

help us when we hear his voice to know him who calls us each by name, and to follow where he leads; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God:

Ronald Wagstaff, Gretta Hall, Dorothy Tidy, Rudolph Bailey,
Kathryn Simos, Arthur Clark, Priest, Florence Hale,
Leslie Clifton Blackman, Henry Sullivan, Constance Jean Sawyer,
Mary Frances Hewett, Edith Manning, George Bloom, Frank Oldfield,
whose anniversaries occur this week.

Commemorations of the week

April 23 George, *martyr, died c.303* in the Roman persecutions, Patron Saint of England and of many other countries, best known in literature and art in the story of 'St. George and the Dragon'.

April 24 Oscar Romero, *Archbishop of San Salvador, martyr. 1980.* He was assassinated because of his advocacy for the poor.

April 25 Anzac Day

April 25 Mark, *evangelist and martyr*, considered (not with certainty) as the author of Mark's Gospel and as the John Mark, whose mother's house was used by the apostles, and as the person mentioned in Mark.14.51. Later a disciple of Peter, Paul and Barnabas, and was with Paul in his Roman imprisonment.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

22 April 2018

Sentence 'I am the good shepherd,' says the Lord. 'I know my own and my own know me.'

John 10.14

Collect

Jesus, good shepherd of the sheep,
by whom the lost are sought and guided into the fold:
feed us and we shall be satisfied, heal us and we shall be whole,
and lead us that we may be with you,
where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter and John appear before the council of elders and scribes to explain their healing of the crippled man who had been a beggar at the Beautiful Gate of the Jerusalem Temple (Acts 3. 1-10). Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Peter proclaims that this healing was done in the name of Jesus.

The Jewish rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone." There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

Acts 4.5-12

Reader For the word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

Psalm 23 APBA page 243

A Reading from the first letter of John

Jesus is the great example of selfless love: far from taking life, he laid down his life for us. By this love and the presence of the Holy Spirit, given to us by God, we know that Christ “abides in us”.

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us. *1 John 3.16-24*

Reader May your word live in us.
All And bear much fruit to your glory.

Gospel Acclamation

All Alleluia! Alleluia!

Cantor I, myself, will be the shepherd of my
sheep,
says the Lord.

All Alleluia!
Reader The Lord be with you

ALL And also with you
Reader A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Israel had long understood that the good shepherd, the shepherd king spoken of in Scripture was a reference to the coming Messiah. The difference between the hired hand and the real shepherd is that the shepherd is committed to the wellbeing of the sheep, even if it leads to death; an outcome of his love which Jesus says he accepts willingly.

Jesus said to the Pharisees: ‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care 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 the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up 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 up again.

I have received this command from my Father.’

John 10.11-18

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord
All Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Bible Readings next week 29 April 2018

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8.26-40 Psalm 22.26-32 1 John 4.7-21 John 15.1-8

Prayer for the Week

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: