



## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8 May 2022

*The service continues on p. 119 of **A Prayer Book for Australia** (“The Green Book”)*

*In this Easter season, we use the seasonal material (on pp. 154–5)*

### Collect

Gracious God,  
you sent Jesus, the good shepherd, to gather us together:  
may we not wander from his flock, but follow wherever he leads,  
listening for his voice and staying near him,  
until we are safely in your fold, to live with you for ever;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### First reading

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, ‘Please come to us without delay.’

So Peter got up and went with them;

and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs.

All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them.

Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed.

He turned to the body and said, ‘Tabitha, get up.’ Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up.

Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

*Acts 9: 36–43*

## Psalm 23

**Response: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.**

1. The Lord is my shepherd: I shall not want
2. He makes me lie down in green pastures:  
and leads me beside still waters. **R.**
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. **R.**
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 forever. **R.**

## SECOND READING:

After this I, John, looked,  
and there was a great multitude that no one could count,  
from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages,  
standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white,  
with palm branches in their hands.

They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne,  
and to the Lamb!'

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders  
and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces  
before the throne and worshipped God, singing,

'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom  
and thanksgiving and honour  
and power and might  
be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying,  
‘Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?’  
I said to him, ‘Sir, you are the one that knows.’  
Then he said to me,

‘These are they who have come out of the great ordeal;  
they have washed their robes and made them white  
in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God,  
and worship him day and night within his temple,  
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;  
the sun will not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat;

for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’

*Revelation 7: 9–17*

## **GOSPEL**

Alleluia, alleluia!

‘I am the good shepherd,’ says the Lord:  
‘I know my sheep and my sheep know me.’

**Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John:

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem.  
It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple,  
in the portico of Solomon.

So the Jews gathered around him and said to him,  
‘How long will you keep us in suspense?

‘If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.’

Jesus answered, ‘I have told you, and you do not believe.

The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me;  
but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep.  
My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish.  
No one will snatch them out of my hand.  
What my Father has given me is greater than all else,  
and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand.  
The Father and I are one.'

*John 10: 22–30*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **For the Anglican Church**

We pray for the Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda; The Diocese of Tasmania; Archdeaconry of Essendon; St Augustine's Mentone; 18th Session of General Synod; St Agnes' Glen Huntly.

### **For all in need**

May all who are in trouble, in need or sickness find peace and refreshment in you especially:  
Ann, Coral, Keith, Erica, Peter, John, Margaret, Joan, Thea, John, Ray, Usuf, Kaye and others we mention  
before God in the silence of our hearts.

### **For the Faithful Departed**

Those whose anniversary of death occurs this week: Edgar Chandler, Myra Lesley Douglas, Eric Easton,  
Phyllis Ramsden, Peggy Shannon, Albert Wilson.

## **READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Acts 11:1–18

Revelation 21:1–16

Psalm 148

John 13:31–35

## REFLECTION ON THE LECTIONS

This morning's psalm, number twenty-three, is one of the most popular and certainly the most widely known. Many people in earlier generations (I'm one of them) were asked to learn the psalm by heart. Its opening line conveys one of the most popular images of God in the Hebrew understanding of God: as a shepherd of God's people. It remains a comforting image: though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, this shepherd remains with us – guiding and protecting us.

There are good reasons why this image was so popular. Given that the people of Israel looked to David as their ideal king, and that their understanding of him saw David began life as a shepherd, if the shepherd king spoke of God (in the psalms attributed to him) as a 'shepherd', then it made sense to keep to this image. With this background, it wasn't hard to see why so many of the prophetic writings also chose to speak of the Lord as a shepherd protecting and caring for his people (as in Isaiah 40, for example, which we say every Thursday morning in Morning Prayer) and called rulers to be good and caring shepherds, following the example of the Lord. Equally, the prophets (Jeremiah is a key instance here) could be caustic in their criticism of leaders who were *not* good shepherds of the people, and the prophetic message was that God would raise up *new* leaders who would be shepherds after God's own heart and model.

