

*st mary's catholic church
greenville, south carolina*



*fourth sunday of easter
26 april 2026*

Entrance Antiphon

Psalm 33.5-6

The merciful love of the LORD fills the earth; by the word of the LORD the heavens were made, alleluia.

Entrance Hymn

Christ the Lord is Risen Today



1. Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Chris-tians, haste your vows to pay;
2. Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled;
3. Hal - lowed, cho - sen dawn of praise, East - er, queen of all our days:
4. Christ, who once for sin - ners bled, now the first-born from the dead,



Make your joy and prais - es known at the Pas - chal Vic-tim's throne;
When in fierce and blood - y strife met to - geth - er death and life;
Zi - on's chil-dren now come forth; east to west and south to north.
Throned in end - less might and pow'r, lives and reigns for ev - er - more.



For the sheep the Lamb has bled, sin - less in the sin - ner's stead.
Chris-tians, on this hap - py day raise your hearts with joy and say:
Let the peo - ple praise you, Lord, be, by all that is, a - dored:
Hymns of glo - ry, songs of praise, Fa - ther, un - to You we raise:



Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; now He lives, no more to die.
Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; now He lives, no more to die.
Let the na - tions shout and sing; glo - ry to their Pas - chal King!
Ris - en Lord, we now a - dore, with the Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: *Victimae paschali laudes*; Ascr. to Wipo of Burgundy, d.1048; Tr. by Jane E. Leeson, 1809-1881, alt.
Tune: VICTIMAE PASCHALI, 77 77 D; Würth's *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, 1859; Revised in *Catholic Youth's Hymn Book*, 1871



Penitential Act

Confiteor

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

All strike their breast, saying:

through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest May almighty God have mercy on us,
 forgive us our sins,
 and bring us to everlasting life.

People Amen.

Kyrie

The image shows a musical score for the Kyrie, consisting of four staves of music. Each staff is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: Ky-ri - e, * e - le - i - son. Chri - ste, e - le - i - son. Ky-ri - e, e - le - i - son. Ky-ri - e, * ** e - le - i - son.

Music: Vatican Edition VIII; acc. by Richard Proulx



Gloria

Gló-ri - a in ex-cél-sis De - o. Et in ter - ra pax ho - mí - ni - bus
bo - nae vo - lun - tá - tis. Lau - dá - mus te.
Be - ne - dí - ci - mus te. A - do - rá - mus te.
Gló - ri - fi - cá - mus te. Grá - ti - as á - gi - mus ti - bi
pro - pter ma - gnam gló - ri - am tu - am. Dó - mi - ne De - us, Rex cae -
lé - stis, De - us, Pa - ter om - ní - po - tens.
Dó - mi - ne Fi - li u - ni - gé - ni - te, Je - su Chri - ste.
Dó - mi - ne De - us, A - gnus De - i, Fí - li - us Pa - tris.
Qui tol - lis pec - cá - ta mun - di, mi - se - ré - re no - bis.
Qui tol - lis pec - cá - ta mun - di, sú - sci - pé de - pre - ca - ti - ó -
nem no - stram. Qui se - des ad déx - te - ram Pa - tris,
mi - se - ré - re no - bis. Quó - ni - am tu so - lus San - ctus.
Tu so - lus Dó - mi - nus. Tu so - lus Al - tís - si - mus,
Je - su Chri - ste. Cum San - cto Spí - ri - tu,
in gló - ri - a De - i Pa - tris. A - men.

Collect

✠ LITURGY OF THE WORD ✠

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 2.14a, 36-41

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed: “Let the whole house of Israel know for certain that God has made both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and they asked Peter and the other apostles, “What are we to do, my brothers?” Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call.” He testified with many other arguments, and was exhorting them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day.

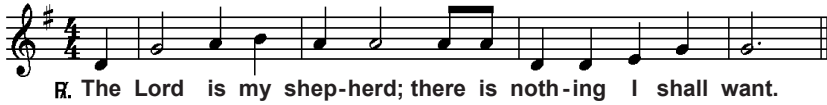
Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23.1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6



The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.

He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side.
With your rod and your staff
that give me courage.

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for years to come.



