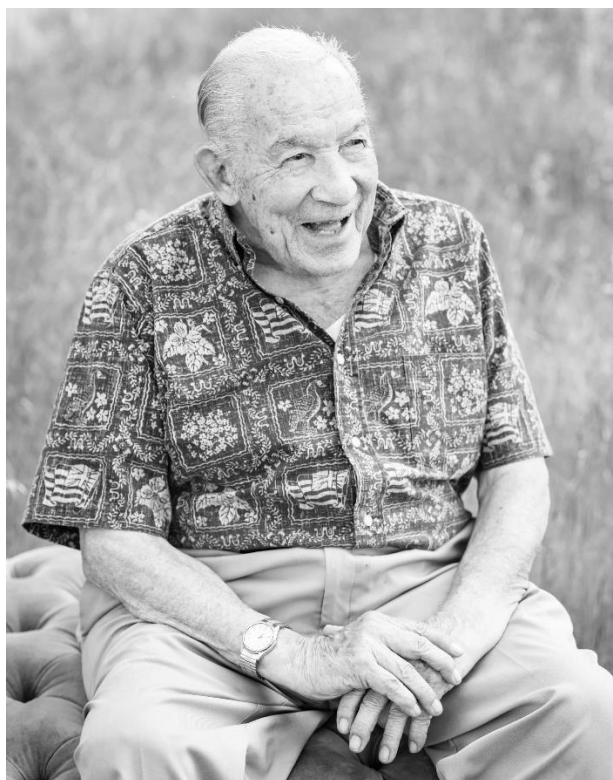


A Thanksgiving and Celebration for the Life of

Gilbert Lopez Esparza

February 4, 1930 – March 24, 2024



May 10, 2024

11:00 a.m.

To join us via Zoom, [CLICK HERE](#)

or enter the following into Zoom:

Meeting ID: 860 5835 9329

Passcode: 466931



The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

345 S. 312th St., Federal Way, WA 98003

goodshepherdfw.org

Welcome, Guests and Newcomers!

Welcome, and thank you for worshipping with us today, whether you are doing so on-site or online. At Good Shepherd, we welcome you as you are, with all your joys, fears, doubts, and questions, with no strings or agendas. We welcome you for where you've been, with all the gifts and hurts you've received from other places and people in your life. God loves you ... no matter what. We welcome you into a community. We pray together. We gather every week to look and listen for God at work, to refuel for daily life, and to go back out to serve the world.

In addition to our weekly Sunday morning worship, we have been offering a variety of other online opportunities to connect—for people of all ages.



↔ Scanning this QR code with the camera of your mobile device will enable you to share just a little bit about yourself and to choose whether to receive emails from Good Shepherd.

Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that the Church of the Good Shepherd sits on a seasonal campground of the [Puyallup \(puyallup-tribe.com\)](http://puyallup-tribe.com) and [Coast Salish People](#), who have lived on and stewarded these lands for thousands of years and continue to do so today. We recognize that this land acknowledgement is one small step toward true allyship, and we commit to uplifting the voices, experiences, and histories of the Indigenous people of this land and beyond.

All music used during this service, unless otherwise noted, is licensed for online streaming through onelicense.net #609900.

Today's Service Ministers

Presider/Preacher: The Rev. Josh Hosler, Rector

Organist: Alan Lynch, Director of Music

Ushers: Karen White, Tracie Manolides

Tech/Zoom: Deb Smith

Pallbearers: Dylan Esparza, Justin Esparza, Reynaldo Guerrero, Andrew Lester

Lectors: Ania Malkowska-Leek, Alexandra Guerrero

Intercessor: Colleen Maloney

Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Aronen, Judith Perkins

Altar Guild: Karen White

Flowers: Buds & Blooms

Burial of the Dead: Rite Two

Hymn: All Things Bright and Beautiful (*The Hymnal 1982 #405*)

Refrain



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea - tures great and small,
all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.



