

# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Eastertide (b) 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024

## Life in the Spirit – part IV

### Introduction

*leader: Greet the people and name the Sunday of the Year (see above)  
 Acknowledge visitors and welcome them.  
 Remind everyone about refreshments at the end of Mass ????  
 Announce the theme of the liturgy ( see next )*

### Theme – THE GOOD SHEPHERD

*leader: Christians understand who Christ is  
 by listening to his Word of invitation to be his disciples.  
 John's gospel has presented Jesus as, 'the Good Shepherd'  
 who lays down his life for his sheep.  
 The framework of today's gospel,  
 is one of conflict with the leaders of the Israelite people.  
 Between Jesus and his disciples  
 there is a conversation based on mutual knowledge.  
 Its the relationship between the shepherd and his sheep.  
 ( Announce the opening hymn: . . . . . )*

### Greeting

*presider: Ki te ingoa o te Matua, ☩ o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu:  
 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose table we share,  
 be with us: . . . . .  
 or  
 Good evening/morning and the Lord be with us: . . . . .  
 or  
 Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord,  
 be with us: . . . . .  
 or  
 Citizens with the saints and members of God's household, grace and  
 peace be with us: . . . . .  
 all: **And with your spirit.***

### Penitential Rite *Invitation to Repentance*

*either (confer with the Projectionist beforehand if you choose the: 'I confess'. )*

*leader: Gathered together in Christ, let us ask forgiveness with  
 confidence, for God is gentle and compassionate.*

*all: **I confess: . . .***

*and/or*

*leader: Friends, like many who met with Jesus and apostles,  
 we spend a lot of energy on trivial matters.  
 Would Paul and Barnabus shake the dust from their feet today,  
 if they saw the quality of life in our community? . . . . .  
 Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd. When we wander away from Your*

*care:* - ( *pause* ) - *Lord, have mercy:*            *all:*    **Lord, have mercy:**  
*leader:* *Jesus, You call us by our name. When we close our hearts to Your calls:*  
                   - ( *pause* ) - *CHRIST, have mercy:*

*all:*    **CHRIST, have mercy:**

*leader:* *Jesus, You keep us in Your hand, when we refuse to extend our hand to our brothers or sisters:* - ( *pause* ) - *Lord, have mercy:*

*all:*    **Lord, have mercy:**

*leader:* *May almighty God, cleanse us of our sins and through the celebration of this Eucharist make us worthy to sit at the table of God's realm.*

*all:*    **Amen**

### **GLORIA** *invitation*

*either*

*leader:* *With all the voices of heaven, let us sing praise, honour and glory to God.*  
                   *or*

*leader:* *With peoples everywhere, let us glorify our God in joyful song.*  
                   *or*

*leader:* *Let us sing the praises of the Lord, the God who made us, whose glory is from age to age.*

### **Opening Prayer**

*leader:* *( Kia inoi tatou / Let us pray: ... ) Safe in Your hands, O God, is the flock You shepherd through Jesus Your Son. Lead us always to the living waters where You promise respite and refreshment, that we may be counted among those who know and follow You. We ask this through Jesus Christ:*

*all:*    **Amen.**

### **Introduction to the first reading:** *( Acts 4 : 8 – 12 )*

*leader:* *Peter and John are called before the Jewish Supreme Court and in the presence of the priests, temple police and Sadducees, they are questioned about the healing of a lame man.*

### **Introduction to the second reading:** *( 1 John 3 : 1 – 2 )*

*leader:* *The writer of the first letter of John speaks about a future life with God – but he reminds us that the life with God is going on right here and now. To act justly is to show a disciples is in God's camp.*

### **Gospel Acclamation:**

*all:*    **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord;  
 I know my sheep and mine know me. Alleluia!***

### **Introduction to the gospel reading:** *( John 10 : 11 – 18 )*

*leader:* *The fourth gospel presents a sharp contrast between Jesus and all the other alternatives. All other would-be leaders are false and damaged*

*people, while Jesus is the true leader. The gospel writer has Jesus attacking all kinds of corrupt leaders when he says: "I am the good shepherd . . ."*

