

Psalms, readings and collect

Date: 21st April – Easter IV – year B

Obviously on Sunday, people will use the Act of Spiritual Communion; but for those who wish to say an evening office, provision is included here.

Office

Psalm:

(119: 89 - 96) O LORD, thy word : endureth for ever in heaven.

90 Thy truth also remaineth from one generation to another : thou hast laid the foundation of the earth, and it abideth.

91 They continue this day according to thine ordinance : for all things serve thee.

92 If my delight had not been in thy law : I should have perished in my trouble.

93 I will never forget thy commandments : for with them thou hast quickened me.

94 I am thine, O save me : for I have sought thy commandments.

95 The ungodly laid wait for me to destroy me : but I will consider thy testimonies.

96 I see that all things come to an end : but thy commandment is exceeding broad.

Glory be to 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.

Reading:

A Reading from the Book of the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a cripple, by what means this man has been healed, be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by him this man is standing before you well. This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, but which has become the head of the corner. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Collect of the day:

Almighty God, Who shewest to them that be in error the light of Thy Truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness: Grant unto all them that are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion that they may eschew those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through the same Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, throughout all ages world without end. Amen.

Act of Spiritual Communion

Collect:

God of lasting love, fulfil Your plan of salvation to gather into one fold the peoples of the whole world. Let everyone on earth recognise Your Christ as the Good Shepherd, Who freely lays down His life for all to take it up again in power. Grant this through Jesus Christ, the Resurrection and the Life, Who is alive and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God, throughout all ages world without end. Amen.

First Reading:

A Reading from the first Letter of Saint John.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Psalm:

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; ♦ his mercy endures for ever.
It is better to take refuge in the Lord ♦ than to put any confidence in flesh.
It is better to take refuge in the Lord ♦ than to put any confidence in princes.
I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me ♦ and have become my salvation.
The stone which the builders rejected ♦ has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the Lord's doing, ♦ and it is marvellous in our eyes.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; ♦ we bless you from the house of the Lord.
You are my God and I will thank you; ♦ you are my God and I will exalt you.
O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; ♦ his mercy endures for ever.

Gospel:

A Reading from the Gospel according to Saint John.

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again; this charge I have received from my Father."