1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun - tain, the riv - er run - ning by,
3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,
4 He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

Repeat Refrain



he made their glow - ing col - ors, he made their ti - ny wings.
the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright - ens up the sky,
the ripe fruits in the gar - den, he made them ev - ery one.
how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895). Music: *Royal Oak*, melody from *The Dancing Master*, 1686; adapt. and harm. Martin Fallas Shaw (1875-1958), desc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Used by arrangement with G. Schirmer, Inc. Descant, Copyright © 1979, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

Opening Sentences

All stand as able. The Presider proclaims:

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.
All who have faith in me shall have life,
even though they die.
And all who have life,
and have committed themselves to me in faith,
shall not die for ever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.
After my awaking, the Lord will raise me up;
and in my body I shall see God.
I myself shall see, and my eyes behold the One
who is my friend and not a stranger.

For none of us has life in oneself,
and none becomes one's own master when one
dies.
For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord,
and if we die, we die in the Lord.
So, then, whether we live or die,
we are the Lord's possession.

Happy from now on
are those who die in the Lord!
So it is, says the Spirit,
for they rest from their labors.

Presider: The Lord be with you.

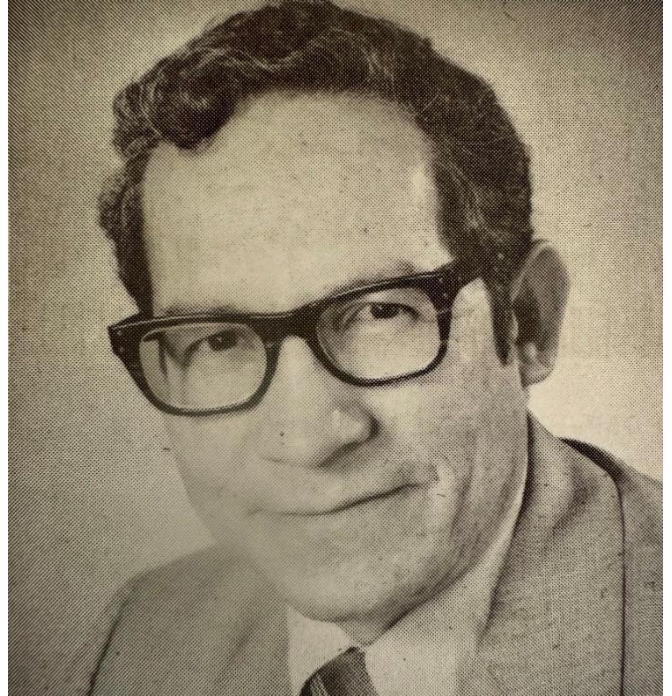
People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Silence.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother Gil. We thank you for giving him to us, his family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with all of Gil's loved ones in their grief. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-3

Lector: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

...Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 139:1-11

Lector: Please join me in praying this portion of Psalm 139.

**1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

**2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.**

**3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.**

**4 You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.**

**5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? *
where can I flee from your presence?
7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
8 If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
9 Even there your hand will lead me *
and your right hand hold me fast.
10 If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,”
11 Darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day; *
darkness and light to you are both alike.

Second Reading: Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39

Lector: A reading from Paul’s Letter to the Romans.

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

...Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (*The Hymnal 1982 #81*)

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
 * 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
 dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to
 true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
 death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

Words: St. 1-2 German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). St. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859); tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. *Hymnal 1940*. St. 3, Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621).

Gospel Reading: John 14:1-6

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

... The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon (*The Rev. Josh Hosler*)

The Apostles’ Creed

Presider: In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,

Presider and People:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Presider: For our brother Gil, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, “I am Resurrection and I am Life.”

Intercessor: Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Dale, and dry the tears of those who weep.

Hear us, Lord.

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

Hear us, Lord.

You raised the dead to life; give to our brother eternal life.

Hear us, Lord.

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother to the joys of heaven.

Hear us, Lord.

Our brother was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him fellowship with all your saints.

Hear us, Lord.

He was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

Hear us, Lord.

Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our brother; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Silence.

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our brother Gil, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that his death may recall to us your victory over death, and be an occasion for us to renew our trust in your Father’s love. Give us, we pray, the faith to follow where you have led the way; and where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

We exchange a sign of peace with one another.

