

# ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 25 APRIL 2021

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year B



What is God going to say to you today? Are you ready to listen?



## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

We say these words or sing a hymn as the priest approaches the altar.

## COLLECT

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...

We ask for God's help. Listen now to the priest as he offers this prayer.



## FIRST READING ACTS 4:8-12

People are questioning Peter about a man he has healed. They know it was kind of Peter, but don't know how he did it. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter has the courage to tell everyone. It is all through Jesus. Although

Jesus has been rejected by lots of people, it is through his death and resurrection that we are all saved. The healed man shows that we can all look forward to being made whole and enjoying the fullness of life.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. Jesus Christ the Nazarene is the name of our saviour.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 117

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

Or Alleluia!

The cantor or psalmist sings or says the psalm. Listen to the verses, and then respond by using these words.



## SECOND READING 1 JOHN 3:1-2

God loves each one of us very much. We don't have to work hard or prove ourselves in any way to earn God's love. We are God's children and God loves us no matter what. We don't know what is

going to happen in the future, but our life with God is looking good! We are growing to be even more like Jesus as we put into practice our love for other people. God has great things in store for us!

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. We are all God's children and we are loved very much.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

We give a shout of praise to God, using these words taken from the Bible.



## DO YOU KNOW?

Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. God calls us to love others in many different ways, according to our gifts and talents. We pray that we are all open to hearing God's call. In particular, we pray today that people will hear the voice of Jesus the good shepherd calling them to the priesthood and religious life.



## THINK

Jesus is the good shepherd, the ideal shepherd. He doesn't just tell us, his sheep, what to do; Jesus shows us by example how to put other people first. Sheep followed their shepherd and we follow Jesus. We trust Jesus because we know just how much he loves us.



### The Good News about Jesus is told to us by St John.

We belong to Jesus. Jesus says we are like the sheep who belong to the shepherd. The sheep matter so much to the shepherd that he lives out on the hillside with them, keeping them safe from wolves and every danger that threatens them. Jesus is the best

of shepherds, who will give his life to protect his sheep. Just as a shepherd knows each one of his sheep, Jesus knows each one of us. Every one of us is special to Jesus. We can't go wrong if we listen to Jesus and follow in his footsteps. Jesus will lead us to safety.

STAND to LISTEN to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel. Before he reads the Gospel, what does the priest do to his forehead, his lips and his heart? Can you copy him?



PRAY

"I am the good shepherd."

Think about the things that frighten you or that you feel are dangers in your life. Talk to a grown up and talk to God. Know that Jesus is always with you, giving you courage.



### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, please bless anyone who is listening to your call to become a priest, nun, sister or monk. Help us all to be generous in our response to you. Lord, hear my prayer.

Listen to the reader as he or she encourages us to pray for situations and people in need. Here is a prayer you could say privately.



### OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think of a time when you were felt lost and alone and then remember a time when you felt cared for and safe. Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.



### THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Today's special prayer thanks God for fulfilling all God's promises to us.

What can you give special thanks for today?

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.



### THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.



### MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, Jesus, for showing me by your example what real love means. Help me to follow you more closely each day. Amen.



# IXΘΥΣ

is the Greek word for "fish" and was used in the catacombs as a sign for early Christians. It is made up from the first letter of five Greek titles for the Lord:

- I (Jesus)
- X (Christos)
- Θ (Theou/God's)
- Υ (Uios/Son)
- Σ (Soter/Saviour)



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We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.

