



Liturgy Cycle A

## **Fourth Sunday Of Easter** **Christ The Good Shepherd**

### **Introduction**

**This Sunday is traditionally known as Good Shepherd Sunday. We will hear once more the words of the great psalm: 'The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want'.**

### **First Reading (Acts 2:14, 36-41)**

**This is the conclusion of the sermon preached by Peter on the day of Pentecost. He tells the people that Jesus, whom they crucified, has been raised up and is now the Lord. Many of his hearers repent of their sins and accept Baptism.**

### **Second Reading (1 Peter 2:20-25)**

**This was addressed to slaves. Peter urges them to bear their unjust sufferings with patience, as Christ, the Good Shepherds, bore his sufferings for love of us.**

### **Gospel (John 10:1-10)**

**Jesus compares his love for his disciples to the love of a shepherd of his sheep.**

### **Prayer Of The Faithful**

**Jesus cared for his disciples and for the people at large as a good shepherd cares for his sheep. Let us pray that we his followers may continue his work of shepherding in the Church and in the world.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all Christians leaders: that they may be true shepherds to their flocks, supporting the weak ones, guiding the wayward ones, and encouraging the steady ones. We pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For all those who hold public office: that they may not be mere hirelings who put their salaries before service to others. We pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**



## Liturgy Cycle A

**For parents, teachers, priests, and other leaders: that they may be true shepherds to those in their care. We pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**That all of us, no matter what our state in life, may realize that we can imitate the Good Shepherd by the love we show for others. We pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**For vocations to the priesthood and religious life: that more people may hear the call to become shepherds to the flock of Christ. We pray to the Lord.**

**R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

### **Communion Reflection**

**There is a story told that one day Christ came upon a shepherd who was overcome with sorrow. 'Why are you sad?' he asked. 'Because I have lost one of my sheep,' the man replied, 'and though I have looked all over for it, I have not found it. It may be that the wolf has already devoured it.' Then Christ said: 'Wait here I will look for the sheep myself.' With that he disappeared into the hills. An hour later he returned with the sheep. Putting it down at the shepherd's feet he said: 'From this day on you must love this sheep more than any other in your flock, for it was lost and now has been found.' St Peter says to us 'Once you had all gone astray like sheep, but now you have come back to Christ, the shepherd and guardian of your souls.' We are all more precious to Christ because he had to go to the trouble of looking for us and finding us.**