The Gospel today ends on a cliff-hanger; it is a prelude to the next six Sundays. But there is also a connection with the themes of last week.

Ezekiel in 1R gives the sort of prophecy that was hinted at in Amos last week. Doom for those who have fallen short of what the Lord expected them to do - in particular those appointed to be shepherds of the Lord's flock, who have been scattered. New shepherds will be appointed in the days to come. To emphasize the point that it is shepherds who are the focus today, Psalm 23, naturally, is the psalm.

The Gospel looks as if it is going to be the prologue to a long teaching session like the Sermon on the Mount. Instead there comes Mark's account of the Feeding of the 5000, which provides a seamless prologue to the same event in John, starting next week. There is more to this passage than just a way of stagesetting for next week, though. There is a cat-and-mouse game between Jesus and the crowds. First, the apostles come back from the mission they were given last week, and Jesus takes the chance to invite them to somewhere they can be alone. This proves difficult as there are people everywhere, so he takes a boat to go somewhere else; but he is spotted trying to leave and some people guess where he's going. In the end Jesus accepts the inevitable that he must be a shepherd.

Perhaps this is an appropriate moment to pray for the Church and its leaders both lay and ordained. Accounts of historic and recent abuse by clergy and lay ministry leaders continue to appear (most recently in Canada) and threaten the face of Christ which should be the Church. Whilst recognizing the scandals both past and present we also thank God for the great many clergy and lay leaders who continue to shepherd responsibly and in the way expected of them despite being treated with suspicion because of the offences of others.

Prelude: Offertoire (Jongen)

Introductory Rites

Opening Song: Gather your people, O Lord (Hurd)

GATHER YOUR PEOPLE, O LORD. GATHER YOUR PEOPLE, O LORD. ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, ONE SPIRIT OF LOVE. GATHER YOUR PEOPLE, O LORD.

Draw us forth to the table of life: brothers and sisters, each of us called to walk in your light.

GATHER YOUR PEOPLE, O LORD...

We are parts of the body of Christ, needing each other, each of the gifts the Spirit provides.

GATHER YOUR PEOPLE, O LORD...

No more harm on the mountain of God; swords into plowshares. Free us, O Lord, from hardness of heart.

GATHER YOUR PEOPLE, O LORD...

Wash us, Lord, in the waters of life; waters of mercy, waters of hope that flow from your side.

GATHER YOUR PEOPLE, O LORD...

Text: Based on 1 Corinthians 12; Isaiah 2:3–4; 11:9. Text and music © 1991, Bob Hurd. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

Glory to God: Mass of Joy and Peace (Alonso)

GLORY TO GOD, GLORY TO GOD, GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH PEACE, ON EARTH PEACE, PEACE TO PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL.

We praise you, we bless you, We adore you, we glorify you, We give you thanks for your great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

GLORY TO GOD, GLORY TO GOD ...

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy of us.

GLORY TO GOD, GLORY TO GOD ...

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

GLORY TO GOD, GLORY TO GOD, GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH PEACE, ON EARTH PEACE, PEACE TO PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL. AMEN.

© 2010, Tony Alonso, GIA Publications

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading:

Psalm 23: The Lord is my shepherd (Jakob)

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Music: © 2020 Philip Jakob Text: Abbey Psalms & Canticles © 2010, 2018, USCCB

Second Reading:

Gospel Greeting: Salisbury Alleluia (Walker)

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me.

Homily

Creed

Universal Prayer

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of Gifts & Altar: Shelter me (Joncas)

Shepherd and sheep, my God and I: to fresh green fields you led my steps in days gone by. You gave me rest by quiet springs and filled my soul with peace your loving presence brings.

O SHELTER ME, O SHELTER ME: THE WAY AHEAD IS DARK AND DIFFICULT TO SEE. O SHELTER ME, O SHELTER ME: ALL WILL BE WELL IF ONLY YOU WILL SHELTER ME.

Yet now I tread a different way; death dogs my path with stealthy steps from day to day. I cannot find your peaceful place but dwell in dreary darkness, longing for your face.

O SHELTER ME, O SHELTER ME ...

I will look back in days to come and realize your faithfulness has led me home. Within your house I'll find my peace, trusting that in your mercy you have sheltered me.

O SHELTER ME, O SHELTER ME ...

Jan Michael Joncas © 2020 GIA

Eucharistic Acclamations: Mass of Creation (Haugen)

Holy, Holy – When we eat this bread – Amen

Communion Rite

Our Father

Lamb of God: Mass of Creation (Haugen)

Communion Song: Shepherd me, O God (Haugen)

SHEPHERD ME, O GOD, BEYOND MY WANTS, BEYOND MY FEARS, FROM DEATH INTO LIFE.

God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want, I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love, I walk by the quiet waters of peace.

SHEPHERD ME, O GOD, BEYOND MY WANTS, BEYOND MY FEARS, FROM DEATH INTO LIFE.

Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul, you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth, my spirit shall sing the music of your name.

SHEPHERD ME, O GOD, BEYOND MY WANTS, BEYOND MY FEARS, FROM DEATH INTO LIFE.

Though I should wander the valley of death, I fear no evil, for you are at my side, your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope.

SHEPHERD ME, O GOD, BEYOND MY WANTS, BEYOND MY FEARS, FROM DEATH INTO LIFE.

You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred, crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold.

SHEPHERD ME, O GOD, BEYOND MY WANTS, BEYOND MY FEARS, FROM DEATH INTO LIFE.

Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of my God for evermore.

SHEPHERD ME, O GOD, BEYOND MY WANTS, BEYOND MY FEARS, FROM DEATH INTO LIFE.

Text: Psalm 23; Marty Haugen, b.1950, © 1986, GIA Publications, Inc.

Post-Communion: Here I stand (Bell)

HERE I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK, AND KNOCK. I WILL COME AND DONE WITH THOSE WHO ASK ME IN

© 1995, WGRG, Iona Community, GIA

Concluding Rite

Closing Song: Sent by the Lord am I

Sent by the Lord am I; my hands are ready now to make the earth the place in which the kingdom comes. Sent by the Lord am I; my hands are ready now to make the earth the place in which the kingdom comes.

The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain into a world of love, of justice and of peace. The task is mine to do to set it really free. O help us to obey; help me to do your will.

> Text: Jorge Maldonado (Chile) Music Arrangement: © 1991, WGRG Iona Community, GIA

Postlude: El Buen Pastor – The Good Shepherd (Guridi)

Reproduced by authorization of ONELICENSE 711104-A