

# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter(a)

## Introduction

*leader: Greet the people and name the Sunday of the Year ( see above )  
Acknowledge visitors and welcome them.  
Remind everyone that there will be refreshments ???  
Announce the theme of the liturgy ( see next )*

## Theme – The Good Shepherd

*leader: Jesus gave his best energies  
to implement the new reigning of GOD.  
And he needed a circle of disciples  
to extend the transformative power  
of GOD's holy Spirit by their practise.  
Today that power moves within our own history  
as we harness our own personal powers  
with GOD's power for life-giving  
– or we become stumbling blocks  
to the extension of GOD's reigning!  
( 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.*

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

## Penitential Rite *Invitation to Repentance* *either*

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

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

*or*

*leader: Those of us who want to live trustingly  
are often made to feel we are a minority  
who are asked to do something peripheral  
to modern life. Ridicule, harassment, fear,  
bitterness and discouragement make a strong case  
for us to simply walk away from GOD's call:*

- GOD calls us to resist a society that crushes and destroys  
its most vulnerable members. That call is distorted or obscured  
by the routines of our daily living:*

- (pause) - LORD, have mercy: all: **LORD, have mercy.**

- We pray to be informed about the condition of the most vulnerable ones. But we don't get involved with them:

- (pause) - CHRIST, have mercy: all: **CHRIST, have mercy.**

- We think of ourselves as "bearers of gifts" - rather than we seek ways to get alongside and be available in lively ways to the needy: - (pause) - LORD, have mercy: all: **LORD, have mercy:**

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

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

### **Opening Prayer**

presider: *( Kia inoi tatou: ... / Let us pray, ... ) O GOD, You never cease to call even those far away, for it is Your will that all be drawn into one fold.*

*Attune our ears to the voice of the Good Shepherd, who leads us always to You, that we may find under Your tender protection life in all its fullness.*

*We ask 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.***

### **Introduction to the first reading:** ( Acts 2 : 14, 36 – 41 )

leader: *Peter addresses a large crowd in Jerusalem on Pentecost Day. He has become a spokesman for disciples transformed by their understanding, through the resurrection of Jesus. His address assumes that the 'House of Israel' will respond. And he anticipates a new transformed community.*

### **Introduction to the second reading:** ( 1 Peter 2 : 20 – 25 )

leader: *The author adds to the sheep/shepherd imagery. The vulnerability of the Christian community in a hostile society, means they are outsiders who suffer for their faithfulness. Innocent of wrongdoing, they identify with the innocent suffering One, Jesus; whose sacrifice makes possible the return of those who have mindlessly wandered away from the protection of the, "shepherd and guardian of souls".*

**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: 1 – 10)

*leader: Like the Psalm above, this passage from the gospel of John reflects on the special relationship between sheep and shepherd in GOD's realm.*

**Homily Notes** (presider)

- *In the Eucharist, Jesus offers fullness of life (the protected life-giving feeding grounds) promised in the gospel. The offer is clear contrary to the deadly ways that are linked with the thieves and brigands of our world. Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf, does not guarantee our superiority, or the continuing power of our religious authority.*
- *Among the costs of living trustingly is the sense that one is a minority doing something on the periphery of modern society. Ridicule, harassment, fear, bitterness and discouragement, make a strong case for simply walking away from the call. But "to live as Jesus has shown us" means not walking away from danger.*
- *But "how can we believe in GOD when society systematically crushes and destroys us?" We might ignore the question altogether, because of the routine demands of our daily living. Homemaking, family life, work, recreation, education, the organizations we belong to, the newspapers we read, et cetera..., distort or obscure our view of life "from the underside" or from our vulnerability.*
- *The essence of GOD's nature and purpose, as revealed by Jesus, it to identify with the weak and vulnerable. For us prayer, information and analysis are important. But these are no substitute for personal involvement with people on the receiving end of injustice. For most of us, that means seeking ways to "be alongside" and available in some lively way. It means an openness to being "taught" by victims.*
- *It means receiving gifts, rather than assuming we are bearers of gifts. The experience of involvement, of walking-with and taking-sides-with – feeds our understanding and compassion, and energizes us to take up GOD's invitation to new life!*
- *And as the Christians in Asia Minor found to their discomfort (second reading), means we have to learn about the costs. Those of us who want to live trustingly are often made to feel we*

*are a minority who are asked to do something peripheral to modern life. Ridicule, harassment, fear, bitterness and discouragement make a strong case for us to simply walk away from God's call:*

## **Creed**

**Intercessions - 4<sup>th</sup> Week of the Easter Season** [ Sun 30<sup>th</sup> April - Sat 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023 ]*invitation to pray:*

*leader: Friends in Christ, Jesus comes among us. We remember his words about our need to always pray. United in one heart and mind, let us pray with confidence to GOD-with-us; for the needs of the whole human family:*

*1: For the shepherds of the Christian church. May the leadership that Jesus showed, help us to show Jesus' care and compassion to all whom we serve: - (pause) - We pray to the LORD:*

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer:***

*2: For all those who announce the gospel. May Jesus' announcing through his suffering, dying and rising, help them to be strong in prayer and faithful to his Word and Sacrament:*

*- (pause) - We pray to the LORD:*

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

*3: For the young. May the faithful companionship that Jesus encouraged among his disciples, inspire them to be open-minded to serve as priests and consecrated religious, who are dedicated to living the gospel: - (pause) - LORD, hear our prayer:*

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

*4: For those in religious formation: we support them with our prayers: - (pause) - We pray to the LORD:*

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer:***

*5: Healer of the sick, we pray to you for: . . . (see parish newsletter) May they be blessed with courage and patience:*

*- (pause) - LORD, hear our prayer:*

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

*6: O GOD, whose mercy is never withheld from those who call upon you in hope, look kindly on your servants who have died confessing your name, including those who have died recently . . . and those whose anniversaries occur about now: . . . (see parish newsletter)*

*Number them among your saints:*

*- (pause) - GOD of mercy, hear our prayer:*

*all: **GOD of mercy, hear our prayer.***

*Concluding Prayer:*

*leader: Holy GOD, Ever Faithful ONE, Your paths are love and truth. Help us to understand our inner lives and keep us vigilant in love on the path which leads to You. We make these prayers in Jesus' name.*

*all: **Amen***

### **Prayer over the Gifts**

*presider: ( Kia inoi tatou: ... / Let us pray, . . ) LORD GOD,  
make the Paschal Mystery our constant joy:  
may it continue within us the work of redemption  
and be the cause of our unending delight.  
Grant this in the name of Jesus, the LORD.*

*all: **Amen***

### **Preface**

*presider: GOD 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 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 – III**

#### **Memorial Acclamation**

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

#### **Introduction to the LORD's Prayer**

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

*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.***

*presider: Let us offer each other an appropriate 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***

*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.*

*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:                      all: **Amen.***

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

### **Dismissal**

*leader: We are sent; in the name of the GOD,  
True Shepherd of Israel;  
we are sent in the name of Jesus,  
Guiding Touch of the GOD of Israel;  
we are sent in the name of the Holy Spirit,  
Sustainer of all the vulnerable ones;  
to do the works of love in our society,  
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, let us go in peace to love and serve our GOD.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

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