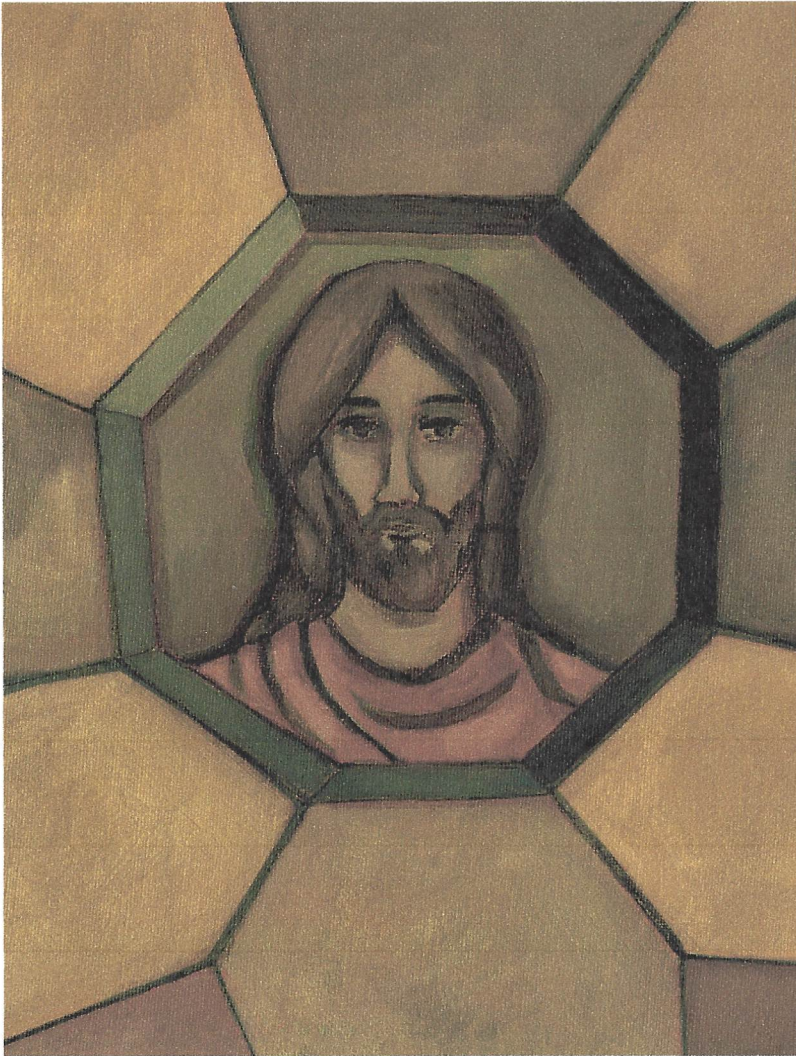


FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



The Cornerstone

Almighty and ever-living God,
you reveal your great love for us in your
Son, Jesus.

By his dying and rising,
we have been made your children
and so, we lift our voices to give thanks
for your goodness.

May Christ the cornerstone,
provide us with the strength
and courage

to build up your Kingdom.

Grant us a faith and love
that moves us to lay aside our desires
in order to work for justice.

Implant your will deep within
our hearts

so that, we offer all that we are to you
and for your glory.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 22, 2018
The Rejected Cornerstone

