

The Collect

Almighty God, who has given thine only Son to be to us both a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit, and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Old Testament Reading is taken from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel, beginning to read in Chapter 34 at the 11th verse.

34:11 “For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out.

12 As a shepherd seeks out his flock when some of his sheep have been scattered abroad, so will I seek out my sheep; and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.

13 And I will bring them out from the peoples, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the fountains, and in all the inhabited places of the country.

14 I will feed them with good pasture, and upon the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on fat pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel.

15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God.

16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the crippled, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will watch over; I will feed them in justice.

The word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

The New Testament Reading is taken from the 1st Epistle of Peter, beginning to read in Chapter 5 at the 1st verse.

5:1 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ as well as a partaker in the glory that is to be revealed.

2 Tend the flock of God that is your charge, not by constraint but willingly, not for shameful gain but eagerly,

3 not as domineering over those in your charge but being examples to the flock.

4 And when the chief Shepherd is manifested you will obtain the unfading crown of glory.

5 Likewise you that are younger be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that in due time he may exalt you.

7 Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you.

8 Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking some one to devour.

9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experience of suffering is required of your brotherhood throughout the world.

10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, establish, and strengthen you.

11 To him be the dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm appointed 23

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Hear the Holy Gospel according to St John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

10:11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 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. 13 He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep.

14 I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, 15 as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 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. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it again. 18 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Postcommunion Collect

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God: that we receiving the quickening of thy grace, may ever glory in the gift which thou bestowest. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who livest and reignest with Thee in the Unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.