



THE WORD

Sunday Missalette produced by the Society of the Divine Word
Australia Province, Biblical Apostolate Department



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Fourth Sunday of Easter – White

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Reflection: *“The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice.” Today is traditionally called, “Good Shepherd Sunday”. For the gospel is about the Good Shepherd which is Jesus Christ. In the gospel, Jesus is telling us the qualities of the sheep. Jesus says that he knows his sheep and his sheep listen to his voice. For me, this is quite important. For us to truly belong to the fold of Jesus, we must follow the voice of the shepherd. However, there are times that we don’t follow his voice and we end up getting farther and farther away from the flock. Yet, Jesus as the good shepherd will continue to look for his lost sheep and bring them home. The only thing that we have to do is to listen to his voice as he reaches out for us. May today’s celebration make us realise how Jesus loves his sheep and is willing to risk his life for us.*

Introduction to the Mass:

I KNOW MY SHEEP. The apostles faced much opposition as they proclaimed the Good News of Christ. Since then, many Christians have suffered martyrdom in great persecutions. Today’s Scripture readings make reference to such difficulties but they also offer a firm message of hope and consolation. The faithful followers of Jesus, those who listen to his voice, will have eternal life. They will never be lost forever or destroyed by evil forces. May these words console us as we strive to follow Jesus, the Good Shepherd, through the joys and struggles of life.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon:

[cf. Psalm 32:5-6]

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

Greeting

(Sign of the Cross)

P – The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and

the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

All – And with your spirit.

Penitential Act

P – Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P – Lord Jesus, your kindness and faithfulness endure forever: Lord, have mercy.

All – Lord, have mercy.

P – Christ Jesus, you are the Lamb at the throne of God: Christ, have mercy.

All – Christ, have mercy.

P – Lord Jesus, you know our hearts as a shepherd knows his sheep: Lord, have mercy.

All – Lord, have mercy.

P – May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you,

we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, lead us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading:

[Acts 13:14, 43-52]

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga will they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, 'We had to proclaim the Word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

I have made you a light for the nations, so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.'

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

All – Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

[Psalm 99]

R: We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Or: Alleluia.

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing for joy. **(R)**

Know that he, the Lord, is God. He made us, we belong to him, we are his people, the sheep of his flock. **(R)**

Indeed, how good is the Lord, eternal his merciful love. He is faithful from age to age. **(R)**

Second Reading:

[Apocalypse 7:9, 14-17]

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are the people who

have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.

The Word of the Lord.

All – Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

[John 10:14]

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Gospel

[John 10:27-30]

P – The Lord be with you.

All – And with your spirit.

P – A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

All – Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said:

'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life; they will never be lost and no one will ever steal them from me. The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone, and no one can steal from the Father. The Father and I are one.'

P – The Gospel of the Lord.

All – Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Profession of Faith

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (*all bow*). And by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the

forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

P — In communion with the great multitude that stands before God, we on earth offer these prayers for the needs of all. For every petition, let our response be:

R — Lord, hear our prayer.

C — For the shepherds of the Church, for the Pope, the Bishops, Priests, Deacons and all who hold leadership roles in the flock of Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **(R)**

C — For a society striving to achieve economic justice for all, for those who work tirelessly to eradicate homelessness and poverty, let us pray to the Lord: **(R)**

C — For mothers everywhere, and for a tender shepherd's care, as they strive to lead their families, let us pray to the Lord: **(R)**

C — For this community, this flock of Christ, and for our shepherds who help lead us to the truth, let us pray to the Lord: **(R)**

C — For our friends and family members who have just recently died [especially, may mention the name/s here] that they enjoy the light of the risen Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **(R)**

P — God our Father, you entrusted us to your Son, so we entrust these prayers to you. Help us to ask for what is right,

through Christ our Lord. All — Amen.



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of the Gifts

P — Pray, brothers and sisters...

All — 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.

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries, so that the renewal constantly at work within us may be the cause of our unending joy. Through Christ our Lord.

Preface (Easter IV)

P — The Lord be with you.

All — And with your spirit.

P — Lift up your hearts.

All — We lift them up to the Lord.

P — Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All — It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but in this time above all to laud you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

For, with the old order destroyed, a universe cast down is renewed, and integrity of life is restored to us in Christ.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:

All - Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Acclamation

P – The mystery of faith.

All – When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

All – Our Father...

P – Deliver us, Lord...

All – For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Invitation to Peace

Invitation to Communion

(kneel)

P – 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.

All – 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.

Prayer after Communion

P – Let us pray

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd, and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures the sheep you have redeemed by the Precious Blood of your Son. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

CONCLUDING RITES

P – The Lord be with you.

A – And with your spirit.

Solemn Blessing

P – Bow your heads and pray for God's blessings.

May God, who by the Resurrection of his Only Begotten Son was pleased to confer on you the gift of redemption and of adoption, give you gladness by his blessing. **Amen.**

P — May he, by whose redeeming work you have received the gift of everlasting freedom, make you heirs to an eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

P — And may you, who have already risen with Christ in Baptism through faith, by living in a right manner on this earth, be united with him in the homeland of heaven. **Amen.**

P — And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, (†) and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

All — Amen.

Dismissal

P – Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

All — Thanks be to God.



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- SVD Constitutions

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