

YEAR B, EASTER 4, SUNDAY: MASS

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Now the company of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things which he possessed was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet; and distribution was made to each as any had need. Thus Joseph who was surnamed by the apostles Barnabas (which means, Son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field which belonged to him, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

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ACTS 4:32–37*; PSALM 23; 1 JOHN 3:1–8; JOHN 10:14; JOHN 10:11–21*

FROM ACTS, WE READ THE SHORTER PASSAGE BECAUSE OF ITS SINGULAR FOCUS. THE NARRATIVE SHIFTS TO THIS SUBJECT AT VERSE 32.

IN YEAR A, WE READ JOHN 10:1–10. IN YEAR B, WE INCLUDE JOHN 10:17–21, AND IN YEAR C, WE INCLUDE JOHN 10:31–42, SO THAT WE HEAR ALL OF CHAPTER 10 AT THE SUNDAY EUCHARISTS.

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.

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- 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 John

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. And every one who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. Every one who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in

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him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. He who does right is righteous, as he is righteous. He who commits sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

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, says the Lord; *
I know my own, and my own know me.

People Alleluia.

The Reader returns to his or her seat.

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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, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it 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 again; this charge I have received from my Father.” There was again a division

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among the Jews because of these words. Many of them said, “He has a demon, and he is mad; why listen to him?” Others said, “These are not the sayings of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?”

The Minister says The Gospel of the Lord.

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