

and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep;

this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd;

I know my own

and my own know me,

just as the Father knows me

and I know the Father;

and I lay down my life for my sheep.

And there are other sheep I have

that are not of this fold,

and these I have to lead as well.

They too will listen to my voice,

and there will be only one flock

and one shepherd.

The Father loves me,

because I lay down my life

in order to take it up again.

No one takes it from me;

I lay it down of my own free will,

and as it is in my power to lay it down,

so it is in my power to take it up again;

and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / B (ANZAC DAY)

25 APRIL 2021

GOD'S MYSTERIOUS WAYS

There are always different ways of seeing the same thing. For some of the Jews in Jerusalem, Jesus' death was the necessary outcome for someone who was leading the people astray. Peter on the other hand has come to see it as the foundation and cornerstone of a new building. He does not deny that Jesus was rejected by some of his own, but he has come to appreciate it from a new point of view. As John expresses it, it is the means by which God lavishes us with love ushering in a new dawn for those with eyes to see.

In a similar fashion Jesus speaks to his disciples in the Gospel today about how he understands his own death. The disciples could only see their hopes of being part of a new kingdom being dashed to pieces, and as a failure. Jesus did not see his death in this way. Rather, it is the gift of the loving shepherd, given freely for his flock that they might live. On this Anzac Day we remember with profound thanks the sacrifice of so many who have served and died so that we might live.

Despite how things might appear there is always a deeper reality that the person of faith is called to see and appreciate. There is an invitation to hope and trust in the hidden and unexpected ways that God works in our midst. Even failures and suffering can have a part to play in God's plan for us. Having the openness to look once again with the eyes of faith is part of the challenge of Easter.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Acts 4: 8-12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

This is the only name by which we can be saved.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PS Ps 117: 1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29. R. v. 22

R. The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone. (or Alleluia!)

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, / for his love has no end. / It is better to take refuge in the Lord / than to trust in men: / it is better to take refuge in the Lord / than to trust in princes. **R.**

2. I will thank you for you have given answer / and you are my saviour. / The stone which the builders rejected / has become the cornerstone. / This is the work of the Lord, / a marvel in our eyes. **R.**

3. Blessed in the name of the Lord / is he who comes. / We bless you from the house of the Lord; / I will thank you for you have given answer / and you are my saviour. / Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; / for his love has no end. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Jn 3: 1-2

A reading from the first letter of St John.

We shall see God as he is.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God

but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 10: 14

Alleluia, alleluia! / I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; / I know my sheep, and mine know me. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 10: 11-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd