

# Monday of the fourth week of Easter

Monday 04 May 2020

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rm 6:9

Christ, having risen from the dead, dies now no more; death will no longer have dominion over him, alleluia.

## FIRST READING

Acts 11:1-18

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*God can give even the gentiles the repentance that leads to eternal life.*

The apostles and the brothers in Judaea heard that the pagans too had accepted the word of God, and when Peter came up to Jerusalem the Jews criticised him and said, 'So you have been visiting the uncircumcised and eating with them, have you?' Peter in reply gave them the details point by point: 'One day, when I was in the town of Jaffa,' he began 'I fell into a trance as I was praying and had a vision of something like a big sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners. This sheet reached the ground quite close to me. I watched it intently and saw all sorts of animals and wild beasts – everything possible that could walk, crawl or fly. Then I heard a voice that said to me, "Now Peter; kill and eat!" But I answered: Certainly not, Lord; nothing profane or unclean has ever crossed my lips. And a second time the voice spoke from heaven. "What God has made clean, you have no right to call profane." This was repeated three times, before the whole of it was drawn up to heaven again.

'Just at that moment, three men stopped outside the house where we were staying; they had been sent from Caesarea to fetch me, and the Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going back with them. The six brothers here came with me as well, and we entered the man's house. He told us he had seen an angel standing in his house who said, "Send to Jaffa and fetch Simon known as Peter; he has a message for you that will save you and your entire household."

'I had scarcely begun to speak when the Holy Spirit came down on them in the same way as it came on us at the beginning, and I remembered that the Lord had said, "John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit." I realised then that God was giving them the identical thing he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ; and who was I to stand in God's way?'

This account satisfied them, and they gave glory to God, 'God' they said, 'can evidently grant even the pagans the repentance that leads to life.'

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Pss 41:2-3; 42:3-4. R. see Ps 41:3

**(R.) My soul is thirsting for the living God.**

1. Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God. **(R.)**
2. My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life; when can I enter and see the face of God? **(R.)**
3. O send forth your light and your truth; let these be my guide. Let them bring me to your holy mountain to the place where you dwell. **(R.)**
4. And I will come to the altar of God, the God of my joy. My redeemer, I will thank you on the harp, O God, my God. **(R.)**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

## GOSPEL

Jn 10:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*I am the gate of the sheepfold.*

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

Or Jn 10:11-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.*

Jesus said:

‘I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern 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 my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock, and one shepherd. The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.’

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Jn 20:19

Jesus stood in the midst of his disciples and said to them:  
Peace be with you, alleluia.