



EUCHALETTE



26 April 2015 4th Sunday of Easter Year B

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Called to Shepherd God's People

Today is "Good Shepherd Sunday," a day of special prayer for priestly, religious and missionary vocations. We honor and thank, first of all, Jesus, the "Senior Good Shepherd" who laid down his life for the salvation of all human beings. But we also honor, thank and pray for the "junior good shepherds" who were chosen and sent by Jesus himself to minister to our spiritual needs. It is also our duty to pray that many more may heed the invitation of the Senior Good Shepherd and respond to it with generous faithfulness.

Let us include these intentions in the Eucharistic celebration we are about to start.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

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

Greeting

P –May the grace and peace of Jesus, the Divine "Good Shepherd," be with you all!

All –**And with your spirit!**

Penitential Act

P –Gathered together as God's flock around our Divine Leader, let us realize that every time we commit sin, we behave like the sheep that go astray from God's flock. In all humility, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask His forgiveness. *(Pause)*

P –You are the good shepherd who laid down your life for us. Lord, have mercy!

All –**Lord, have mercy!**

P –We are the sheep that have often gone astray. Christ, have mercy!

All –**Christ, have mercy!**

P –We have sometimes failed to appreciate and support the junior shepherds you sent to guide us. 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.

All –**Amen!**

Gloria

All – 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 (Opening Prayer)

P –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.

All –**Amen!**

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading Acts 4:8-12
Speaking to the members of the Sanhedrin, as he had done earlier in addressing the crowd, Peter proclaims that the cruci-

fied and risen Christ is the only source of healing and salvation.

R – A proclamation from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said: “Leaders of the people and Elders: If we are being examined today about a good deed done to a cripple, namely, by what means he was saved, then all of you and all the people of Israel should know that it was in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene whom you crucified, and whom God raised from the dead. It is in his name that this man stands before you healed.

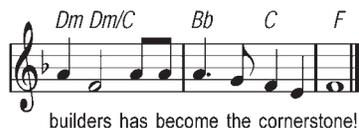
He is ‘the stone rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.’ There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved.”

The Word of the Lord!
All – Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 118*

R – *The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone!*

R. M. Velez



* **Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.** **R.**

* **I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me and have been my savior. The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the Lord has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes.** **R.**

* **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; we bless you from the house of the Lord. I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me and have been my savior. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his kindness endures forever.** **R.**

2nd Reading *1 Jn 3:1-2*
Our being adopted children of God in Christ should be the source of our greatest happiness in this life and of hope for the life to come.

R – A proclamation from the First Letter of John

Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord!
All – Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation *Jn 10:14*

All – Alleluia! Alleluia!
“I am the good shepherd,” says the Lord;
“I know my sheep, and mine know me.”
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel *Jn 10:11-18*
The image of the “Good Shepherd” has been used since the early times of the Church to express Jesus’ tenderness and love for all. In today’s Gospel passage, this image is even brighter as it is contrasted with that of the hired man who does not care for his sheep.

P – The Lord be with you!

All – **And with your spirit!**

P – A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to John

All – **Glory to you, O Lord!**

Jesus said: “I am the Good Shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shep-

herd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep.

I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd.

This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord!
All – **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Homily

Profession of Faith
(Nicene Creed)

All – 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, 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 –We are the flock guided and protected by Jesus, the Good Shepherd who gave his life for us. Full of confidence in his compassionate love, let us pray to him:

All–**Jesus, Good Shepherd, hear our prayer!**

C –For the Church, God’s flock on earth: May she always be an example of unity, solidarity, and love under the care of God’s representatives. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all the leaders of the Church – the Pope, the bishops, the priests: May they be good shepherds, totally devoted to the welfare and eternal salvation of their flock. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all the lay faithful: May they love their shepherds and experience God’s loving care through them. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all parents, teachers, and other people responsible for others: May they always be conscious of the importance of their role and fulfill it with generous dedication. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For the Catholic young men and women called to the priesthood or the religious life: May they respond generously to the Lord’s invitation and devote their lives to the good of God’s people. Let us pray! **R.**

C –Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions. (*Pause*)
Let us pray! **R.**

P –Most loving Jesus, you laid down your life to protect us from the attacks of the Evil One, and to lead us to the pasture of eter-

nal life. Grant that we may be appreciative of the salvation you earned for us. May we always follow you, our Divine Shepherd, who live and reign for ever and ever.

