

**Sunday, April 30, 2023**  
**The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

- 1) Acts 2:14a, 36-41
- 2) 1 Peter 2:20b-25
- 3) John 10:1-10

**FOCUS:** Christ is the very center of our faith. He is our shepherd and we listen to his voice; through him we enter into fullness of life.

We who belong to Jesus by virtue of our baptism now share in his mission of redemption. How we prepare for this task is important. We need to strive for repentance, lead lives of prayer and patient endurance, and desire to listen attentively to his voice.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

The first reading from Acts tells of Peter, empowered by the Holy Spirit, boldly proclaiming the risen Christ and calling all to repentance and baptism. The second reading exhorts the early Christians to imitate Christ: they are to be patient as Christ was patient in the face of his suffering. Our Gospel reminds us that we are to follow Christ as the sheep follow the shepherd: for as the shepherd cares for his sheep, so Christ cares for each of us.

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

**PRIEST:** With confidence and trust in the risen Christ, let us join in offering our prayers for our needs and those of the world to the Father.

- 1) For the Church, that as the body of Christ on earth we may faithfully and boldly proclaim the truth of the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may they seek wisdom and guidance from the Holy Spirit as they work to solve the problems that plague our world, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick and the dying, that the knowledge of the Resurrection may give them strength and hope, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all in our parish who have been washed clean in the waters of baptism, may their lives be changed by the power of the risen Christ, and may they be open to the fullness of his life, let us pray to the Lord
- 5) For those who have died marked with the sign of faith, may they come to share eternal life in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

**PRIEST:** Almighty and eternal God, your son, Jesus Christ, has won victory over sin and death and made us your beloved sons and daughters. As we celebrate his victory, we ask you to hear our prayers and draw us ever closer to you. We ask this through Christ, our risen Lord.