The Offertory

Presider: O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. —Revelation 4:11



Every time we celebrate Holy Eucharist, we take up an offering. At the request of Gil's children, today's offering will go to the **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)**.

⇐ Scan this code to make your gift online or go to <https://www.namiwa.org/donate>.

To make a direct donation at a later time, you can mail a check to NAMI, 4301 Wilson Blvd., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203.

The ushers bring the monetary offering forward on the final verse of the hymn. Please stand as able.

Hymn: Glory Be to God in Heaven

1. Glo - ry be to God in hea - ven! Songs of joy and
2. Lamb of God who, on your shoul - ders, bore the weight of
3. You, O Son of God, are ho - ly; you we praise with

praise we bring. Thank - ful hearts and voi - ces rai - sing,
this world's sin, on - ly Son of God the Fa - ther,
one ac - cord. None in heav'n or earth is like you;

to cre - a - tion's Lord we sing. Lord, we thank you;
you have brought us peace with - in. Lord, have mer - cy;
on - ly you are Christ the Lord, with the Fa - ther

Lord, we_ bless you. Glo - ry_ be to God our king. Lord
 Christ, have mer - cy; now your glo - rious reign be - gin! Lord,
 and the_ Spi - rit, ev - er_ wor - shipped and a - dored; with.

- we thank you; Lord, we bless you; glo - ry be to God our King!
 _have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; now your glo - rious reign be - gin!
 _the Fa - ther and the Spi - rit, ev - er wor - shipped and a - dored!

Words: Michael Perry (1942-1996). Music: Hymn to Joy, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867), alt.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer 2 (Enriching Our Worship)

- Presider:* The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Presider: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider: We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus (The Hymnal 1982 #S-124)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

Presider: Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friend. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

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 for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Silence is kept.

Presider: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Fraction Anthem: Jesus, Lamb of God (Hymnal #S-164)

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

The first line of musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a melody with a final quarter rest. The bass staff provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

The second line of musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a melody with a final quarter rest. The bass staff provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:
 give us your peace, give us your peace.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world: give us your peace, give us your peace." The music is a simple, homophonic setting with a steady accompaniment in the bass and a melody in the treble.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Adaptation: Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Holy Communion is Christians' weekly participation in the death and resurrection of Christ, so it properly flows from the vows made at our baptism. Even so, all are invited to the table: the baptized of any Christian denomination who have committed to follow Jesus Christ, and any guests at Jesus' table. If you are not baptized and would like to begin to explore the possibility, please reach out to Pastor Josh.

If you require gluten-free bread, tell the priest when he comes to you and it will be provided.

Data about potential COVID-19 transmission via the Common Cup is scant. You may certainly abstain; it has always been our understanding that those who receive communion in only one kind have received communion in the fullest sense. To abstain from either the Bread or the Wine, cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you would prefer that the priest bless you.

Post-Communion Prayer

Presider: Let us pray.

***All:* Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The Commendation

Presider: Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints ...

People: **where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

You only are immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. For so did you ordain when you created me, saying, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

People: **Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

Presider: Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Gil. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**



Hymn: Shall We Gather at the River (*Lift Every Voice & Sing II #141*)

1. Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, Where bright an - gel feet have trod; —
2. On the mar - gin of the riv - er, Wash - ing up its sil - ver spray, —
3. Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, Lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down; —
4. Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, Soon our pil - grim - age will cease, —

1. With its crys - tal tide for - ev - er Flow - ing by the throne of God?
2. We will walk and wor - ship ev - er, All the hap - py gold - en day.
3. Grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, And pro - vide a robe and crown.
4. Soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er With the mel - o - dy of peace.

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, The beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;

Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er That flows by the throne of God.

Words: Robert Lowry (1826-1899). Music: Robert Lowry.