This imagery was, therefore, very much alive when Jesus lived and undertook his ministry as the embodiment of God's coming reign. As well as using the image of a shepherd who would leave most of his flock while he went searching for a single lost sheep, John's Jesus will refer to himself as 'the good shepherd... who lays down his life for his sheep.' (John 10:11). Extending this, Jesus also speaks about the sheep – that they know him and know his voice. Thus, a contrast becomes established – those who *think* they are the chosen flock of God, who want to identify the Lord as their shepherd, and yet who reveal, throughout John's gospel, that they don't know, or won't hear, the voice of the Good Shepherd.

Jesus invites all to 'listen to his voice', and to make a choice. But all too often, those who think they are part of the 'flock', who think they know the Shepherd (and this applies far beyond those mentioned in the pages of Scripture), have a clear understanding of who this Shepherd is and how he will care for his tiny little flock. That is, perhaps, why earlier in chapter 10 of John Jesus makes clear, "I have *other* sheep that do not belong to *this* fold. I must bring them in also and they will hear my voice." (10:16). All who think they are the chosen flock need to hear these words from the Shepherd also.

In Revelation, we see the image of the Shepherd being renewed completely: now, the Shepherd is a Lamb, and a Lamb that has been slain. Clearly, we are in an entirely new world where the imagery we're comfortable with his being shaken up. Again, however, one emphasis is that those who are brought to worship the Lamb are from 'every nation, tribe, people and language'. And so, we who are the flock of the Lamb are to welcome all who come to be part of the flock – as, this morning, we will welcome Rory and Taylor and their families, as they come for baptism. In Revelation, too, we hear the origins of the tradition of a white baptismal robe: it comes because the newly baptized have 'washed their robes white in the blood of the Lamb'.

All the baptized, then, are called to follow the example of this slain Lamb, and to welcome those who are part of his flock – even if we don't recognize them. We do this, as Tabitha did – through works of charity and care. And when, last week, we heard Jesus give his ministry of caring for the sheep to Peter – that is, to the Church as a whole – it shows to what we are called. We, too, are to be 'good shepherds', following the Great Good Shepherd, the Lamb slain but now alive forever.

## NOTICES

### Welcome

We are very pleased to welcome the families, sponsors and friends of Rory Michael Alexander and Taylor Selena Dorman who are to be baptized this morning.

We also extend an extra welcome on this Mothers' Day to all mothers, and give thanks for their care and devotion.

And, as ever, we welcome all those who have ever had a mother, and give thanks for those who have offered care and nurture to us.

### Gaia by Luke Jerram

An opportunity to enjoy the first public night viewing of Gaia in St Paul's Cathedral on:

Friday, 13 May 2022 – 6:00–9:00 p.m.

This globally acclaimed work was created from images from NASA of the Earth's surface and is suspended in the Cathedral, giving an opportunity to view Earth as it might be seen from space in 3 dimensions.

An evening tour, guided by our own Leigh Mackay, OAM will start at 6:30 p.m. You're welcome to bring friends or a group along with you. There is no charge and the tour will last about 30 minutes.

Please RSVP to Charles Tegner (0418 530658 / cteagner@bigpond.net.au) by Wednesday, 11 May.

### The Fifth Robin Sharwood Lecture in Church Law

*Law of the State and Religious Institutions. Cause for Concern or Reform?*

A review of the impact of the law of the State on religious institutions. The lecture will examine the increasing intrusion of Commonwealth and State laws and the common law on religious institutions, and consider whether this should be cause for concern or an opportunity for reform. The Lecture will be delivered by Mr Michael Shand AM QC. Mr Shand has served as Chancellor to the Anglican Primate of Australia and Chancellor of the Anglican dioceses of Melbourne and Ballarat.

Wednesday, 18 May 2022 – 7:30 p.m.