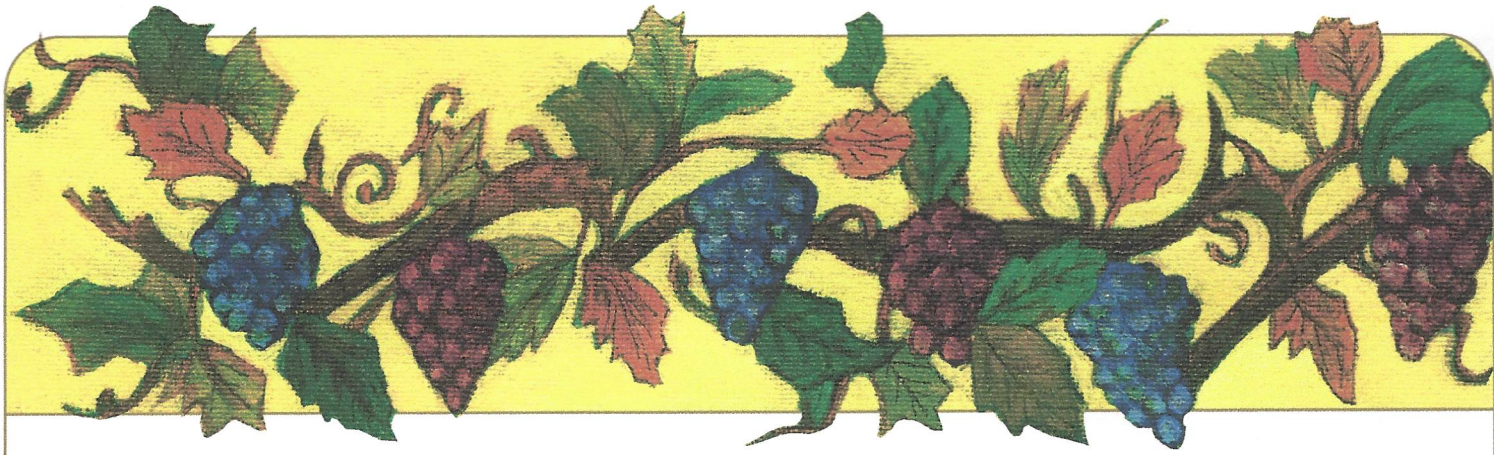


Today's Readings: Acts of the Apostles 4:8–12; Psalm 118:1, 8–9, 21–23, 26, 28, 29; 1 John 3:1–2; John 10:11–18.

Together, the First Reading and the Gospel invite us to reflect on the saving power of God. Many thought that the Messiah would usher in war, and once he conquered, would reign as a powerful king. Jesus' reign is one of peace and love. The images our readings provide are that of a rejected stone and a shepherd. When Peter is confronted about the healing of the cripple, he tells the Jewish leaders that they are like builders who put aside a stone unfit for building. The reality is, they didn't examine it closely enough, and the stone that they reject is the Messiah. Think about the brutality Jesus suffered and the confrontations he experienced. The one who

saves is the one who many humiliated and hunted down. Jesus is the foundation that keeps us from collapsing.

Similarly, in the Gospel, Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, lays aside everything for his sheep. Jesus isn't the warrior some were expecting, but a loving Savior in whom we take refuge. In the name of this unexpected Savior, the cripple was healed and we are healed. Who in our communities, like Jesus, is rejected or ignored? Reach out to those and help them know they are loved and have gifts to share in building up the Kingdom. Engage in some active imagination with the image of Christ the cornerstone. How does this image comfort or challenge you?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 23

The Gate

The Gospel shows Jesus as the gate through which people must enter to be saved. Imagine a gate. It can keep things in or out. It has the potential to protect. By his death and Resurrection, Jesus has opened the Kingdom of Heaven. By uniting ourselves to him, we enter into his sheepfold. Meditate on Jesus as the gate, and see how he leads you to the Kingdom. *Today's Readings: Acts of the Apostles 11:1-18; Psalm 42:2-3; 43:3, 5; John 10:1-10.*

Tuesday, April 24

All Nations

In the Scriptures, reference to the Gentiles usually is a reference for all non-Jewish people. Our First Reading helps depict how the Church is growing beyond Jerusalem and spreading to all nations, even the Greeks. As disciples, we are called to give witness to Christ the Shepherd to all peoples. In your prayer today, include a petition that all nations might know the peace and love of Christ. *Today's Readings: Acts of the Apostles 11:19-26; Psalm 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7; John 10:22-30.*

Wednesday, April 25

Feast of St. Mark

Today's readings provide three ideas on which to reflect. First, in the Gospel, Jesus tells the Apostles to preach to all nations. Second, Peter tells us to be sober and vigilant in order to remain steadfast in faith. Third, the Psalm invites us to praise for all God has done for us. Be attentive to Christ's presence as you share time with another today. *Today's Readings: 1 Peter 5:5b-14; Psalm 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mark 16:15-20.*

Thursday, April 26

Bold and Confident

Scripture's portrayal of Paul is bold and confident. As Paul speaks to the people in the synagogue, he recounts Israel's history, showing that Jesus is the Chosen One sent by God, the One foretold by the prophets. Have you ever been in a situation where you needed to share your faith boldly? We are heirs of God's promise who go forth sharing the Good News. We are the messengers Christ has sent. Send a message of Good News to a friend to reconnect. *Today's Readings: Acts of the Apostles 13:13-25; Psalm 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27; John 13:16-20.*

Friday, April 27

Light and Path

God truly has kept his promise by raising Jesus from the dead. Jesus is the true light of life and the path of salvation and anyone who comes to him becomes a child of God. If you were sitting in the synagogue listening to Paul preach, how might you have responded? Paul invites unbelievers to follow the Light and believers to show forth the Light. Spend time praying with the Psalm refrain. *Today's Readings: Acts of the Apostles 13:26-33; Psalm 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab; John 14:1-6.*

Saturday, April 28

Jealousy

In the First Reading, the Jews are jealous of the crowds who gather to hear Paul and Barnabas. Jealousy is a problem. It can lead one to embrace malice. The disciples teach us a lesson by dusting their feet and moving on. When have you felt jealous and what incited those feelings? Dialogue with Jesus about a time you were jealous and hear his advice. *Today's Readings: Acts of the Apostles 13:44-52; Psalm 98, 1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; John 14:7-14.*



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