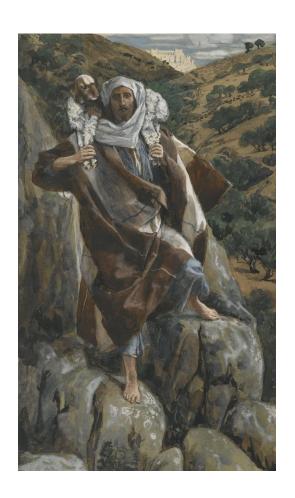
# st mary's catholic charch greenville, south carolina



fourth suppay of easter 11 may 2025

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

#### Entrance Hymn

## Christ the Lord is Risen Today



- 1. Christ the Lord is ris'n to-day; Christians, 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, Chris-tians, on this hap - py day

Let the peo - ple praise you, Lord, Hymns of glo - ry, songs of praise,

sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. raise your hearts with joy and say: be, by all that is, a - dored: Fa - ther, un - to You we raise:



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

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:

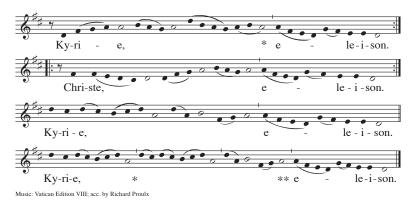
through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;

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







# LITURGY OF THE WORD

# First Reading

# Acts of the Apostles 13.14, 43-52

Paul and Barnabas continued on from Perga and reached Antioch in Pisidia. On the sabbath they entered the synagogue and took their seats. Many Jews and worshipers who were converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who spoke to them and urged them to remain faithful to the grace of God.

On the following sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and with violent abuse contradicted what Paul said. Both Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first, but since you reject it and condemn yourselves as unworthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, I have made you a light to the Gentiles, that you may be an instrument of salvation to the ends of the earth."

The Gentiles were delighted when they heard this and glorified the word of the Lord. All who were destined for eternal life came to believe, and the word of the Lord continued to spread through the whole region. The Jews, however, incited the women of prominence who were worshipers and the leading men of the city, stirred up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them, and went to Iconium. The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.** 



# Responsorial Psalm



Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands; serve the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful song.

Know that the LORD is God; he made us, his we are; his people, the flock he tends.

The LORD is good: his kindness endures forever, and his faithfulness, to all generations.



## Second Reading

Revelation 7.9, 14b-17

I, John, had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. Then one of the elders said to me, "These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

"For this reason they stand before God's throne and worship him day and night in his temple. The one who sits on the throne will shelter them. They will not hunger or thirst anymore, nor will the sun or any heat strike them. For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.** 



## Gospel Acclamation



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

Gospel John 10.27-30

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: "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

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.

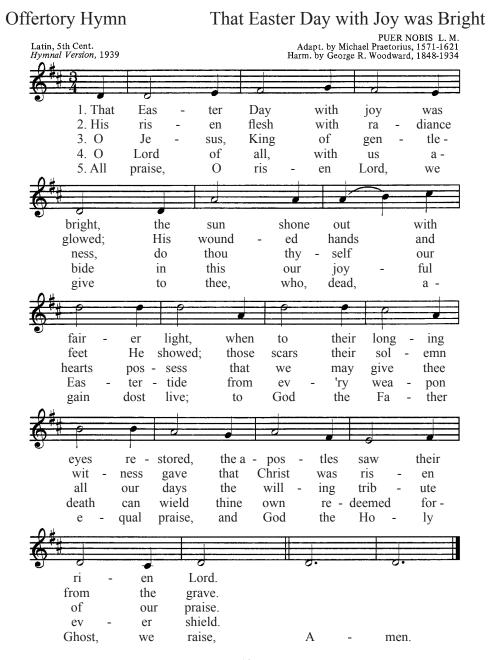
# The Bidding Prayers

#### The Collection

The offering is for the support of the parish and Catholic Charities. You may donate online using the link below:

Please Click Here to Make a Donation to Saint Mary's Church

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 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.

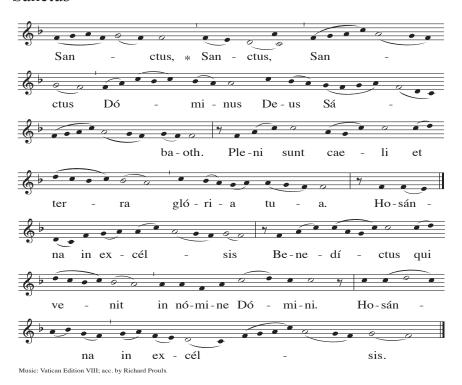
People May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

# Eucharistic Prayer

# Preface Dialogue



# Sanctus



# 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 y our will.

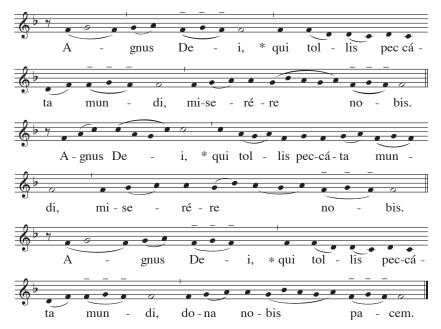
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

People Amen.

*Priest* The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People And with your spirit.

# Agnus Dei



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.

# Communion Antiphon

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.







Priest The Lord be with you.

People And with your spirit.

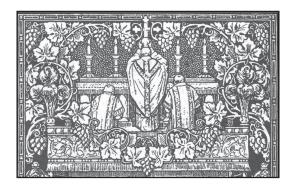
*Priest* May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

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

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

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

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# from the office of readings for the fourth subday 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.