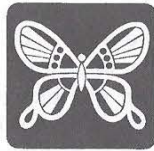


FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 22, 2018



THE LESSON Acts 4:5-12

⁵The next day the leaders, elders, and legal experts gathered in Jerusalem, ⁶along with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and others from the high priest's family. ⁷They had Peter and John brought before them and asked, "By what power or in what name did you do this?"

⁸Then Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, answered, "Leaders of the people and elders, ⁹are we being examined today because something

good was done for a sick person, a good deed that healed him? ¹⁰If so, then you and all the people of Israel need to know that this man stands healthy before you because of the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone you builders rejected; he has become the cornerstone! ¹²Salvation can be found in no one else. Throughout the whole world, no other name has been given among humans through which we must be saved."

THE RESPONSE Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd. I lack nothing.

¹He lets me rest in grassy meadows; he leads me to restful waters;

²he keeps me alive. He guides me in proper paths for the sake of his good name.

³Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no danger because you are with me. Your rod and your staff—they protect me.

⁴You set a table for me right in front of my enemies. You bathe my head in oil; my cup is so full it spills over!

⁵Yes, goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the LORD's house as long as I live.

THE EPISTLE 1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶This is how we know love: Jesus laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷But if a

person has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need and that person doesn't care—how can the love of God remain in him?

¹⁸Little children, let's not love

with words or speech but with action and truth. ¹⁹This is how we will know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts in God's presence. ²⁰Even if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts and knows all things. ²¹Dear friends, if our hearts don't condemn us, we have confidence in relationship to God. ²²We receive whatever we ask from him because we keep his

commandments and do what pleases him. ²³This is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love each other as he commanded us. ²⁴The person who keeps his commandments remains in God and God remains in him; and this is how we know that he remains in us, because of the Spirit that he has given to us.

THE GOSPEL John 10:11-18

¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²When the hired hand sees the wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away. That's because he isn't the shepherd; the sheep aren't really his. So the wolf attacks the sheep and scatters them. ¹³He's only a hired hand and the sheep don't matter to him.

¹⁴"I am the good shepherd. I know my own sheep and they know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I

know the Father. I give up my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that don't belong to this sheep pen. I must lead them too. They will listen to my voice and there will be one flock, with one shepherd.

¹⁷"This is why the Father loves me: I give up my life so that I can take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I give it up because I want to. I have the right to give it up, and I have the right to take it up again. I received this commandment from my Father."

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