

# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

## Good Shepherd Sunday

### May 3, 2020



#### **Introduction**

Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s pandemic and ongoing violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

*We gather each week to worship and pray on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish Peoples. For thousands of years they have walked on the land and paddled the waters of the Salish Sea. We are grateful to the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations for their stewardship of these lands and adjoining waters throughout the ages.*

## Prelude – Improvisation by Sonja Koruga

### Verse

*Alleluia.*

Jesus says, I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. (*John 10:14*)

*Alleluia.*

### Dialogue

O Lord, open our lips.

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us;

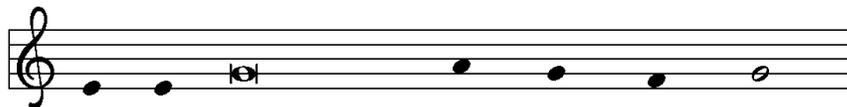
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

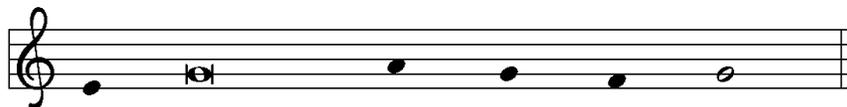
**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Alleluia

### Invitatory



Al - le - luia. Christ is ris - en in - deed.



Oh, come, let us wor - ship and praise.

**Psalm 95 Come, Worship the Lord** – sung by Sonja Koruga

Words and Music by John Michael Talbot

Come, worship the Lord  
For we are his people  
The flock that he shepherds  
Alleluia

Come, worship the  
Lord  
For we are his  
people  
The flock that he  
shepherds  
Alleluia

And come, let us sing  
to the Lord  
And shout with joy to  
the rock who saves  
us  
Let us come with  
thanksgiving  
And sing joyful songs  
to the Lord

Come, worship the  
Lord  
For we are his  
people  
The flock that he  
shepherds  
Alleluia



Come, worship the Lord  
For we are his people  
The flock that he shepherds  
Alleluia

The Lord is God, the mighty God  
The great King o'er all other gods  
He holds in his hands the depths of the earth  
And the highest mountains as well  
He made the sea, it belongs to him  
The dry land too, was formed by his hand

Come, worship the Lord  
For we are his people  
The flock that he shepherds  
Alleluia

Come, worship the Lord  
For we are his people  
The flock that he shepherds  
Alleluia

Come, let us bow down and worship  
Bending the knee for the Lord our  
maker  
For we are his people  
We are the flock that he shepherds

Psalm 23 – ELW 778 – The Lord’s my Shepherd – sung by Sonja Koruga

The Lord’s My Shepherd



1 The Lord’s my shep-herd; I’ll not want. He makes me down to lie  
2 My soul he doth re-store a-gain, and me to walk doth make  
3 Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;  
4 My ta-ble thou hast rich-ly spread in pres-ence of my foes;  
5 Good-ness and mer-cy all my life shall sure-ly fol-low me,



in pas-tures green; he lead-eth me the qui-et wa-ters by.  
with-in the paths of righ-teous-ness, e’en for his own name’s sake;  
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com-fort still;  
my head thou dost with oil a-noint, and my cup o-ver-flows.  
and in God’s house for-ev-er-more my dwell-ing-place shall be;



He lead-eth me, he lead-eth me the qui-et wa-ters by.  
with-in the paths of righ-teous-ness, e’en for his own name’s sake.  
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com-fort still.  
My head thou dost with oil a-noint, and my cup o-ver-flows.  
and in God’s house for-ev-er-more my dwell-ing-place shall be.

Text: *The Psalms of David in Meeter*, Edinburgh, 1650  
Music: BROTHER JAMES’ AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain

**Gospel: John 10: 1-10**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O God.**

[Jesus said:] “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. 1The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you O Christ.**

## Prayer of the Day

### Let us pray.

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### Reflection on the gospel from Pastor Vida

*This reflection on the our Gospel text this morning begins with the words of Episcopal priest Anne Sutherland Howard, in [her reflection on this text, in 2014](#), and then continues with my own thoughts.*

“In John’s story about the good shepherd, fear is a familiar neighbor. John’s community lived with the reality of persecution and the threat of extinction.” They did not face a pandemic but “the persecutions were heating up, and the followers of Jesus were, in the eyes of Rome, just so many lambs for the lions ... Their first-century Mediterranean world was indeed a scary place.”

“So they told stories. Meeting under cover of darkness, hidden from the authorities, huddled in some secret spot, listening for the sound of Roman boots; they told stories to counter the fear. They told stories that helped them to name who they were and to whom they belonged and whom they could trust. They heard the story of the shepherd and the sheep and they remembered who they were ... The story of the shepherd helped them to remember a better way. They knew about the *way* of the good shepherd, and that was the way of love, not fear.”

“They became the people of the Good Shepherd. Early Christians began to scratch the image of the Good Shepherd, lamb slung over his shoulders, on catacomb walls; they painted frescoes onto baptismal fonts to mark the beginning of life and they carved the Good Shepherd into tombs, to mark the end. They belonged to the Good Shepherd, from beginning to end.”

