

# The Living Word

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year B

21 April 2024

## First Reading Acts 4:8-12

*This is the only name by which we can be saved.*

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 117:1. 8-9. 21-23. 26. 28-29. R. v.22**

**(R.) The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.**

or:

**(R.) Alleluia.**

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.  
It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in men:  
it is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. (R.)
2. I will thank you for you have given answer  
and you are my saviour.  
The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes. (R.)
3. Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes.  
We bless you from the house of the Lord;  
I will thank you for you have given answer  
and you are my saviour.  
Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;  
for his love has no end. (R.)

## Second Reading 1 Jn 3:1-2

*We shall see God as he is.*

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,  
by letting us be called God's children;  
and that is what we are.  
Because the world refused to acknowledge him,

therefore it does not acknowledge us.  
My dear people, we are already the children of God  
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;  
all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him  
because we shall see him as he really is.

## Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:14

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

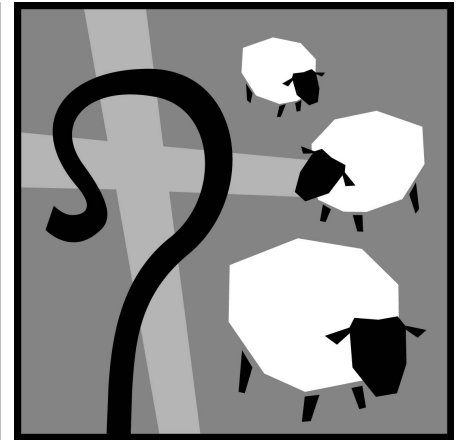
**Alleluia!**

## Gospel Jn 10:11-18

*The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.*

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd:  
the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.  
The hired man, since he is not the shepherd  
and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep;  
this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep.  
I am the good shepherd;  
I know my own  
and my own know me,  
just as the Father knows me  
and I know the Father;  
and I lay down my life for my sheep.  
And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold,  
and these I have to lead as well.  
They too will listen to my voice,  
and there will be only one flock  
and one shepherd.  
The Father loves me,  
because I lay down my life  
in order to take it up again.  
No one takes it from me;  
I lay it down of my own free will,  
and as it is in my power to lay it down,  
so it is in my power to take it up again;  
and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'



## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

In the regions where Jesus was an itinerant preacher, three or four flocks could be kept in a communal sheepfold for safety. In the morning, the shepherds would come and, as each called out, the sheep attuned to the sound of his voice would follow to life-giving pasture.

We are surrounded by hundreds of voices clamouring for our attention. We are bombarded by messages, social media incessantly chattering. Jesus invites us to get attuned to *his* voice, listening for the distinctive sound of it so that, even if it is faintly heard in a cacophony, we immediately turn toward it so that we can follow it in a life-giving direction.

How do we get attuned to that voice? By reading the gospels. A Chinese student once told me that the Chinese character for gospel is 'happy sounds'. I like the plural. Jesus' gospel voice is not a monotone but a polyphony sounding in different ways in different situations.

As disciples, we have to get onto the same wavelength as that voice so that we can echo it in our own lives. We become reverberations of Christ's voice in many different situations, helping him to lead others to life-giving pastures.

We could take a moment to pray for better listening so that we might recognise the gospel voice of Jesus Christ, especially at the moment of death. Then we may hear the one voice we need and long for: 'Today you will be with me in paradise.'

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# Wordsearch

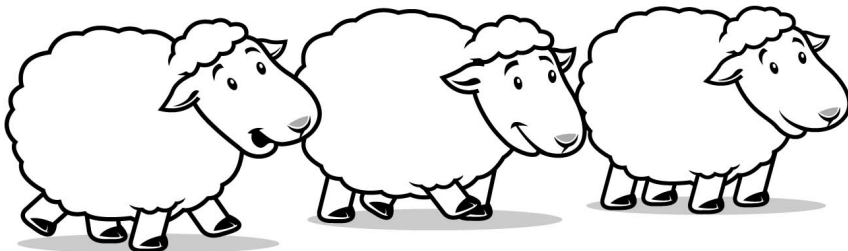
Try to find these words:

- |       |         |          |
|-------|---------|----------|
| flock | one     | shepherd |
| hear  | run     | together |
| know  | scatter | voice    |
| life  | sheep   | wolf     |

**V**ery little is actually known about the real life of St. George other than he was martyred in Palestine during Christian persecution in the third or fourth century. The most famous legend depicts George as a young soldier who rescued a maiden princess from a dragon at Silene in Libya. His actions, inspired by his belief, led the townsfolk to convert to Christianity. George refused any reward for his heroic deeds, but rather, he encouraged the people to show compassion towards the poor. He became the patron saint of England, which adopted St. George's flag (a red cross on a white background) as its national flag.

T T M G O L N S Z F J B Y D D O  
 A I U A P K F X V P N B G D Z B  
 I F H A P G K L R J K J E N I P  
 Y H H H T Y U I O N F K T N G B  
 Q F O C Q O H D O W P N E C O T  
 M Y L E K K G W B C L J Q J W M  
 Z J R O R Y Q E S Z L C W O A K  
 M I O F C H T H T X B M P C Y V  
 U V X V A K C R W H U W H X D K  
 R R X U O C U M W N E J Y N K J  
 X R R D W I S C H U U R A H U V  
 T P K O H L C F P D G Q R C R R  
 T M E E O S I E D R E H P E H S  
 W I A E B X A F L H Z U W I L I  
 Q R G O H W L F E U Z W M B I C  
 M O F Z R S C A T T E R H U W K

I am the \_\_\_\_\_.  
 I know my own \_\_\_\_\_ and they  
 \_\_\_\_\_ me, just as the \_\_\_\_\_  
 knows me and I know the Father.  
 I lay down my \_\_\_\_\_ for my sheep.



Use the following words to find out what Jesus said his disciples.

- shepherd
- Father
- life
- good
- sheep
- know