

**PRAYER, READINGS, AND HYMNS FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023**  
**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God of all power, you called from death our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep. Send us as shepherds to rescue the lost, to heal the injured, and to feed one another with knowledge and understanding; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

**THE FIRST LESSON - Acts 2:42-47**

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. *ESV*

**THE RESPONSIVE READING - Psalm 23:1-6**

L 1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

C 2 **He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.**

L 3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

C 4 **Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

L 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with  
oil; my cup overflows.

C 6 **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.** *ESV*

L And all God's people said . . .

C Amen

**THE SECOND LESSON - 1 Peter 2:19-25**

19 For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. 21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. *ESV*

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL - John 10:1-10**

1 O "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." 6 This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. 7 So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.  
ESV

## **HYMNS**

LBW 150 - *Make Songs of Joy*

LBW 451 - *The Lord's My Shepherd*

WOV 701 - *What Feast of Love*

LBW 481 - *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*