

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: **Responding by whole verse:**

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 **He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

3 He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his
name's sake.

4 **Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow
of death, I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they
comfort me.**

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of
mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

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

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Prayers of the People:

Beloved siblings in Christ, peace be with you. Let us pray to our merciful Lord, saying, “Our Lord and our God, **have mercy on us.**”

Lord Jesus Christ, you have given your Church the gift of your Holy Spirit. May that same Spirit comfort and strengthen us as we proclaim your resurrection to the world.

Silence

Our Lord and our God, **have mercy on us.**

God of wisdom, teach and counsel the leaders of the nations. May this world be filled with justice and peace.

Silence

Our Lord and our God, **have mercy on us.**

God our provider, you have given us this earth as a goodly heritage. May we use its resources wisely and always according to your purpose.

The congregation may add their thanksgivings, followed by silence.

Our Lord and our God, **have mercy on us.**

All-knowing God, raise up for this community people who will stand and voice your truth. May we be led by you on good paths of life.

Silence

Our Lord and our God, **have mercy on us.**

Merciful God, you are a strong refuge for those in trouble. Protect all those who suffer various trials. Reveal yourself to those who struggle to believe in you. Make all your people glad by the living hope that is found in you.

The congregation may add their petitions, followed by silence.

Our Lord and our God, **have mercy on us.**

God of life, may the dying and the dead rest in hope. Give us faith that you do not abandon anyone—even to the grave. And preserve us for the great inheritance you give us through the resurrection of your Son from the dead.

Silence

Our Lord and our God, **have mercy on us.**

The Celebrant concludes, adding a Collect.