On our visit in the English countryside last spring around this same time in early May – Al and I took a walk to the nearby village along the public paths that took us

through sheep meadows. We noticed that some of the sheep had been marked with a spray of blue paint. They had been branded. Friends in Christ, we too have been



branded. God brands us in our baptism. As water is poured over us, God sets the seal of the cross upon us - and we belong to God. The Good Shepherd in our story this morning is more than just a comforting image, it is our brand. It is to be our way of life.

The brand of the Good Shepherd tells us who we follow, who we are, and more than that, how to live. We are to live the Good Shepherd way...the way of doing the hard work of love. Because we know whose we are and to whom we belong ...because we are held close in the comfort of the loving shepherd we are to reach out and care and encourage one another. Doing the hard work of love means understanding that the experience of the pandemic is different for each of us. Some of us are experiencing a

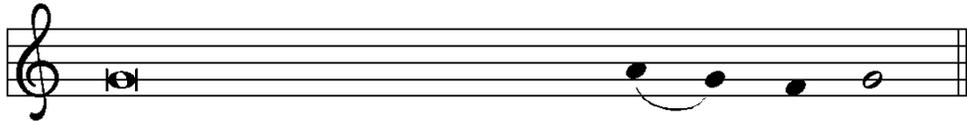
welcome slowdown of activity while for others of us our workload has increased. For some of us the separation from loved ones and friends is extremely painful, while for others, their disposition or prior circumstances of living alone has prepared them for this time. We need to be understanding and not judge or be envious. Doing the hard work of love also means we need to be compassionate that we are all in this together. It means picking up the phone and calling a neighbor or a friend. I wonder if there is something each of us could do this week ... if each of us could take the church phone directory and commit to phoning three people ... and to consider someone you would not normally call, someone not in your close circle of friends but outside of it. Perhaps someone who often goes unnoticed because of their quiet nature and comfort on the periphery of our circle. Reaching out in this way, is risky, we may want to stay in our comfort zone, but The Good Shepherd reminds us — we are safe and held close in Him so that we can reach out and take a risk. And when we open our heart to another's pain and our own heart gets broken in the process, the Good Shepherd is with us in that meeting place of

pain ... in that sacred ground of our common humanity—and the Good Shepherd will bind up our wounds and make us whole again. **Amen.**

### Scriptural Dialogue



You have been born a - new



through the living and abiding word of God.



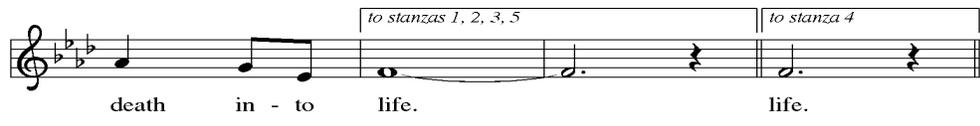
Hymn ELW 780 – Shepherd me, O God – Sung by Sonja Koruga

Shepherd Me, O God

*Refrain*  
All



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from



death in - to life. life.

Leader or All



1 God is my shep-herd, so noth - ing shall I want, I  
2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you  
3 Though I should wan - der the val - ley of death, I



rest in the mead-ows of faith - ful - ness and love, I  
lead me by path - ways of righ - teous - ness and truth, my  
fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your

*Refrain*



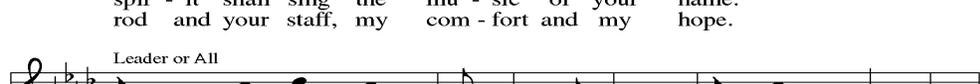
walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.  
spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.  
rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.

Leader or All



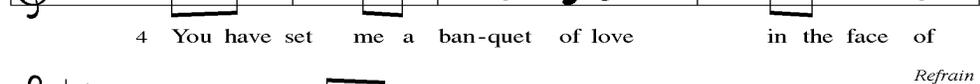
4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of

*Refrain*

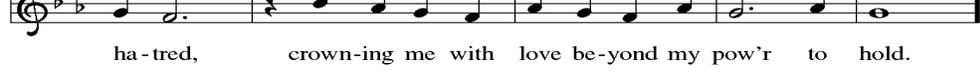


ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.

Leader or All



5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;

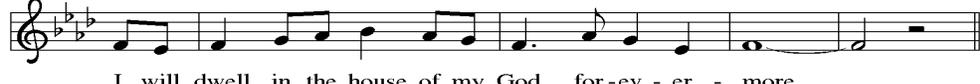


I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

*Final refrain*  
All



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -



yond my fears, from death in - to life.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23  
 Music: SHEPHERD ME, Marty Haugen  
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## Prayer of Lament

Let us pray.

Hear our cry, Creator of the Universe. Listen to our prayer. How long will we have to hide in our homes from this invisible enemy? Anxiety and grief abound. Our souls are weary from the strain of the life-altering unknowns.

Gracious and Merciful God, from the depths of our pain and confusion, we cry out to You. From fear-filled hearts and anxious minds, we plead with You. We lift our eyes to you who care for us like a Father and nourish us like a Mother. Rescue us, God of compassion and grace.

On all who have contracted the virus,

**Lord have mercy.**

On all who have lost loved ones to this sickness and are in mourning and anguish,

**Lord have mercy.**

On all who are unable to earn an income because their jobs have been suspended,

**Lord have mercy.**

We cry out for healing and needed resources,

We cry out for comfort and peace.

On all medical professionals and caretakers attending to those infected with the virus,

**Christ have mercy**

On all scientists and technologists striving to find a vaccine and to make it available,

**Christ have mercy.**

On all leaders of institutions and governments as they make decisions to try and contain the virus,

**Christ have mercy.**

We pray for strength in the long and exhausting hours of labor,

We pray for wisdom in the research and difficult decisions.

On all who have not yet contracted the virus,

**Lord have mercy.**

On the most vulnerable of our society who are unable to buy extra food or get proper medical attention,

**Lord have mercy.**

On all disciples of Jesus Christ discerning how to reflect His love to others within this crisis,

**Lord have mercy.**

We plead for protection of the earth and all you have made.

We plead for all to remain calm and kind.

Life is sacred and precious in your sight. You are the God Who sees us and sustains us.

Nothing can separate us from your unfailing love and kindness, not even sickness or the fear of tomorrow. You are our Light as we walk in this darkness. We will remember to celebrate the beautiful gifts You have given us in this present moment - the phone call from a friend, an encouraging post online, the sound of birdsong, a refreshing walk.

Almighty God, You are our Rock, our Refuge from the enemy, our hiding place.  
You calm our frantic thoughts and fill our despairing hearts with joy and strength.  
In Your Presence living water springs forth in the wilderness.  
You restore our souls.

We give thanks to you, Gracious God, through Jesus Christ your Son, that you have protected us through the night from all harm and danger. We ask that you continue to protect us and all your creatures throughout this day from sin and all evil, so that the life of the world and all our actions may please you. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us.  
**Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **Blessing**

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead  
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,  
and turn your mourning into dancing.

Gracious God, Creator, ✠ Redeemer, and Sustainer,  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Hymn ELW 764** Have no Fear Little Flock – sung by Sonja Koruga

- 1 Have no fear, little flock;  
have no fear, little flock,  
for the Father has chosen  
to give you the kingdom;  
have no fear, little flock!
- 2 Have good cheer, little flock;  
have good cheer, little flock,  
for the Father will keep you  
in his love forever;  
have good cheer, little flock!
- 3 Praise the Lord high above;  
praise the Lord high above,  
for he stoops down to heal you,  
uplift and restore you;  
praise the Lord high above!
- 4 Thankful hearts raise to God;  
thankful hearts raise to God,  
for he stays close beside you,  
in all things works with you;  
thankful hearts raise to God!

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jilson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4  
Text © 1973 Concordia Publishing House

**Postlude** – Robert Schumann, Carnival Op 9, No 12 – “Chopin”



We are grateful for Shelley Meglaughlin, Al Jaugelis, and Sonja Koruga for their contributions that made this “Home Worship” resource possible.

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## Announcements:

- Don't forget our Zoom Coffee Time is happening this morning at 11am. The link was sent out to you on Thursday.
- We just want to make you aware that your church council, pastoral care committee and worship and music committee, are still meeting to keep our parish going and connected during this time of pandemic. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to pick up the phone and talk to any member of Council or one of the Committees.

### Book Study on Prayer via Zoom

The Book Study on prayer is going ahead for 3 consecutive weeks on Tuesdays at 1:30PM. Pastor Vida will be in contact with those who signed up.

Dates: May 12, 19 and 26 at 1:30PM.

The Book: [Prayer for People Who Don' Believe in God](#), by Vance Morgan. More info by searching for Title at - <https://www.woodlakebooks.com/>

Hard copy about \$16.00

Kindle or e-book about \$10.00

If you are interested it's not too late to sign up. Please let Pastor Vida know by phoning the office or sending her a short email at [pastorgd@shaw.ca](mailto:pastorgd@shaw.ca)

If you don't have the Zoom app, it is very simple to download, and Pastor Vida will send you instructions after you indicate your interest.



Don't forget to 'like' our page on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/GDLCNV](http://www.facebook.com/GDLCNV) to stay up to date on everything that is happening.

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**Interim Pastor:** Rev. Vida Jaugelis – 604-813-4451

**Email:** [pastorgd@shaw.ca](mailto:pastorgd@shaw.ca)

**Administrator:** Shelley Meglaughlin

Church office is open Tuesday to Friday 9:00am to 1:30pm

**Music Director:** Sonja Koruga

**Church Council Chair:** Candace Strom

**Vice Chair:** Ken Parkinson

**Church Council Members:** Shelley Meglaughlin, Maureen Kerfoot,  
Gail Berger, Kathleen Stoll