The Dismissal

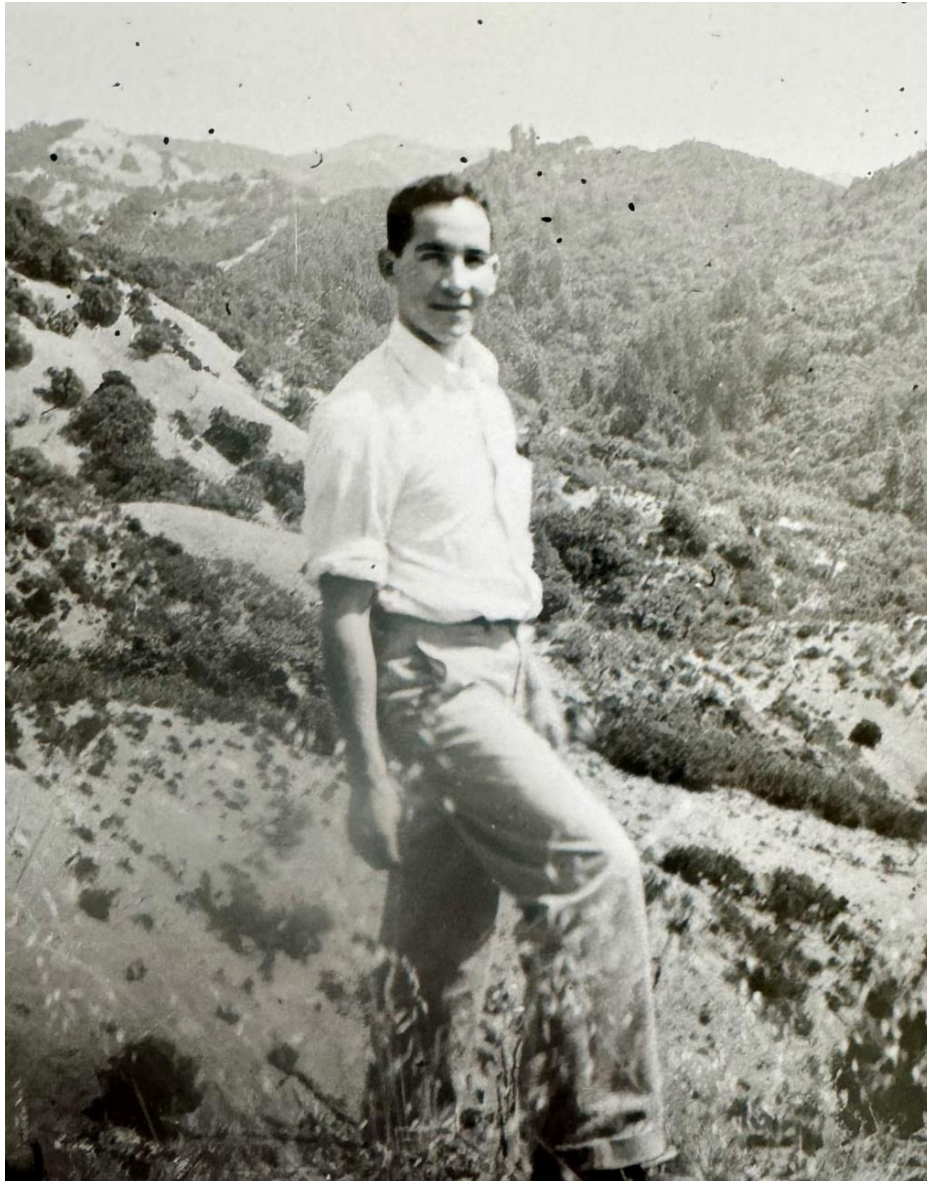
Presider: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Postlude: Trumpet Tune in D *(David Johnson)*

All are welcome to join in the funeral procession to Tahoma National Cemetery for the Committal at 1:30 p.m.

Tahoma National Cemetery
18600 Southeast 240th Street
Kent, WA 98042-4868



Gilbert L. Esparza

February 4, 1930—March 24, 2024

We mourn the passing of Gilbert L. Esparza, an independent man eager to live life on his terms. Gilbert (Sandoval) Lopez Esparza was born in Miami, Arizona to Francisco Esparza and Herminia Sandoval Lopez. Gilbert was one of eleven siblings, four sisters, and seven brothers, six of whom were born in Arizona, five born in Torreon, Mexico. All but his youngest brother, Hermelindo Esparza, have preceded Gilbert's passing.

