

4th Sunday after Easter — Sunday 21st April 2024
COLLECT, READINGS AND POST COMMUNION PRAYER

THE COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and
the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the
death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

1st READING: Acts 4:5-12

⁵ The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes
assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high
priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who
were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had
made the prisoners stand in their midst, they
inquired, 'By what power or by what name did
you do this?' ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy
Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and
elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a
good deed done to someone who was sick and
are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it
be known to all of you, and to all the people of
Israel, that this man is standing before you in
good health by the name of Jesus Christ of
Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised
from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is "the stone that was
rejected by you, the builders; it has become the
cornerstone." ¹²There is salvation in no one else,
for there is no other name under heaven given
among mortals by which we must be saved.'

2nd READING: 1 John 3:16-end

¹⁶We know love by this, that he laid down his life
for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for
one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in
anyone who has the world's goods and sees a
brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸ Little children, let us love, not in word or
speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we
will know that we are from the truth and will
reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our
hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our
hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our
hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness
before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever
we ask, because we obey his commandments and

do what pleases him.

²³ And this is his commandment, that we should
believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and
love one another, just as he has commanded us.

²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him,
and he abides in them. And by this we know that
he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

THE GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

¹¹ 'I am the good shepherd. The good
shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and
does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming
and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the
wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The
hired hand runs away because a hired hand
does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good
shepherd. I know my own and my own know
me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know
the Father. And I lay down my life for the
sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong
to this fold. I must bring them also, and they
will listen to my voice. So there will be one
flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the
Father loves me, because I lay down my life in
order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it
from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I
have power to lay it down, and I have power
to take it up again. I have received this
command from my Father.'

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good
shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his
life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.