Second Reading

1 Peter 2.20b-25

Beloved: If you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps. *He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.*

When he was insulted, he returned no insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten; instead, he handed himself over to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation

Owen Alstott



I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me. *Response.*

Gospel

John 10.1-10

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: “Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers.” Although Jesus used this figure of speech, the Pharisees did not realize what he was trying to tell them.

So Jesus said again, “Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily



Profession of Faith *(spoken slowly and reverently)*

The Apostles' Creed is the baptismal profession of faith of the Holy Roman Church, which is used in the administration of Baptism and at the renewal of our baptismal promises at Easter. For this reason, we use this text throughout Lent and Eastertide to profess our faith.

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

Bow profoundly during these two lines:

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

The Bidding Prayers

The Collection

*The offering is for the support of the parish and for Catholic Home Missions.
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LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



Offertory Antiphon

Psalm 63.2, 5

O God, my God, to you do I watch at break of day, and in your name I will lift up my hands, alleluia.

Offertory Hymn

He is Risen, He is Risen



1 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! Tell it out with
 2 Come, ye sad and fear - ful - heart - ed, with glad smile and
 *3 Come, with high and ho - ly hymn - ing, hail our Lord's tri -
 4 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! He hath o - pened



joy - ful voice: he has burst his three days' pris - on;
 ra - dian't brow! Death's long sha - dows have de - part - ed;
 um - phant day; not one dark - some cloud is dim - ming
 hea - ven's gate: we are free from sin's dark pris - on,



let the whole wide earth re - joice: death is con - quered,
 Je - sus' woes are o - ver now, and the pas - sion
 yon - der glo - rious morn - ing ray, break - ing o'er the
 ris - en to a ho - lier state; and a bright - er



we are free, Christ has won the vic - to - ry.
 that he bore— sin and pain can vex no more.
 pur - ple east, sym - bol of our Eas - ter feast.
 Eas - ter beam on our long - ing eyes shall stream.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt.
 Music: *Unser Herrscher*, Joachim Neander (1650-1680)

♩-52
 87. 87. 77

Offertory Anthem

The Easter Song of Praise

Richard Shephard

Sing choirs of heaven. Let saints and angels sing. Around God's throne exult in harmony! Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave. Salute your king in glorious symphony. Sing choir of earth. Behold your light has come. The glory of the Lord shines radiantly. Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death. The night is past, the day of life is here. Sing church of God. Exult with joy outpoured. The gospel trumpets tell of victory won! Your Saviour lives, he's with you evermore. Let all God's people shout the long Amen.



Priest Pray, brethren,
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the Almighty Father.

People May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good
and the good of all his holy Church.


 EUCHARISTIC PRAYER
 

Preface Dialogue

Priest: The Lord be with you. *Assembly:* And with your Spir - it.

Priest: Lift up your hearts. *Assembly:* We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Assembly:* It is right and just.

Sanctus

San - ctus, * San - ctus, San -

ctus Dó - mi - nus De - us Sá -

ba - oth. Ple - ni sunt cae - li et

ter - ra gló - ri - a tu - a. Ho - sán -

na in ex - céel - sis Be - ne - dí - ctus qui

ve - nit in nó - mi - ne Dó - mi - ni. Ho - sán -

na in ex - céel - sis.

Music: Vatican Edition VIII; acc. by Richard Proulx

 COMMUNION RITE 

Priest At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

***People* Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Priest Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

