

# The Eucharist

8 May 2022 ♦ FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / C



**T**oday we are half-way through the Easter season of a week of weeks. It is appropriate that the Easter mystery is celebrated over a period of this length in order to underline the significant place it occupies in the liturgical year. The theme of the Resurrection of the Lord is expressed in the colour white as well as in the prayers and the readings.



*Jesus said: 'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice. I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life.'*

## FIRST READING *(Acts 13:14.43-52)*

On Sundays during the Easter season, the reading from the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) is replaced by one from the Acts of the Apostles, effectively Volume Two of the Gospel according to Luke. Today's reading marks the turn towards the Gentiles which characterised the apostolic journeys of Paul.

## SECOND READING *(Apocalypse 7:9.14-17)*

The spectacular scene in today's reading from the Book of the Apocalypse would be a worthy subject for a dramatic production. The kind of writing found in this book is called apocalyptic. Two of the features which apocalyptic writing employs to get its message across are number and colour, both of which occur in this passage. Both number and colour have a significance beyond the merely literal.

## GOSPEL *(John 10:27-30)*

The three-yearly cycle of Sunday gospels is interrupted and complemented during the Easter season by readings from the Gospel according to John. The fourth Sunday of Easter is sometimes referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday. Today's Gospel ends with the striking claim, placed by the evangelist on the lips of Jesus, that expresses his unity with the Father

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Entrance Antiphon

*(Cf. Ps 32:5-6)*

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

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**And with your spirit.**

### Penitential Act

Brethren (brothers and sisters),  
let us acknowledge our sins,  
and so prepare ourselves  
to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

*A brief pause for silence follows.*

**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,**

*And, striking their breast, they say:*

**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.**

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

**Amen.**

Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.**

### Gloria

**Gloria 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.**

**THE 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 till 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 is 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.

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*(Ps 99:1-3.5)*

**℟ We are his people, the sheep of his flock.**

**Or:**

**Alleluia!**

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.  
Come before him, singing for joy. **℟**
2. Know that he, the Lord, is God.  
He made us, we belong to him,  
we are his people, the sheep of his flock. **℟**

3. Indeed, how good is the Lord,  
eternal his merciful love.  
He is faithful from age to age. **℟**

**SECOND READING**

*(Apoc 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.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*(Jn 10:14)*

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;**

**I know my own sheep and my own know me.**

**Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

*(Jn 10:27-30)*



The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

**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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Profession of Faith**

*(Nicene Creed)*

**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,**

*At the words that follow, up to and including  
and became man, 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.**

*The priest introduces the* Prayer of the Faithful.

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),  
that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.

**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.

**Amen.**

### Eucharistic Prayer III

*(Preface III of Easter)*

The Lord be with you.  
**And with your spirit.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**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.

He never ceases to offer himself for us  
but defends us and ever pleads our cause before you:  
he is the sacrificial Victim who dies no more,  
the Lamb, once slain, who lives for ever.

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:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts, ...**

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,  
and all you have created  
rightly gives you praise,  
for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,  
by the power and working of the Holy Spirit,

you give life to all things and make them holy,  
and you never cease to gather a people to yourself,  
so that from the rising of the sun to its setting  
a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you:  
by the same Spirit graciously make holy  
these gifts we have brought to you for consecration,  
that they may become the Body and  $\times$  Blood  
of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,  
at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed  
he himself took bread,  
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,  
broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.**

In a similar way, when supper was ended,  
he took the chalice,  
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,  
and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY  
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.**

**DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.**

The mystery of faith.

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection  
until you come again.**

Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial  
of the saving Passion of your Son,  
his wondrous Resurrection  
and Ascension into heaven,  
and as we look forward to his second coming,  
we offer you in thanksgiving  
this holy and living sacrifice.

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church  
and, recognizing the sacrificial Victim by whose death  
you willed to reconcile us to yourself,  
grant that we, who are nourished  
by the Body and Blood of your Son  
and filled with his Holy Spirit,  
may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

May he make of us  
an eternal offering to you,  
so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect,  
especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary,

Mother of God,  
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,  
with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs  
(with Saint N.: *the Saint of the day or Patron Saint*)  
and with all the Saints,  
on whose constant intercession in your presence  
we rely for unailing help.

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation,  
we pray, O Lord,

advance the peace and salvation of all the world.  
Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity  
your pilgrim Church on earth,  
with your servant **N.** our Pope and **N.** our Bishop,  
the Order of Bishops, all the clergy,  
and the entire people you have gained for your own.

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family,  
whom you have summoned before you:  
in your compassion, O merciful Father,  
gather to yourself all your children  
scattered throughout the world.

To our departed brothers and sisters  
and to all who were pleasing to you  
at their passing from this life,  
give kind admittance to your kingdom.  
There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory  
through Christ our Lord,  
through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
O God, almighty Father,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour is yours,  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## THE COMMUNION RITE

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

**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.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, ...

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

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.

**Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And with your spirit.**

*The priest may invite the people to exchange a sign of peace  
and Christian fellowship. As the priest breaks the consecrated  
Host the following is sung or said:*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, ...**

*Showing the Host to the people, the priest says:*

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.

**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

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.**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

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.**

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

**Amen.**

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.**

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.

**Amen.**

Go forth, the Mass is ended, alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.**

## Personal Prayer

O Virgin Mary, to you we commend our young people,  
particularly those called to follow your Son more closely.  
You know the difficulties, the struggles, the obstacles  
they must face.

Help them to utter 'yes' to the divine call, as you did at  
the invitation of the angel.

Draw them to your heart so that they can understand  
with you the beauty and the joy that awaits them when  
almighty God calls them into intimacy, to make them  
witnesses of his Love and enable them to inspire the  
Church with their consecration.

O Virgin Mary, help us to rejoice with you in seeing the  
love which was brought by your Son being welcomed,  
treasured and returned.

*Prayer of John Paul II to the Mother of Vocations*