

**COLLECT**

Almighty God,  
 whose Son Jesus Christ is the  
 resurrection and the life:  
 raise us, who trust in him,  
 from the death of sin to the life of  
 righteousness,  
 that we may seek those things which  
 are above,  
 where he reigns with you  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING** (Alternative readings)  
*The reading from Acts must be read as  
 either the First or Second Reading.*

Either **Acts 4:5-12**

*A reading from the Acts of the  
 Apostles.*

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."

Or **Genesis 7:1-5. 11-18;  
 8:6-18; 9:8-13**

**PSALM Psalm 23**



**R** *I will dwell in your house for ever.*

The Lord is my shepherd;  
 therefore can I lack nothing.  
 He makes me lie down in green pastures  
 and leads me beside still waters. **R**

He shall refresh my soul  
 and guide me in the paths of  
 righteousness for his name's sake.  
 Though I walk through the valley of the  
 shadow of death,  
 I will fear no evil;  
 for you are with me;  
 your rod and your staff, they comfort  
 me. **R**

You spread a table before me  
 in the presence of those who trouble  
 me;  
 you have anointed my head with oil  
 and my cup shall be full.  
 Surely goodness and loving mercy  
 shall follow me all the days of my life,  
 and I will dwell in the house of the  
 Lord for ever. **R**

I will dwell in your house for ev - - er.

**SECOND READING** (Alternative readings)

**Either 1 John 3:16-end**

*A reading from the first letter of John.*

We know love by this, that the Son of God 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 God. 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.

Or **Acts 4:5-12**

**GOSPEL John 10:11-18**

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.*

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.”

**POST COMMUNION**

Merciful Father,  
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be  
the good shepherd,  
and in his love for us to lay down his  
life and rise again:  
keep us always under his protection,  
and give us grace to follow in his steps;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.