

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25-26, 2026

Welcome to the Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier in Hunt Valley, Maryland.
Thank you for worshiping with us!

Entrance Antiphon

"The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia"
(Psalm 33:5-6).

Gathering Song

Sing to the Mountains #519

*Sing to the mountains, sing to the sea. Raise your voices, lift your hearts.
This is the day the Lord has made. Let all the earth rejoice.*

I will give thanks to you, my Lord. You have answered my plea.
You have saved my soul from death. You are my strength and my song.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us be glad and rejoice.
Death has lost and all is life. Sing of the glory of God.

Text: Psalm 118; Bob Dufford, SJ, b. 1943, © 1975, Robert J. Dufford, SJ, and OCP

Glory to God

Refrain

Gló-ri-a! Gló-ri-a! Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and on
earth peace to peo - ple, to peo - ple of good will.

Text: ICEL, © 2010
Music: *Jubilation Mass*, James Chepponis, © 1999, 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

Collect

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading I

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed: "Let the whole house of Israel know for certain that God has made both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and they asked Peter and the other apostles, "What are we to do, my brothers?" Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call." He testified with many other arguments, and was

exhorting them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day.

Responsorial Psalm

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Reading II

1 Pt 2:20b-25

Beloved:

If you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps. *He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.*

When he was insulted, he returned no insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten; instead, he handed himself over to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Gospel

Jn 10:1-10

Jesus said:

"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers." Although Jesus used this figure of speech, the Pharisees did not realize what he was trying to tell them.

So Jesus said again, "Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

Homily

Profession of Faith

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father; through him all things were
made. For us men and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
(bow for the next two lines)
*and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary, and became man.*

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate, he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the
giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the
Son is adored and glorified,

OR

APOSTLES' CREED*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed may be used at any Sunday Mass, but **the church particularly recommends its use during Lent and Easter Time. The words of this ancient Creed have been used for centuries as the basis of our baptismal promises, and the seasons of Lent and Easter focus strongly on baptism.*

Universal Prayer

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts

Shepherd of My Heart **#723**

My shepherd is the Lord, for nothing shall I want; green are the pastures where I'm led to repose.
Near waters still and deep God will refresh my soul. I am led onward in ways true to the Name.

Guide me, O shepherd of my heart; lead me homeward through the dark, into everlasting day. Show me the way of truth and light; keep me always in your sight. May my life never part from the shepherd of my heart.

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen

If I should walk one day into the vale of darkness, no evil shall I fear with God at my side.
There with your crook and staff you give me strength and comfort; you spread a banquet in the sight of my foes.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup is overflowing; goodness and kindness crown the days of my life.
Within the Lord's own house I dwell in peace for ever; within the house of God my soul is at rest.

Text: Psalm 23; Francis Patrick O'Brien, b.1958, © 1992, GIA Publications, Inc.

Prayer Response

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Eucharistic Acclamations

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts.

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest

Memorial Acclamation

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. (repeat)

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Prayer before Communion

Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You, come spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Communion Antiphon

"The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia"

Distribution of Holy Communion

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart #940

***You satisfy the hungry heart With gift of finest wheat;
Come give to us, O saving Lord, The bread of life to eat.***

As when the shepherd calls his sheep, They know and heed his voice;
So when you call your fam'ly, Lord, We follow and rejoice.

With joyful lips we sing to you Our praise and gratitude,
That you should count us worthy, Lord, To share this heav'nly food.

Is not the cup we bless and share The blood of Christ outpoured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare Our oneness in the Lord?

The myst'ry of your presence, Lord, No mortal tongue can tell:
Whom all the world cannot contain Comes in our hearts to dwell.

You give yourself to us, O Lord; Then selfless let us be,
To serve each other in your name In truth and charity.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1998, © 1977, Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Published by International Liturgy Publications

Sending

Sing with All the Saints in Glory #539

Sing with all the saints in glory, Sing the resurrection song!
Death and sorrow, earth's dark story, To the former days belong.
All around the clouds are breaking, Soon the storms of time shall cease;
In God's likeness, we awaken, Knowing everlasting peace.

O what glory, far exceeding All that eye has yet perceived!
Holiest hearts, for ages pleading, Never that full joy conceived.
God has promised, Christ prepares it, There on high our welcome waits.
Ev'ry humble spirit shares it; Christ has passed the eternal gates.

Life eternal! heav'n rejoices: Jesus lives who once was dead;
Shout with joy, O deathless voices! Child of God, lift up your head!
Patriarchs from distant ages, Saints all longing for their heav'n,
Prophets, psalmists, seers, and sages, All await the glory giv'n.

Life eternal! O what wonders Crowd on faith; what joy unknown,
When, amidst earth's closing thunders, Saints shall stand before the throne!
O to enter that bright portal, See that glowing firmament,
Know, with you, O God immortal, Jesus Christ whom you have sent!

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:20; William J. Irons, 1812-1883, alt.; tr. by Alberto Meruvia, b. 1919, © 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

Thank you for supporting the work of the Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier. Your donations continue to help make our livestream possible.



If you wish to make a gift you may use this QR code or access our website [CCSFX Give](#)

Excerpts from the English translation of **Lectionary for Mass** © 1969, 1981, 1997, 2002 International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation, (ICEL); excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal* © 2010, ICEL

Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States, second typical edition, Copyright © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine; Psalm refrain © 1968, 1981, 1997, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. Neither this work nor any part of it may be reproduced, distributed, performed or displayed in any medium, including electronic or digital, without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

Reprint, Livestream/Podcast, Copyright Permission: Permission to reprint, podcast, and / or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A- 701369. All rights reserved.