**Homily Notes** (presider)

- *The core of our faith is in a short passage – only four verses – from the Gospel of John that is this Sunday's reading. Faith is first and foremost, a response to a call from the Lord. We are his sheep who hear his voice. And that voice is not some generalised invitation, a "Hey, people, come with me."*
- *The Lord addresses each of us individually, inviting us one by one to follow him. That is what he means when he says he knows his sheep. Sheep may all look alike to the unpractised uncaring eye; however, the shepherd can tell them apart. The two billion or so, Christians in the world also look generally alike. There are of course, variations of gender, build or race, but to some hypothetical visitor from outer space who did not love us, we would probably seem pretty much the same.*
- *But Jesus is not some unloving visitor from outer space. He loves us. So, he calls and cares for us one by one. He knows who I am and calls me by name. What he calls me to is eternal life. For whatever reasons of his own, in his love, Christ has called me to be one who, "shall never perish." Or, more accurately – since that infinite love is given to all people – he calls me to know that gift and the love that gives it.*
- *I have seen enough corpses of Christians (and expect to be one myself some day) to know that whatever this promise of eternal, imperishable life means, it does not mean an escape from death. Christ died in order to rise. I too, must die in order to fully experience the eternal life to which he calls me.*
- *Jesus gives us reason to be hopeful in the face of death. "No one shall snatch them out of my hand . . . there is no snatching out of the Father's hand." Jesus affirms his identity with the Father in the context of a guarantee. Death shall certainly take us, but it can never snatch us away from the loving care of God, the life-giving love of God. So, we will live as long as that love lives – eternally.*
- *What then of my day-to-day life? Should I just drift along. Every so often (an hour each Sunday, for example) remembering that I have been promised eternal life, but otherwise being indistinguishable from my neighbours who do not know that promise? If I do so, it is a sign that I probably do not really believe what the Lord says. It is, after all, hard for anyone after adolescence to really believe that he or she is going to live forever. I mouth the Creed saying I believe in "life everlasting". But that declaration does not shape my life.*
- *A Christian is not basically someone who does nice things. A Christian is someone who has been chosen to know God's promise of eternal life. Knowing it, really knowing it in the depths of my being, means that I*

*will live a particular sort of life. I will not fear the tongues or opinions or other weapons of the world, because I know that they are nothing compared to the eternity I am live.*

- *I can take the risk of loving other people, sacrificing my time, talents and treasure in their service because I know I have all eternity. I do good not because that is what makes me a Christian, but because what makes me a Christian – the promise of eternal life – frees me to do good.*
- *It is still Easter time, it is still the season of the Resurrection. It is still the season to remember that my life is not a matter of merely day-to-day, but of eternity.*

### **Creed / Statement of Faith**

**Intercessions - 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Eastertide** [ Sun 21<sup>st</sup> – Sat 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024 ]*invitation to pray:*

*leader: Friends, the Risen Christ stands among us. We remember his Words about our need to pray. United in one heart and mind, let us pray with confidence to God-with-us:*

1: *For the Christian church. May the leadership that Jesus showed help our leaders to show Jesus' care and compassion in all that they undertake:*  
 - (pause) - *Compassionate One, hear us: all: **Compassionate One, hear us.***

2: *For all those who announce the gospel. May the example that Jesus gave help us to be faithful to his Word and Sacrament:*  
 - (pause) - *Faithful Announcer, hear us: all: **Faithful Announcer, hear us.***

3: *For the young; may the companionship Jesus extended to his disciples, inspire our young to be open-minded and dedicated to living the Gospel:*  
 - (pause) - *Exemplar of the Way, the Truth and the Life, hear us:*  
*all: **Exemplar of the Way, the Truth and the Life, hear us.***

4: *God of lasting love, fulfil Your plan of salvation to gather into one fold the peoples of the whole world: - (pause) - God of Nations, hear us:*  
*all: **God of Nations, hear us.***

5: *For the sick: we pray for:*

*Mangawhai: **Petronella ter Veer, Matteo Gray, Pamela Downes, Petronella Brom, Lorna Boccock, Geraldine Choromanski, Judy Perry, Veronica Grigg, Margaret Rissman, Roselle & Owen McGrane, Richard Henry, Bob Walters, . . . . .***

*Maungaturoto: **Trevor Brljevich, Tony Ruiterman, Bill Lewis, Beverly Simons, Bob & Julia Bland, Peter McHugh, Adolph Layec, Jeremy McCroskerey, . . .***

*Wellsford: **Dallas Colville, Alec Colville, Lucille Jenneker, Rita McCurran, Wilma Jansen, Gerard McCurran, Iris Barrow, Lagi Sands, Tim Emberson, . . .***

