures;
he leads me beside still
waters;
³ he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
⁴ Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.
⁵ You prepare a table before
me
in the presence of my
enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
⁶ Surely goodness and
mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the
house of the LORD
my whole life long.

**POST COMMUNION
PRAYER**

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.