

Collect and Lessons for the Fourth Sunday after Easter
also known as Good Shepherd Sunday

The Collect

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of thy people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calleth us each by name, and follow where he doth lead; who with thee and the Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever, Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson

The Old Testament Lesson is written in the 34th Chapter of the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel beginning at the 11th verse:

¹¹ "For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹² As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.

¹³ And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel.

¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. Here endeth the Old Testament Lesson.

Psalm 23 (KJV)

We will read Psalm 23 responsively by the whole verse:

¹ The LORD is my shepherd *I shall not want.

² **He maketh me to lie down in green pastures *he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

³ He restoreth my soul * he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ **Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil *for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies *thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life *and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

Glory be the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost

**As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end,
Amen**

The New Testament Lesson

The New Testament Lesson is written in the 15th Chapter of Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians beginning at the 3rd verse:

I (Paul) delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: ⁵ And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

⁶ After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

⁷ After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

⁸ And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Here endeth the New Testament Lesson.

The Holy Gospel

The Holy Gospel is written in the 10th Chapter of John beginning at the 11th verse:

Glory be to thee, O Lord

Jesus said, ¹¹ I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

¹² But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. ¹³ The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

¹⁴ I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

¹⁵ As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

¹⁶ And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise be to thee, O Christ