

ENTRANCE ANTHEM

**The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
alleluia.**

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament
to strengthen us in holiness:

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You will come in glory with salvation
for your people:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us.....

THE GLORIA

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,**

O God, almighty Father.

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;**

**you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us;**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God,
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,
so that the humble flock may reach
where the brave Shepherd has gone
before. Who lives and reigns with you.....

 **LITURGY OF THE WORD**FIRST READING **Acts 13:14 . 43-52**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats. When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly. 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans.'

For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when

he said:

I have made you a light for the nations, so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.' It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM **Ps. 99:1-3.5**

R. We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy. **[R]**
2. Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his flock. **[R]**
3. Indeed, how good is the Lord
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age. **[R]**

SECOND READING **Apocalypse 7:9. 14-17**

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my own know me. Alleluia!

GOSPEL **John 10: 27 - 30**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said:

'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;
I know them and they follow me.
I give them eternal life;
they will never be lost
and no one will ever steal them from me.'

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Day of Prayer for Vocations) 8th May 2022

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday, a day of special prayer for vocations to the work of service in the Church. Jesus died and rose for people of every race and nation. His command to his Church was to go out and preach to all people, we pray for people of faith to respond to that command.

"I am the good shepherd,...

*...I know my own sheep
and my own know me."*



The risen Lord was busy! His post-resurrection 40 days were spent consoling and bringing others his joy after his passion and death. He also resumed his calling of his disciples into a new following of him. Vocation Sunday each year is the calling of the risen Lord to each of us in our lives.

The call is a gift of the guidance of the good shepherd of each of us in life. It is the call that reaches the deeper space in our souls and bodies where love dwells, a gift given by God, not just for myself, but for others.

The call of Jesus is lived out in loving as a spouse, parent, single man or woman, priest, religious. It is lived out in the ordinary ways we try to spread the gospel in our workplace, our parish, school, service of others in any way, and in our families. It is lived out in our prayer.

The ordinary is the place of call and of holiness. The shepherd guides the sheep in the ordinary tasks of the day. He calls each of us to be busy with him and to follow him through reading the Gospels and in pondering them deeply in order to understand what his call actually means for each of us: all is done in love.

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