Craig Auditorium, Gateway Building, Trinity College, Royal Parade, Parkville

Light refreshments will be served following the Lecture. Attendance is free of charge but you are asked to register by Friday, 14 May at: <https://www.trybooking.com/BXJCF> Enquiries to Briony O'Halloran: 03 9348 7536 / events@trinity.unimelb.edu.au

### Readers, Servers and Eucharistic Assistants

At Easter, we learnt yet more of the many roles the late Brian Corless OAM (see this month's TMA) fulfilled in the parish. This is another invitation for more volunteers to join in the ministry of reading and/or serving at the liturgies, and also the flower arrangers.

There will be a 'refresher course' for those already reading and serving, together with new volunteers, on **Sunday May 29 following the 10:00 a.m. eucharist.**

It is essential for those who undertake this ministry to be fully aware of what is needed. **Please RSVP** to Nisha (office@stgeorgesmalvern.org) in the coming weeks.

Thank you note from St Alban's – please see church noticeboard.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

<b>Weekdays Monday – Saturday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Morning Prayer Evening Prayer</b>
<b><u>Day</u></b>	<b><u>Morning Prayer</u> in Chapel and by</b>	<b><u>Evening Prayer</u> Zoom (details below)</b>
<b>Monday, 9 May</b>	Psalm 22: 1–22 Numbers 3:5–13, 40–51 I Corinthians 3:18–4:5	Psalms 22:23–32; 23 Exodus 24 John 11:1–16
<b>Tuesday, 10 May</b>	Psalm 25 Numbers 6:1–8, 22–7:5 I Corinthians 4:6–21	Psalm 27 Exodus 25:1–22 John 11:17–37
<b>Wednesday, 11 May</b>	Psalms 28; 29 Numbers 9:15–10:10 I Corinthians 5	Psalms 30; 32 Exodus 25:31–40; 27:20–21 John 11:38–44
<b>Reflections on the Lections</b>	Via Zoom: see details below	
<b>Thursday, 12 May</b>	Psalm 33 Numbers 10:35–11:15 I Corinthians 6:1–11	Psalm 31 Exodus 28:1–6; 29:1–9 John 11:45–54
<b>Holy Eucharist at 10:15 a.m. Mecwacare Eucharist at 3:00 p.m.</b>	Acts 13:13–25; Ps. 89:19–25;	John 13:16–20
<b>Friday, 13 May</b>	Psalm 35:1–17 Numbers 11:16–33 I Corinthians 6:12–20	Psalms 35:18–29; 36 Exodus 29:38–30:10 John 11:55–12:8
<b>Saturday, 14 May</b>	Psalm 34 Numbers 12 I Corinthians 7:1–11	Psalm 31 Exodus 31 John 12:9–19
<b>Next Sunday, 15 May Fifth of Easter</b>	<b>8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist &amp; Meditation</b>

### Morning Prayer

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283

<https://zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWRldmIXWDQ4Zz09>

**9:00 a.m., Monday – Saturday**

### Evening Prayer

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283

<https://zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWRldmIXWDQ4Zz09>

**5:00 p.m., Monday – Saturday**

### Reflections on the Lections

Meeting ID: 926 3986 2120; Passcode: 551393

<https://zoom.us/j/92639862120?pwd=dkpiSXdmOVVvZnVUYm5hUWFzWGcydz09>

**7:30 p.m., Wednesday, 11 May**

## **PARISH DIRECTORY**

296 Glenferrie Road, Malvern, VIC 3144



### **VICAR**

The Reverend Dr Gregory Seach

Phone: 9822 4662 (h); 0408 505 646 (m)

Email: vicar@stgeorgesmalvern.org

Day off: Friday

### **HONORARY ASSOCIATE PRIEST**

The Reverend Matthew Dowsey

### **ORGANIST & DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

Elizabeth-Anne Nixon

Email: music@stgeorgesmalvern.org

### **CHURCH OFFICE**

Nisha O'Brien

Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Phone: 9822 3030

Email: office@stgeorgesmalvern.org

### **WARDENS**

Jenny Weller-Newton 9570 7731

Judy Mallinson 0414 752 957

Ravi Renjen 0412 399 897

*We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which we meet.*

*We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, acknowledge their continuing spiritual connection to Country, and affirm our commitment to walk together the path of reconciliation.*