

## 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

### FIRST READING

*Acts 2:14a, 36-41*

On the day of Pentecost Peter, standing with the Eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the Apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptised, 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 for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.' And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this crooked generation.' So those who received his word were baptised, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM

*Ps 23(22):1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6.*

*℟ 1*

**℟ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me; he revives my soul. *℟*

He guides me along the right path, for the sake of his name. Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death, no evil would I fear, for you are with me. Your crook and your staff will give me comfort. *℟*

You have prepared a table before me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. *℟*

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for length of days unending. *℟*

**℟ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

### SECOND READING

*1 Peter 2:20b-25*

Beloved: If when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

### Alleluia...

I am the good shepherd,  
says the Lord. I know my  
sheep and my own know me

### Alleluia...

## GOSPEL

*John 10:1-10*

At that time: Jesus said, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.' This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus again said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out

and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord  
Jesus Christ.**

## REFLECTION

In our sickness, we need a Saviour; in our wandering, a guide; in our blindness, someone to lead us into the light; in our thirst, the living spring whose water never fails; when we are dead, we need life; as sheep, a shepherd; as children, a teacher. In short, as human beings, we need one who will lead us to salvation.

For he alone is both God and man, the source of all our good; through him we come to know God and are brought into life. And in his goodness he went so far as even to die for us.

This is our Instructor: like the Father whose Son he is—without sin, without blame, pure in soul; God made visible in human form, the perfect image set before us, so that we might strive, with all our strength, to become like him.

He himself has taken on the role of Instructor for us, his children. Because we are still immature, still learning, we need guidance—and the Word has willingly become our teacher. This Instructor is utterly trustworthy: he cannot deceive, nor be deceived. He is good and never unjust, just and never envious, generous and never indifferent, loving and never without compassion. He trains us in reverence, guides us into righteousness, leads us to the knowledge of God, and forms us into lives of virtue. He does not force us, but persuades us—for God does not compel, but invites and counsels. He is called Saviour not only because he rescues us, but because he teaches us how to be saved; and he is called Instructor because he trains us to live well. His aim is not simply to fill our minds with knowledge, but to shape our character—not to make us clever speakers, but to make us good people, not merely to teach us to argue, but to teach us how to live rightly.

*Clement of Alexandria, Paedagogus  
I.1 (SC 70, 83.3–85a), adapted  
translation.*