Gilbert's story begins in Grover Canyon, a subset of the city of Miami, Arizona where his father, Francisco "Don Pachito," owned a large general store, several houses and a pool hall. Gilbert wrote of the pride he had for his father, "a man who never went to school, and taught himself to read and write. He made it all through hard work."

In 1932 disaster struck when a tenant of one of Francisco's homes left a hot iron on while she ran an errand at the local post office. Fueled by a roaring wind, the fire quickly spread uphill, burning everything in its path. The houses, the store, their cement home at the top of the hill—everything Don Pachito had worked to build was destroyed in a matter of a few hours. When the fire finally subsided, all that was left was a bronze balance from the store, melted to the ground. In a time when insurance didn't exist and the country had been stricken by the Great Depression, all that remained after creditors were paid off was their Ford Model-A and the "soup lines."

As a proud man facing discrimination as a Mexican-American, phrases like "go back to where you came from" and "stop being a ward of the state" moved Francisco to load up his family and make the journey to Mexico: "I'll show you. I'm going to get some land and farm it in my country where no man can tell me I'm a ward." Unknown to Francisco, Mexico was in the middle of a long drought and the land he hoped to farm would be dry, arid, and unprofitable.

Gilbert remembers growing up very poor, bouncing around and struggling to survive for many years. It was an arduous childhood, making for many days with little, if any, provisions. Four of Gilbert's siblings, three girls between 1 and 8 years old, stricken with bronchitis, typhoid, malnutrition and starvation—and a brother, drowned in a lake at 16—did not make it. It wasn't until Francisco landed a job with *la unión* at a soap factory in Torreon, Mexico that they were able to build a home again.

More than ever, education became the priority. After the sixth grade, Gilbert was awarded a scholarship to attend junior high and high school in Ciudad Lerdo, Durango, with free room and board, uniform and school supplies provided by the government. Just before graduation, Gilbert left school, sacrificing his scholarship, to join the U.S. Army. Until his old age he considered this decision as "the easy way out" and harshly judged himself for not completing high school like his father wished. Gilbert went through basic training at Fort Ord in California in 1947. Afterward he was assigned to Fort Benning in Georgia, where Gilbert tried paratroop training ... it was not for him. He opted instead to join one of the first MASH units scheduled for the 28th Station Hospital in Osaka, Japan, as a Sergeant.

In 1950 while stationed in Korea, Gilbert was evacuated to San Francisco and hospitalized for the removal of his right kidney. While in recovery Gilbert reenlisted and was flown back to Japan to serve the remainder of his duty, during which time he completed his high school requirements via mail correspondence with UC Berkeley. Upon his honorable discharge in 1953, Gilbert had completed enough credits to attend UC Berkeley upon his return and received a Medal of Good Conduct.

From 1953 to 1958, Gilbert attended UC Berkeley and earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, majoring in Business Management/Production Control, with a minor in Chemistry. UC Berkeley was also where Gilbert met his "beautiful bride" Judith Ann Potter, on a blind date at a bowling party. Judith was a bright and equally determined lady from Yonkers, New York who was pursuing her degree in political science. After several months of dating, juggling class schedules and part-time work, the two were married at the Carlton Hotel in Berkeley on August 31, 1956.

In 1958, after both Judith and Gilbert graduated, Gilbert was hired at the Boeing Company in Seattle as a tool and production lead planner. With their new baby girl, Kathleen Laura Esparza, a year old, they left California for West Seattle. The family settled into an apartment on Avalon Way and lived there until 1961 when they purchased their first home, a newly built rambler in Bellevue, Washington. In 1965, a son, Matthew Edward Esparza was born, completing the family of four.

From 1967 to 1971, Gilbert moved his family to Washington, D.C. in pursuit of new opportunities within Boeing, after which they returned to Mt. Baker, Seattle. During this time, Gilbert worked as an Associate Research Engineer for the Supersonic Transport (SST) and Apollo NASA programs, both crowning achievements of his career. Being an avid aerospace enthusiast, Gilbert brought home posters, pictures, maps of the moon, and models of the SST and Apollo's spacecraft to his son and daughter, who were eager to share in his excitement. As a Carl Sagan fan, Gilbert's favorite saying was from *Cosmos*: "billions upon billions."

