

## 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

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**

## SECOND READING

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.

