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## SERVICES FOR MAY

<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>The Ascension Day</b>
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Seventh Sunday of Easter The Sunday after the Ascension</b>
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>The Day of Pentecost</b>

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## The Fourth Sunday of Easter Morning Prayer: 3<sup>rd</sup> May

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### **A Sentence of Scripture for the Easter season**

Christ is risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept. *1Corinthians 15:20*

### **A general Confession**

Almighty and most merciful Father; we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy name. Amen.

### **Absolution**

### **Acts 2:42-47**

The people devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

This is the word of the Lord;

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 23 [R] *The Lord is my shepherd.***

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]

## **1Peter 2:19-25**

It is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

'He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.'

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

This is the word of the Lord;

**Thanks be to God.**

## **John 10:1-10 [Jesus the Good Shepherd]**

'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to

them. So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

## **Sermon**

### **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;

he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **The Collect of the Fourth Sunday of Easter**

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 and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### **Prayers of intercession; The Lord's Prayer**

#### **Blessing**

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. **Amen**