

Fourth Sunday of Easter | Year A

April 30, 2023 (Acts 2:14a, 36-41 | 1 Pt 2:20b-25 | John 10:1-10)

In the early days of the Church, Peter urges the Israelites to repent and to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. Let us now turn to God with our prayers.

1/ Because God is our shepherd, there is nothing that we shall want. For pastors and deacons of the flocks. We pray that, together with Pope Francis, they may imitate God who is the shepherd in guiding the flocks in right paths. Let us pray.

2/ Peter tells the early Christians that it is a grace before God, if they are patient even when they suffer for doing what is good. For those who were once members of Jesus's flocks, but who struggled to stay faithful and so swayed because of challenges. We pray that the grace of God will bring them back to the sheepfold. Let us pray.

3/ Jesus, the gate for the sheep, promises that the flocks who enter through him will be saved. For all Christians who have entered the gate of Jesus and joined the sheepfold. We pray that worldly dangers disguised in the forms of thieves and robbers may not be able to snatch them from Jesus. Let us pray.

4/ Jesus came into the world to be the gate for the children of God, so that they might have life and have it more abundantly. For our sisters and brothers who survived tribulations of this world but have now departed from us. We pray that God may give them the company of Jesus in heaven. Today we remember **[at 4:30 PM]** all the deceased members of Saint John the Apostle Parish; **[at 10:00 AM]** Jean Wethington. Let us pray.

Oh God and Father in heaven. We have been called to join the company of Jesus by entering the gate of his sheepfold. For we have come to believe that through Jesus, we may also enter into our heavenly life with you. Impart, we pray, your grace on us that we may always be in your presence. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.