

ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 8 MAY 2022

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year C



Take a moment to be still and get ready to listen to Jesus today.



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 13:14. 43-52

Jesus asks his apostles to spread the good news and Paul and Barnabas are doing just that. Having first sailed to Cyprus, they visited Paphos, sailed to Perga and have now reached Antioch. Paul and Barnabas are visiting synagogues, sharing Jesus' message with

God's chosen people. However, their message is controversial and they are not welcomed in Antioch. However, undeterred and full of joy and the Holy Spirit, they go on to share God's message of love with everyone, not only the Jewish people.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN.

Paul and Barnabas have set sail on the first of their great missionary journeys.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 99

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Or Alleluia!



SECOND READING APOCALYPSE 7:9. 14-17

So many people are in heaven it is impossible to count them! John tells us that in his vision he sees heaven full of people from every nation, race, tribe and language praising God. No one in heaven

will ever be hungry or thirsty. There will be no suffering of any sort and God will wipe away all our tears. No matter what hardship people have had to face on earth, life with God will be wonderful.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN.

John's vision shows that heaven is a wonderful place!



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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

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



DO YOU KNOW?

St Paul travelled over 10,000 miles to spread the good news about Jesus. Today we hear about part of the first of his three missionary journeys. Paul travelled over land and sea through places we now know as Israel, Syria, Turkey, and Greece. He had to cope with real hardship but was filled with joy and love for God.



THINK

Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. All of us are called to serve God in a special way and some of us will be called to become priests or nuns. Let us ask God that we will all be open and listen to what God is asking us to do with our lives.



GOSPEL JOHN 10:27-30

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

In Jesus' time, shepherds lead their sheep. They walk in front of the sheep in the search for good, safe pastureland. A good shepherd is prepared to protect the sheep, even from the very real dangers of wolves and other wild animals. Jesus' audience knows all about

shepherds, so Jesus uses this analogy to explain just how much he cares for us. Jesus says that we are his sheep and he knows each one of us individually. We listen to Jesus and follow him. Jesus gives us eternal life and will keep us all safe. No one can ever take us from Jesus.

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?

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

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

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

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



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, I am thinking about anyone who is praying about their vocation. Help them to hear your call and understand the best way they can use their gifts to serve you. Lord, hear my prayer.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think about any time this week when you were selfish and then think about the other times when you were helpful.

Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.



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?



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.



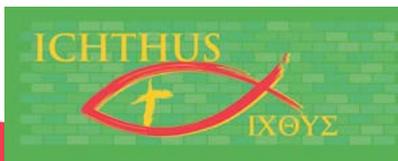
MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, Jesus, for knowing and loving me. You give me life. Help me to live it to the full. Amen.



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

Go in peace.



PRAY

"The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice."

Help me, Lord, to listen to your words in the readings today. Help me to hear you speaking to me through the people who love me. Amen.



DO

Find out what a day in the life of your parish priest is like. Maybe you could interview him for your school magazine?



ΙΧΘΥΣ

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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