

# SUNDAY MASS

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

*The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.*

**FIRST READING:** Acts 4:8-12.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm 118.

## RESPONSE:

*The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.*

1. Give praise to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man; it is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. **R**

2. I will thank you, for you have answered, and you are my saviour. the stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the Lord has this been done, a marvel in our eyes. **R**

3. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. You are my God, I praise you. My God, I exalt you. Give praise to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever. **R**

**SECOND READING:** 1 John 3:1-2.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

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

**GOSPEL:** John 10:11-18.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

*The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.*

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## THE WEEK AHEAD

# Live the Word

### Mon 22 Apr Liturgy of the Day

Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 42; John 10:1-10

Recognizing God's voice is something that many people struggle with. There are often many competing 'voices' that speak to us each and every day. Do you recognize the voice of the Shepherd?

### Tue 23 Apr (St George, M)

Acts 11:19-26; Psalm 87; John 10:22-30

Jesus says that they do not believe in him because they are not listening. God speaks in a profound, gentle and hidden language. Are we 'tuned-in'; are we listening?

### Wed 24 Apr (St Fidelis of Sigmaringen, PrM)

Acts 12:24-13:5; Psalm 67; John 12:44-50

Jesus came to draw us into the very life of God. The early Church Fathers and Mothers often spoke of our calling to be "divinized," that is, to share in the divine life of God. Prayerfully ponder this today.

### Thu 25 Apr ST MARK, E

1 Peter 5:5-14; Psalm 89; Mark 16:15-20

"The times when we meet or reckon with our contradictions are often turning points, opportunities to enter into the deeper mystery of God." – Fr Richard Rohr OFM

### Fri 26 Apr Liturgy of the Day

Acts 13:26-33; Psalm 2; John 14:1-6

What causes you the most anxiety, worry and fear in your life? Hear Jesus say to you, "Do not let your heart be troubled" and "You have faith in God; have faith also in me." Faith in God is the cure for fear.

### Sat 27 Apr Liturgy of the Day

Acts 13:44-52; Psalm 98; John 14:7-14

When we find ourselves talking about "those people", or create distance by being critical of those around us, it would be good to consider that God most likely finds them beautiful too.

### Sun 28 Apr 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 9:26-31; Psalm 22; John 15:1-8

God's love is extravagant. There are no limits to it, no conditions or prerequisites. We neither deserve it, nor can we earn it. Rather, it is freely poured out, without measure. This should be the hallmark of our loving.

(KEY: **SOLEMNITY**; **FEAST**; **Memorial**; (Optional Memorial)  
M=Martyr; Pr=Priest; E=Evangelist

# Catholic Link

## EASTER SPIRITUALITY

4th Sunday of Easter • Year B  
Divine Office: Week IV • 21 April 2024



The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord" (John 20:20). Joy permeates Easter. Beginning with the experience of the first disciples, it continues through the centuries as the primary response in faith to the Resurrection of Christ. The new English translation of the Mass captures this with the word "overcome" in all the Easter Prefaces:

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, singing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim....

Overcome? That is probably not how most of us feel, at least not for all 50 days when we celebrate the Easter season, yet that is how the Church describes the Easter 'mood'. And this not only for human beings, but the entire cosmos, including the choirs of angels. Unfettered joy is probably not how many people experience the liturgies of the Easter season. Younger ones will still complain of boredom at Mass. Yet the Easter preface specifically calls for a deeply felt emotion of joy at the beginning of the long Eucharistic prayer.

How is joy possible when personal circumstances, social and political problems and global horrors impinge on our daily lives? If anything, it suggests that cultivating a spirit of Easter joy could well be as difficult as enduring the penitential days of Lent. We are far better at preparing for the feast of Easter than celebrating it. A spirituality of Easter joy

requires a conscious decision to transcend the burdens of life in the full faith that Easter means that in Christ, good overcomes evil, life overcomes death, love overcomes indifference and hope overcomes despair. This is where true joy lies, not in external circumstances but in the inner disposition of complete trust in God.

Contrary to what most people think, by itself the death of Jesus does not bring about our salvation. Death is death. There is a finality to it. It is only in being raised that the crucified Christ puts an end to the relentless cycle of death, that the victory is won. Easter joy comes from the utter conviction of that victory. It manifests to us God's faithfulness, that with God nothing is impossible. Putting it more positively, with God all things are possible. To practice Easter joy is to believe in a God who at every moment surprises us by moving us beyond the ordinary into the extraordinary, from the worries and cares of each day to a sense of divine presence and action, knowing that "God works everything to the good for those who love Him" (Romans 8:28).

There is nothing flippant about the joy of Easter. It does not pretend there is no pain or suffering in the world or in our lives. But like every spirituality it requires dedication, openness to the Spirit, and focus on the source of that joy, Jesus Christ himself, who passes through the thresholds of our fears and dares us to believe in the power and victory of selfless love. For in him, suffering and death will never have the last word. The last word is always joy.