



17 April 2016

4th Sunday of Easter

Year C

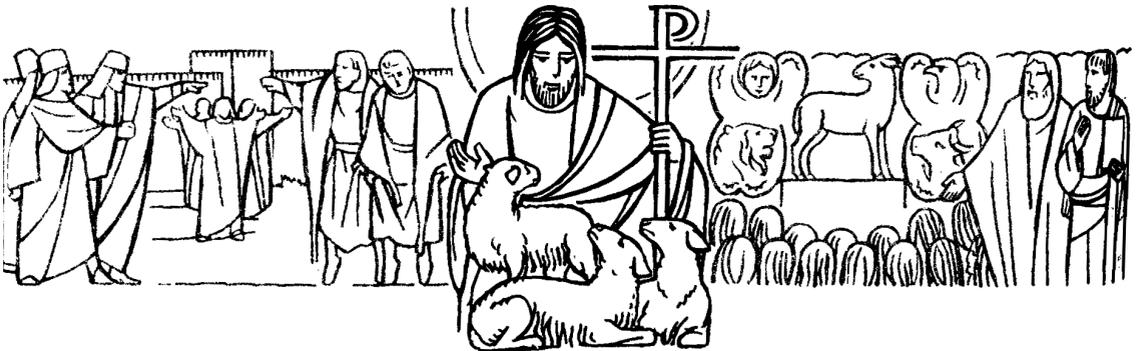
GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY
DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

JUNIOR SHEPHERDS FOR CHRIST'S FLOCK

To be a shepherd of God's people demands purity of intention and of heart. It requires total dedication to the point of being ready to lay down one's life for the good of the sheep, following in the footsteps of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

As members of God's flock, we have the right to demand all this of our shepherds, but

we have also the duty to pray for them, and to support them in all their worthy enterprises. We have also the duty to promote and sustain new vocations to priestly and religious life. We must pray that God's flock may never lack holy representatives of the Eternal Shepherd. As we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday, let this be the main intention for which we offer this Eucharist.



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 “Good Shepherd,” be with you all!
All–And with your spirit!

Penitential Act

P –Gathered together as God's flock around our Divine Good Shepherd, let us realize that every time we

commit sin, we behave like the sheep that get lost. In all humility, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask his forgiveness. *(Pause)*

All–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, *(strike your breast)* 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.

P –May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our

sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All–Amen!

P –Lord, have mercy!

All–Lord, have mercy!

P –Christ, have mercy!

All–Christ, have mercy!

P –Lord, have mercy!

All–Lord, have mercy!

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 13:14.43-52
Today’s episode in the Book of Acts has a fundamental importance in the history of the Church’s work of evangelization, since it marks the decision to formally start preaching the Gospel to the pagans. The Church is meant for all nations and races.

R –A proclamation from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul and Barnabas continued on from Perga and reached Antioch in Pisidia. On the sabbath, they entered the synagogue and took their seats. Many Jews and worshippers who were converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who spoke to them and urged them to remain faithful to the grace of God.

On the following sabbath, almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.

When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and, with violent abuse, contradicted what Paul said. Both Paul and Barnabas

spoke out boldly and said, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first, but since you reject it and condemn yourselves as unworthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, ‘I have made you a light to the Gentiles, that you may be an instrument of salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

The Gentiles were delighted when they heard this and glorified the word of the Lord. All who were destined for eternal life came to believe, and the word of the Lord continued to spread through the whole region. The Jews, however, incited the women of prominence who were worshipers and the leading men of the city, stirred up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

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

Responsorial Psalm Ps 100

R –We are his people, the sheep of his flock!

R. M. Velez

* Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness. Come before him with joyful song. **R.**

* Know that the Lord is God. He made us, his we are; his people, the flock he tends. **R.**

* The Lord is good; his kindness endures forever, and his faithfulness, to all generations. **R.**

2nd Reading Rv 7:9.14b-17
Today’s passage from the Book of Revelation describes a heavenly liturgy participated in by innumerable people from

all nations and races. They are the Elect who remained faithful to Christ in time of persecution.

R –A proclamation from the Book of Revelation

I, John, had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands.

Then one of the Elders said to me, “These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they stand before God’s throne and worship him day and night in his temple.

The one who sits on the throne will shelter them. They will not hunger or thirst anymore, nor will the sun or any heat strike them. For the Lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

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 10:27-30

Jesus is the eternal “Good Shepherd” who cares for his sheep and guides them to everlasting life.

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:
 “My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand.

My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father's hand.

The Father and I are one."

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, (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!

Prayer of the Faithful

P —Jesus, our Divine Shepherd, calls generous souls to be the visible instruments of his love for his flock. Let

us commend to him all those who represent him among us and those called to fulfill this role. Let us say:

All—Jesus, Good Shepherd, hear us!

C —For the Holy Father, the bishops, and priests: May they be, for all the faithful, the clearest signs of God's patience, concern, and love. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For all the members of the people of God: May they appreciate the work done by their pastors, and support it with all their resources. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For all parents, teachers, and civil authorities: May they be faithful to their mission to promote the good of the persons entrusted to them. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For our young people to whom God addresses a special call to serve the Church: May they respond generously to the call and persevere in their vocation. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For the forthcoming elections: May our electorate be protected from harassment and coercion; and may all election officers have the courage to resist intimidation and fraud. Let us pray! **R.**

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

P —Jesus, Eternal Shepherd, keep guiding all those you choose and call to religious life and to positions of leadership in the Church. May their examples of authentic Christian life lead us ever closer to you who live and reign for ever and ever.

All—Amen!

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



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!

COMMUNION RITE



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 . . .

Communion

P —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.

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

All—Amen!

P —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.

All—Amen!

P —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.

All—Amen!

P —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.

All—Amen!

P —Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life!

All—Thanks be to God!

DEDICATED ASSISTANTS OF THE DIVINE SHEPHERD

Being mostly a shepherding people, Israel enjoyed thinking of Yahweh as its divine “Shepherd.” The pious Jews expressed their trust in God’s provident care and protection by singing:

“The Lord is my shepherd

There is nothing I shall want . . .

I fear no evil!” (Ps 23:1.4)

And Yahweh 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. These 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.) Yahweh 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 eminently 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 himself in innumerable instances that he was, indeed, the good shepherd who really cared for his “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 “vice 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 which the Holy Spirit had entrusted to their care. That meant they were to shepherd “the Church of God which Christ has acquired at the price of his own blood” (Acts 20:28).

These human shepherds are the ones who, all through the centuries, and in all communities, have been given the task of making visible the caring presence of the eternal Shepherd, through their dedication, their patience, their concern, their selflessness. These are the people called to be “sacraments of Christ’s shepherding love.” We need many of these lamb-shepherds, for our needs are plenty. But especially we need that they be holy – that they may resemble him, the Holy Lamb and Shepherd, as far as their human frailty allows. For this intention we are invited to pray today in a special manner.



**WORD & LIFE
PUBLICATIONS**

Don Bosco Compound, A. Arnaiz Ave. cor. Chino Roces Ave., Makati, Metro Manila

Postal Address: P.O. Box 1820, MCPO, 1258 Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines

Tel. Nos. 894-5401; 894-5402; 892-2169 • **Telefax:** 894-5241 • **Website:** www.wordandlife.org

• **E-mail:** marketing@wordandlife.org, wordandlifepublications@gmail.com • **FB:** Word & Life Publications

• **Editorial Team:** Fr. S. Putzu, G. Ramos, R. Molomog, D. Daguio, V. David

• **Illustrations:** A. Sarmiento, B. Cleofe • **Circulation:** F. Edjan