

**Prayer and Readings for the  
FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER  
7 MAY 2017**

**Prayer of the Day**

God of all power,  
you called from death our Lord Jesus,  
the great shepherd of the sheep:  
send us as shepherds to rescue the lost,  
to heal the injured,  
and to feed one another with understanding;  
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Acts 2.42-47**

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

**Psalm 23**

- <sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd:  
therefore can I lack nothing.
- <sup>2</sup> He will make me lie down in green pastures:  
and lead me beside still waters.
- <sup>3</sup> He will refresh my soul:  
and guide me in right pathways for his name's sake.
- <sup>4</sup> Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil:

for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You spread a table before me  
in the face of those who trouble me:  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup shall be full.

<sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and loving-kindness  
will follow me all the days of my life:  
and I shall dwell in the house of the  
Lord for ever.

### **1 Peter 2.1-10**

<sup>1</sup> Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and  
all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander.

<sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure,  
spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into  
salvation—

<sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is  
good.

<sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though  
rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious  
in God's sight, and

<sup>5</sup> like living stones, let yourselves be built into  
a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to  
offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God  
through Jesus Christ.

<sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture:

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put  
to shame.'

<sup>7</sup> To you then who believe, he is precious; but  
for those who do not believe,

'The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner',

<sup>8</sup> and

'A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.' They  
stumble because they disobey the word, as  
they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal  
priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,  
in order that you may proclaim the mighty  
acts of him who called you out of darkness  
into his marvellous light.

<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

### **John 10.1-10**

<sup>1</sup> 'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not  
enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in  
by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup> The  
one who enters by the gate is the shepherd  
of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the  
gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice.  
He calls his own sheep by name and leads  
them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his  
own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep  
follow him because they know his  
voice. <sup>5</sup> They will not follow a stranger, but  
they will run from him because they do not  
know the voice of strangers.' <sup>6</sup> Jesus used  
this figure of speech with them, but they did  
not understand what he was saying to  
them. <sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, 'Very  
truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the  
sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves  
and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to  
them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me  
will be saved, and will come in and go out  
and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to  
steal and kill and destroy. I came that they  
may have life, and have it abundantly.'