***People* For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

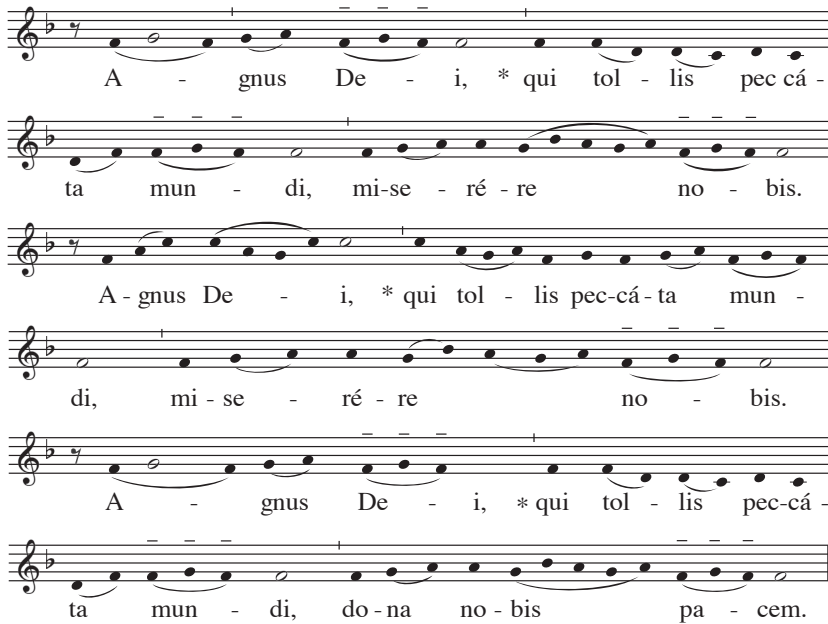
Priest Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

***People* Amen.**

Priest The peace of the Lord be with you always.

***People* And with your spirit.**

Agnus Dei



A - gnus De - i, * qui tol - lis pec cá -
ta mun - di, mi - se - ré - re no - bis.
A - gnus De - i, * qui tol - lis pec - cá - ta mun -
di, mi - se - ré - re no - bis.
A - gnus De - i, * qui tol - lis pec - cá -
ta mun - di, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

Music: Vatican Edition XVIII; acc. by Richard Proulx



Priest Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

People **Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.**

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.



AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

LORD JESUS, I LOVE YOU ABOVE ALL THINGS.
HOW I LONG TO RECEIVE YOU WITH MY BROTHERS
AND SISTERS AT THE TABLE YOU HAVE PREPARED.
BUT SINCE I CANNOT AT THIS MOMENT RECEIVE YOU IN
THE HOLY SACRAMENT OF YOUR **BODY AND BLOOD**,
I ASK YOU TO FEED ME WITH THE MANNA OF YOUR **HOLY SPIRIT**
AND NOURISH ME WITH YOUR HOLY PRESENCE.

I UNITE MYSELF COMPLETELY TO YOU;
NEVER PERMIT ME TO BE SEPARATED FROM YOUR LOVE.

AMEN.

Communion Motets

If Ye Be Risen with Christ
Colossians 3:1-4

Orlando Gibbons

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Psalm 23

Anglican Chant; CHH Parry

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters. He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over. Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.



Communion Hymn

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Psalm 22 (23)
Henry Williams Baker, 1821-1877

ST. COLUMBA 87. 87
Traditional Gaelic Hymn

1. The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness
2. Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow My ran - somed
3. Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in
4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill With thee, dear
5. Thou spread'st a ta - ble in my sight; Thy unc - tion
6. And so through all the length of days Thy good - ness

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul he lead - eth, And where the ver - dant
love he sought me, And on his shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, Thy rod and staff my
grace be - stow - eth; And O what trans - port
fail - eth nev - er; Good Shep - herd, may I

I am his, And he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid, And home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still, Thy Cross be - fore to guide me.
and de - light From thy pure chal - ice flow - eth!
sing thy praise With - in thy house for - ev - er. A - men.

✠ CONCLUDING RITES ✠

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And with your spirit.**

Priest May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People **Amen.**

Deacon Go in peace. Alleluia. Alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

During Mass at St Mary's, the priest and people face the same direction at the altar, a custom that was once universal in the Catholic Church but is now rare in the celebration of the modern liturgy. For an explanation of this practice, please visit our parish website, smcgvl.org, and look in the section called *Parish Links* for the essay entitled *Facing East to Pray*.



Page one: Tissot. *The Good Shepherd*. (19th century).

Page six: Collegiate Church of Our Lady of Dinant, Belgium. (1821).

Page seven: Basilica of Sant' Apollinare Nuovo, Ravenna, Italy. (6th century).

Page eleven: Titian. *Christ Appearing to His Mother*. (1554).

Page fifteen: Mausoleum of Galla, Placidia, Rome. (c. 425).

from the office of readings for the fourth Sunday of easter

I am the good shepherd. I know my own — by which I mean, I love them — *and my own know me*. In plain words: those who love me are willing to follow me, for anyone who does not love the truth has not yet come to know it.

