

**REMEMBERING OUR GOOD SHEPHERD
HE IS FULL OF COMPASSION AND MERCY**
God Who loved us in Jesus shows us how to love.

We pause and remember that we have our being in God. It is He Who gives us life, redemption, and the grace necessary to live the Gospel message.
Only in God are our souls at rest as He shepherds us.
Glory to You, Source of All Being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit.
as it was, is now, and evermore shall be. Alleluia!



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

HYMN SHEPHERD ME, O GOD

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.

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.

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.

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

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

- Marty Haugen©1986, GIA Publications

SCRIPTURE LUKE 15:4-6

“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’”

REFLECTION

What does a shepherd do? He protects his sheep. He makes sure they have food and water, that they are warm at night, and that no wild animals come into the fold (where the sheep are kept) to eat them. The shepherd, in fact, will fight a very strong animal in order to protect his sheep from becoming that animal’s dinner.

In this parable, Jesus is telling us a story about a shepherd who loses one sheep. Even though he has 99 more, that shepherd cherishes that one sheep and wants it to be safe, protected and with him. This is so important to the shepherd that he leaves his other sheep just to look for and find that one that has been lost. When he finds that lost sheep, he is ready to celebrate!

It is the same way with us and God. Often times we disobey God and wander away from His love. We take for granted that He provides us with everything that we have, and we choose to go away from Him. But Jesus looks for us! He calls us to Him with His Word in Sacred Scripture and brings us back into the fold to be safe with Him. The fold of Jesus is the community of saints, and Jesus protects us from Satan who prowls around like a sneaky lion.

Like the shepherd in the parable, Jesus cherishes His sheep! He cherishes us so much that He died for us. We also know, however, that He didn't stay dead! He rose from the dead, defeating Satan, and now Jesus continues to be our Good Shepherd guiding us on our way to the Father.

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to be our Shepherd. Thank You for seeking us when we were lost and calling us to salvation in Christ. Please forgive us when we choose to walk away from You. Help us to lean on You alone as our Good Shepherd. In Your name we pray, Amen."

The Lord is kind and merciful.



REFLECTION

The Lord is my shepherd... That's relationship!
I shall not want... That's supply!
He makes me lie down in green pastures... That's rest!
He leads me beside still waters... That's refreshment!
He restores my soul... That's healing!
He leads me in paths of righteousness... That's guidance!
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death... That's testing!
I will fear no evil... That's protection!
For You are with me... That's faithfulness!
Your rod and staff comfort me... That's discipline!
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies...
That's hope!
You anoint my head with oil... That's consecration!
My cup runs over... That's abundance!
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life...
That's blessing!
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord... That's security!
Forever... That's eternity!



LITANY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

God the Father of the Lamb,
have mercy on us

God the Son, sacrificial Lamb,
have mercy on us

God the Holy Spirit, Life of the Lamb,
have mercy on us.

○ Good Jesus, Shepherd of the just, hear us.

Vigilant Finder of lost sheep, guide us.

Fervent Hope of the fallen lamb, guide us.

Constant Gatherer of a broken flock, guide us.

○ Good Shepherd, hear your sheep.

Purest shelter of the yearning heart, feed us.

Perpetual Feast of the hungry soul, feed us.

Lasting Bread of perfect Life, feed us.

○ Good Shepherd, hear Your sheep.

Patient Tamer of rebellious wills, shear us.

Loyal Teacher of all kind commands, shear us.

Tender Purger of all blemish of sin, shear us.

○ Good Shepherd, hear Your sheep.

From the lures of false shepherds hiding in Your
guise, protect us.

From mirages of richer fields, conquering our
minds, protect us.

From diseases of the soul, separating us from
Your flock, protect us.

○ Good Shepherd, at once the Guard and
Lamb, Who knows well the sheep He leads,
Guide us, feed us, shear us, and bid us come
unto You, delighting in Your heavenly pasture,
and praising You forever and ever, Amen.

- Lisa Basar

The Lord is my shepherd; the Lord is my way. God leads me and guides me; nothing shall I fear. Nothing shall I fear.

- Susanne Tracy, OP

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Those who have charge of souls are like a good shepherd who has great care for his/her sheep.

They must be models of virtue for others and have a great tenderness towards those entrusted to their care.

They must be prepared to teach the children entrusted to their care just as the shepherd cares for the flock entrusted to him.

HYMN: WITH A SHEPHERD'S CARE

With a shepherd's care, God leads us.

With a father's care, God guides us.

With a mother's love, God nurtures us
and cradles us in His gentle arms.

When we are lost and cannot find the way,

God cares for us and keeps us safe.

For God is our Light and Faithful Guide,
and leads us with a shepherd's care.

When we are weak, and care presses all around,

God strengthens us to face each day,

for God is our Rock and Saving Help,
and guides us with His Fatherly strength.

When we are scared and feel so all alone,

God loves us and is by our side.

For God is our Hope and constant Friend,
and nurtures with a mother's love.

-James A. Chepponis ©1992, GIA Publications

A Sunday school teacher challenged her class to memorize the beloved 23rd Psalm. The next week she asked if anyone was ready to recite it. One little girl excitedly raised her hand. The teacher asked, "Are you sure?" She nodded yes.

The teacher was a little skeptical because this child wasn't the quickest or the smartest but invited her to the front of the room nonetheless. She came forward, faced her classmates, stood tall and said, "The Lord is my Shepherd. That's all I want" - and returned to her seat.

This little girl knew the heart of the psalm. Jesus, both her and our Good Shepherd, calls Himself the Way, the Truth and the Life and that's all she wanted.

Could we ever ask for more?



Saint John Baptist de La Salle
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
help us to emulate the Good Shepherd.

Live Jesus in or hearts. Forever!