In March 1971, Gilbert's career at the Boeing Company came to an end when he, along with 50,000 other Boeing employees, received his layoff notice. As the whole region remembers: "Will the last person leaving Seattle turn out the lights?" But Gilbert didn't stay unemployed long; he started a new career with the Department of Labor, OSHA, working out of the Seattle office in the Smith Tower, as a Compliance Officer from 1971 to 1975.

In 1975, the family moved back east to live in Bethesda, Maryland after Gilbert was promoted as the Area Director for Washington D.C. and Northern Virginia. Gilbert then suffered a heart attack in 1980, followed by a four-way CABG (bypass). In 1982 Gilbert took the position of Acting Director, Supervisor for Baltimore and later finished his career as a Safety and Occupational Health Specialist in D.C. After years of reviewing designs and writing safety standards to address hazards within the construction industry, Gilbert retired from OSHA in 1989.

It would be remiss to not mention Gilbert's commitment to social justice. In-between raising a family and the early years of his career, both Gilbert and Judy were devoted activists committed to supporting several civil rights organizations through the 1970s and beyond. These included Operation Outreach for Migrant Farm Laborers; CORE (Congress of Racial Equality); and LULAC (League of United Latin Americans Coalition). He organized interracial group dialogues and negotiations during active boycotts and protests and helped Mexican-Americans gain civil liberties.

With Judy's health needs changing and Gilbert having had his second bypass surgery, the two decided to move, once more, back to the Pacific Northwest, where they spent the next 14 years in their home in Auburn, Washington. Shortly after the move, Gilbert and Judy became parishioners at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, a welcoming place where Gilbert's passion to sing in a choir and participate in church activities laid the foundation for a strong network of friends and support.

Whether at their home in Bethesda or their home in Auburn, Gilbert and Judy's gardens were the things of storybooks. With Judy close by as the "designer," making sure there would be "something blooming, in color throughout the year," their garden was an oasis of wonders where family and friends enjoyed lunches and grandchildren played imaginative games. Gilbert loved sharing propagated plants, or a "bulb or two," before guests left.

Gilbert was a devoted and loyal husband who cared for Judy as she struggled for years with debilitating health issues. His "bride," he would call her, until her passing in 2014. Gilbert sold the Auburn house and moved into Brookdale Senior Housing in Federal Way. He lived there for eight years as an independent resident, receiving visits from family, taking walks around the property "because they were good for the heart", and watching movies in the lobby, sometimes asking the front desk for "one more movie." It was at Brookdale that Gilbert also became a Bingo enthusiast, rarely missing a session.

In April 2023, Gilbert moved from his apartment in Federal Way to Honeydew Adult Care Home in Auburn, where he received 24/7 care from the small team of kind and compassionate caregivers, Georgiana and Stephanie Bocancia, for whom the family feels so much gratitude. His passing on March 24 was commemorated shortly after with family by his side sharing stories, poems, and nods to his favorite things. We are but one tiny speck in this vast universe, but we will never forget you.

Gilbert is survived by his daughter Kathleen (Kate) Laura Esparza-Guerrero, his son, Matthew Edward Esparza; Kate's husband, Timothy Guerrero, Sr.; six grandchildren, Timothy Rey Guerrero, Amanda Yvonne Guerrero, Alexandra Olivia Guerrero, Amber Damali Esparza, Dylan Edward Esparza, and Justin Everett Esparza; two great-grandchildren; a brother, Hermelindo Esparza; and thirteen nieces and eight nephews.

The Committal

Presider: Everyone the Father gives to me will come to me;
I will never turn away anyone who believes in me.
He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead
will also give new life to our mortal bodies
through his indwelling Spirit.
My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.
You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brother Gil, and we commit his body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless him and keep him, the Lord make his face to shine upon him and be gracious to him, the Lord lift up his countenance upon him and give him peace.
Amen.

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord;

And let light perpetual shine upon him.

May his soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

Presider: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Presider: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**