

YEAR A, EASTER 4, SUNDAY: MASS

For use with the First Lesson

Adapted from *The Vocabulary of the Church* (1960):

Hellenists	HEL-uh- nists
Proch'orus	PRAHK-o-ruhs
Nica'nor	ni-KAY-nor
proselyte	PRAHS-uh-light
Ti'mon	TIGH-mahn
Par'menas	PAHR-mi-nas
Nicola'us	nik-o-LAY-uhs
Cyre'nians	sigh-REE-ni-uhns
Cili'cia	si-LISH-i-uh

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom,

whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Proch'orus, and Nica'nor, and Ti'mon, and Par'menas, and Nicola'us, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith. And Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyre'nians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cili'cia and Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. And Stephen said: “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.” Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. But he, full of the Holy

Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God.” But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 23

The Reader says

Please join me in reading Psalm 23, found in the red Prayer Book beginning on page 612.

(The Reader repeats the above information as needed.)

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.

- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.

- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his
Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow
of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of
those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for
ever.

The Second Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter

One is approved if, mindful of God, he endures pain while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it, if when you do wrong and are beaten for it you take it patiently? But if when you do right and suffer for it you take it patiently, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. He committed no sin; no guile was found on his lips. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he trusted to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

The Gospel Acclamation

The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.

Reader Alleluia.

People Alleluia.

Reader I am the good shepherd; *

I know my own and my own know me.

People Alleluia.

The Reader returns to his or her seat.

The Holy Gospel

The Minister says The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Minister ✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord
Jesus Christ according to John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the Pharisees, “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber; but he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens; the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the

voice of strangers.” This figure Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not heed them. I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and 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.

The Minister says The Gospel of the Lord.