*Bless them for they share in Christ's passion through their suffering:*  
 - (pause) - *Healer of the sick, hear us: all: **Healer of the sick, hear us.***

6: *For those who have died: **Phil Cotching, . . .***  
*And those whose anniversaries occur about now: **Warwick Taylor, Benjamin Martinez, Fr. James O'Donaghue, Colleen Bartlett, Roland Whynn, Joseph Lambert, Margaret Collings, Maria Kok, . . .***  
*Number them among your saints: - (pause) - Lord of the Living and the Dead, hear us: all: **Lord of the Living and the Dead, hear us.***

*Concluding Prayer:*

*leader: Holy God, always present when we call, listen to our prayers in the name of the love that You hold for Your Son Jesus, our Saviour and Brother, now and always:*

*all: **Amen***

**Prayer over the Gifts**

*presider: ( Kia inoi tatou / Let us pray: ... ) God of lasting love,  
fulfil Your plan of salvation  
to gather into one fold the peoples of the whole world.  
Let everyone on Earth recognise Your Christ as the Good Shepherd,  
who freely lays down his life for all to take it up again in power.  
Grant this through Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life,  
who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever:*

*all: **Amen***

**Preface** *( The restoration of the universe through the paschal mystery )*

*presider: The Lord be with you.*

*all: **And also with you.***

*presider: Lift up your hearts.*

*all: **We lift them up to the Lord.***

*presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

*all: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*presider: It is truly right and just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
that we should always sing Your glory, Lord;  
but we praise You with greater joy than ever  
in this Easter season  
when Christ became our paschal sacrifice.  
In him a new age has dawned:  
the long reign of sin is ended,  
a broken world has been restored,  
and life for us is once again made whole.  
Therefore, the universe resounds with Easter joy,  
and the choirs of angels sing the endless hymn of Your glory:*

*all: **Holy holy holy!***

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER****Memorial Acclamation**

*( the Eucharistic Prayer ends with the great 'AMEN' )*

**Introduction to the Lord's Prayer**

*either*

*leader: With trust in God, who nourishes us in the hour of need,  
let us pray as Jesus taught us:*

*or*

*leader: Let us pray for the coming of God's realm as Jesus taught us.*

*or*

*leader: The Father has forgiven us, let us forgive our neighbour from the heart*

*as we say:*

*all: **Our Father, . . .***

*presider: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil;  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that by the help of Your mercy,  
we may be always freed from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

*all: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.***

**Sign of Peace**

*presider: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles:  
'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you'.  
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church  
and grant us the peace and unity of your Realm,  
where you live, now and always:*

*all: **Amen.***

*presider: The peace of the Lord be with you:*

*all: **And with your spirit.***

*leader: Let us offer each other a sign of peace:*

**Lamb of God**

*all: **Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us (x2)  
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.***

*presider: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,  
who by the will of the Father  
and the work of the Holy Spirit,  
through your death gave life to the world;  
free us by this your most holy Body and Blood  
from all our sins and from every evil:  
keep us always faithful to your commandments  
and never let us be parted from you.*

*all: **Amen***

*either*

*presider: Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him who takes away the sins of  
the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.*

*or*

*presider: This is the bread come down from heaven;  
whoever eats this bread will never die.  
This is the cup of eternal life;  
whoever drinks of it will live forever:*

*all: **Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof,  
but only say the Word and my soul shall be healed.***

### **Holy Communion**

*presider: Ko te Tinana o te Karaiti:  
( Ko nga Toto o te Karaiti: )*

### **Prayer after Communion**

*leader: ( Kia inoi tatou / Let us pray: ... ) Like a good shepherd, O God,  
keep watch over those  
You have redeemed by the blood of Your Son,  
and lead them as Your flock into heavenly pastures.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord:*

*all: **Amen.***

*( an opportunity for announcements/notices etc. . . . )*

### **Dismissal**

*leader: We are sent; in the name of God,  
the God of life and freedom;  
we are sent in the name of Jesus,  
who freely gave his life for us;  
we are sent in the name of the Holy Spirit,  
who unites us in the freedom of God's love;  
to be 'light' for a broken people  
and for our broken world,  
until we gather again:*

*all: **Amen***

### **The Blessing**

*presider: Kia whakapaingia koutou e te Atua kaha rawa,  
e te Matua, e te Tamaiti ✠ e te Wairua Tapu.*

*all: **Amene***

*leader: The Mass has ended, go in peace. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*all: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!***