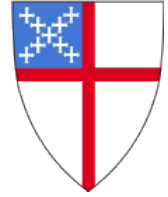


Lessons for April 22nd, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Easter



First Reading: Acts 4:5-12

Hear the Word of God as it is written in Acts chapter 4 verses 5 to 12.

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is `the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Psalm 23

Let us all stand and read Psalm 23, responsively by verse.

1

The LORD is my shepherd I shall not be in want.

2

He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

3

He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

6

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, World without end. Amen.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

Hear the Word of God as it is written in First John chapter 3 verses 16 to 24.

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

This is the Word of the Lord.