

April 25 - 26, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter Readings - First Communion

First Reading

A Reading from Acts

The baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

(pause)

Reader: **Word of God, word of Life.**

Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.

Second Reading

A Reading from First Peter

It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God,
a person endures pain while suffering unjustly.
If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that?
But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it,
this is a commendable thing before God.

For to this you have been called,
because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example,
so that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”
When he was abused, he did not return abuse;
when he suffered, he did not threaten,
but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,
so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness;
by his wounds you have been healed.

For you were going astray like sheep,
but now you have returned to the shepherd
and guardian of your souls.

(pause)

Reader: **Word of God, word of Life.**

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

A Proclamation of the Holy Gospel According to John

Jesus said: "Very truly, I tell you,
anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate
but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit.

The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.
The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice.
He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.
When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them,
and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.
They will not follow a stranger,
but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers."

Jesus used this figure of speech with them,
but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them,
"Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.
All who came before me are thieves and bandits,
but the sheep did not listen to them.

I am the gate.
Whoever enters by me will be saved
and will come in and go out and find pasture.
The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.
I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

Pastor: **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Congregation: Thanks be to God.