All–**Amen!**



Preparation of the Gifts

P –Pray, brethren . . .

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

P –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.

All–**Amen!**

Preface of Easter III

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!**

P –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:

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!

Memorial Acclamation

P –The mystery of faith!

All–**We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again!**



All–**Our Father . . .**

P –Deliver us, Lord . . .

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

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All–**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. (2x)**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Communion

P –This is Jesus, the Good Shepherd, the Lamb of God 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

(*To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.*)

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

P –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.

All–**Amen!**

CONCLUDING RITES



P –The Lord be with you.
All–And with your spirit!

P –Bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing. (*Pause*)
Through the resurrection of His Son, God has redeemed you and made you His chil-

dren. May He fill you with joy.

All–Amen!

P –The Redeemer has given you lasting freedom. May you inherit his everlasting life.

All–Amen!

P –By faith you rose with Christ in baptism. May your lives be holy, so that

you will be united with him for ever.

All–Amen!

P –May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All–Amen!

P –Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All–Thanks be to God!

A Love That Cares Unto Death

Being mostly a shepherding people, Israel enjoyed thinking of the Lord as its divine “Shepherd.” The pious Jews expressed their trust in God’s provident care and protection by singing: “*The Lord is my shepherd. I shall want for nothing . . . I fear no evil!*” (Ps 23:1.4)

And the Lord did take care of His “flock” in all circumstances. In most cases, however, He entrusted the ordinary care of Israel to human “shepherds”: the political and religious leaders of His people. They were expected to be the symbols and instruments of the fatherly concern which the divine Shepherd showed for His people at all times.

Often, however, the leaders had turned into “bad shepherds” who pastured themselves, while treating the sheep harshly. (See Ez 34:3-6.) The Lord threatened to dismiss the bad shepherds and promised to take care of His own flock personally. (See Ez 34:11-16.)

Such a promise was fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the Son of God-made-man. In his short earthly existence, through his teaching, his miracles and his loving kindness, Jesus showed in innumerable instances the way a good shepherd should treat his own flock. Eventually, he went to the extent of laying down his life for his sheep, thus living up to the definition of “good shepherd” which he himself had given. (See Jn 10:11.)

After his resurrection Jesus did not forget his “little flock” of frightened disciples. Knowing that he would not be visibly present among them any longer, he entrusted them all to the care of Peter, the chief shepherd (see Jn 21:15-17), and of all the other apostles (see Mt 28:19-20), and their successors. They were to watch over the whole flock the Holy Spirit had entrusted to their care. They were to shepherd “the Church of God which he has acquired at the price of his own blood” (Acts 20:28).

This task is not easy. It can, actually, be very demanding, indeed, if one takes one’s duty seriously and does one’s best to imitate the

dedication of Christ. The history of the Church has known wonderful examples of spiritual shepherds who have given their life for the good or the defense of their flock. Bishop Romero of El Salvador is one of these heroes in our modern times. Fr. Charlito Colendres, who died while trying to save the drowning victims of the flash floods that hit Southern Luzon in 2004, is our local “hero shepherd.”

We should pray that the Lord may send us many more such shepherds who will prove to all that CHRIST the GOOD SHEPHERD is still alive and caring. And whenever they live up to the expectation of the divine Shepherd, their little or large flocks experience once again the saving presence of the Risen Lord.

As the month of May draws near, these are some “helps” to better appreciate and pray the Rosary:

- * **The Rosary of the Virgin Mary**
(Apostolic Letter of Pope John Paul II)
- * **Ang Rosaryo ng Birheng Maria** (Apostolikong Liham ni Papa Juan Pablo II)
- * **The Splendor of the Rosary**
- * **Ang Kaningningan ng Santo Rosaryo**
- * **The New Rosary:**
the Perfect Gospel Prayer
- * **Ang Bagong Rosaryo: Ang Ganap na Panalanging Ebanghelyo**
- * **The New Rosary in the Family**
- * **Ang Bagong Rosaryo sa Pamilya**

Also available:

Devotional Cards, Coloring Books, Posters, Tarpaulins and DVD on the Holy Rosary



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