

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

13th April 2008

First Reading

Acts 2:36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ

“Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.” Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” So those who welcomed his message were baptised, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23(22)

Response: *The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.*

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

3. You have prepared a banquet for
me in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R.**

2. He guides me along the right
path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of
darkness no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and
your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **R.**

4. Surely goodness and kindness
shall follow me all the days of my
life.
In the Lord's own house shall I
dwell for ever and ever. **R.**

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:13-25

A reading from the First Letter of Peter

*You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd
and guardian of your souls.*

For the Lord's sake accept the authority of every human institution, whether of the

emperor as supreme, or of governors, as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish. As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. Honour everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Honour the emperor. Slaves, accept the authority of your masters with all deference, not only those who are kind and gentle but also those who are harsh. For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep and my own know me. **Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Jn. 10:1-10

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to John

R. Glory to you Lord Christ.

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

Jesus said to the Pharisees, “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Christ.