My dear brethren, you have heard the test we pastors have to undergo. Turn now to consider how these words of our Lord imply a test for yourselves also. Ask yourselves whether you belong to his flock, whether you know him, whether the light of his truth shines in your minds. I assure you that it is not by faith that you will come to know him, but by love; not by mere conviction, but by action. John the evangelist is my authority for this statement. He tells us that *anyone who claims to know God without keeping his commandments is a liar*.

Consequently, the Lord immediately adds: *As the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep*. Clearly he means that laying down his life for his sheep gives evidence of his knowledge of the Father and the Father's knowledge of him. In other words, by the love with which he dies for his sheep he shows how greatly he loves his Father.

Again he says: *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them; they follow me, and I give them eternal life*. Shortly before this he had declared: *If anyone enters the sheepfold through me he shall be saved; he shall go freely in and out and shall find good pasture*. He will enter into a life of faith; from faith he will go out to vision, from belief to contemplation, and will graze in the good pastures of everlasting life.

So our Lord's sheep will finally reach their grazing ground where all who follow him in simplicity of heart will feed on the green pastures of eternity. These pastures are the spiritual joys of heaven. There the elect look upon the face of God with unclouded vision and feast at the banquet of life for ever more.

Beloved brothers, let us set out for these pastures where we shall keep joyful festival with so many of our fellow citizens. May the thought of their happiness urge us on! Let us stir up our hearts, rekindle our faith, and long eagerly for what heaven has in store for us. To love thus is to be already on our way. No matter what obstacles we encounter, we must not allow them to turn us aside from the joy of that heavenly feast. Anyone who is determined to reach his destination is not deterred by the roughness of the road that leads to it. Nor must we allow the charm of success to seduce us, or we shall be like a foolish traveler who is so distracted by the pleasant meadows through which he is passing that he forgets where he is going.

- From a homily on the Gospels by Saint Gregory the Great, pope
(b. 540; d. 12 March 604)

from the pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is also known as Good Shepherd Sunday because of the Scripture readings and Mass prayers appointed for this day in the sacred liturgy. Today's Communion Antiphon, for example, proclaims that "The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia."

The Latin word for shepherd is pastor, and this reveals why the Church asks us to pray for more priests on Good Shepherd Sunday. The call to the priesthood comes from God, and the Lord has promised always to provide shepherds for his people. Through the Prophet Jeremiah, the Lord promised Israel: "I will give you shepherds after my own heart." (Jeremiah 3.15) But he also asks us to seek the gift of pastors in prayer: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matthew 9.37-38)

In Africa, in South America, and in Oceania, the number of young men offering themselves for priestly formation is on the rise, in some cases a dramatic rise. As you know already, however, this is not the case in Europe and in North America - the "developed" world - and the disparity points to one of the chief difficulties for the young men among us who are being called today: sometimes the call is not heard because of the noise in which we live. This cultural noise takes many shapes (e.g. desire for a lucrative career, fear of loneliness, the presence of so many options that making any choice is difficult, etc), but whatever the source of the noise, if the man being called never hears the call, we may assume he'll never find his place and purpose in life.

The priesthood is not a life for extraordinary men; it is an ordinary Christian way of life for ordinary Christian men. But the key to hearing and answering the call is that the man must understand what it means to be a disciple of the Lord Jesus. The radical thing is not forsaking marriage and giving one's life to the Church; the radical thing is being baptized and giving one's life to Jesus Christ, knowing that this means following him in the Way of the Cross. When young men grow up in a vibrant Christian community in which the truth of the Catholic faith is a cause for rejoicing and the beauty of the sacred liturgy is lived day in and day out as the source and summit of the Christian life, then those who are being called will hear the summons of the Savior to serve his flock as priests, as shepherds, as pastors.

Finally, for a man to know that he is called to the priesthood it is not necessary to search the heavens for mysterious signs of some inscrutable divine plan. There are really only three basic questions to be answered: 1) Do I want to be a priest? 2) Am I willing to sacrifice what must be sacrificed to be a priest? and 3) Do I have all the gifts of nature and grace needed to be a priest? Only the man can answer the first two questions, and only the Church can answer the third.

Father Newman