

WORSHIP KIT



THE LORD IS MY
SHEPHERD

A SERIES OF SERVICES ON PSALM 23

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THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

A SERIES OF SERVICES ON PSALM 23

About the Series

This series of four worship services for the summer or any time of the year uses the familiar words of Psalm 23 to explore the work of Jesus our Shepherd and learn about our lives as his sheep. Each service will highlight phrases of the beloved psalm that bring to light the paths we take, the valleys we struggle through, the ways we are fed and nourished by our Lord, and the goodness and mercy that follow us in Christ's care.

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

A SERIES OF SERVICES ON PSALM 23

Week 1: Shepherd and Sheep

Newsletter Notice

In a series of four worship services, we will use the familiar words of Psalm 23 to explore the work of Jesus our Shepherd and learn about our lives as his sheep. In our first service, Shepherd and Sheep, we will see what our Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd, has done to create us anew as “the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand” (Psalm 95:7).

Bulletin Notice

In our worship today we will celebrate the salvation that we have through Jesus our Savior, the Good Shepherd who laid down his life to save us. In this service, Shepherd and Sheep, we will see what our Lord Jesus has done to create us anew as “the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand” (Psalm 95:7).

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Week 2: Paths and Shadows

Newsletter Notice

In a series of four worship services, we are using the familiar words of Psalm 23 to explore the work of Jesus our Shepherd and learn about our lives as his sheep. In our second service, Paths and Shadows, we will learn more about the “paths of righteousness” in which our Shepherd leads us. We will see, too, that he will walk with us even through “the valley of the shadow of death.”

Bulletin Notice

In our worship today, Paths and Shadows, we will learn more about the “paths of righteousness” in which Jesus, the Good Shepherd, leads us. We will see, too, that he will walk with us even through “the valley of the shadow of death.”

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Week 3: Anointed and Fed

Newsletter Notice

In a series of four worship services, we are using the familiar words of Psalm 23 to explore the work of Jesus our Shepherd and learn about our lives as his sheep. In our third service, Anointed and Fed, we will rejoice in the gifts that Jesus our Shepherd gives us, as he brings us into his fold through Baptism and feeds us in his holy Supper.

Bulletin Notice

In our worship today, Anointed and Fed, we will celebrate the gifts that Jesus our Shepherd gives us, as he brings us into his fold through Baptism and feeds us in his holy Supper. Safe in our Shepherd's care, our cup of blessing overflows!

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Week 4: Now and Forever

Newsletter Notice

In a series of four worship services, we are using the familiar words of Psalm 23 to explore the work of Jesus our Shepherd and learn about our lives as his sheep. In our fourth service, Now and Forever, we will give thanks for the blessings that we have through faith in Jesus our Shepherd, blessings that are ours now and forever.

Bulletin Notice

In our worship today, Now and Forever, we will give thanks for the blessings of our Shepherd's care. Through faith in Jesus Christ, his blessings are ours now in this earthly life, and we know that we will "dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

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Week 1: Shepherd and Sheep

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Week 1: Shepherd and Sheep

Order of Service

Opening Hymn.....How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds (St. Peter CM)

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
And drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole
And calms the heart's unrest;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul
And to the weary rest.

Dear name! The rock on which I build,
My shield and hiding place;
My never-failing treasury filled
With boundless stores of grace.

O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end,
Accept the praise I bring.

Invocation and Responsive ReadingPsalm 23:1-2

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

C **My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.**
(Philippians 4:19)

P He makes me lie down in green pastures.

C **We your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever.** (Psalm 79:13)

P He leads me beside still waters.

C **Jesus said, “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”** (John 7:38)

Confession and Absolution

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

C **Almighty God, you have promised to supply our every need, but we fail to trust your constant care. You lead us and provide for us, yet we wander from you and follow our own desires and the tempting voices of the world around us. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**

P God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son to be our Savior, the Shepherd who laid down his life to save us. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C **The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want!**

Prayer of the Day

Hymn Thine Forever, God of Love (Vienna 77 77)

Thine forever, God of love!
Hear us from thy throne above;
Thine forever may we be
Here and in eternity!

Thine forever! Shepherd, keep
These thy frail and trembling sheep;
Safe alone beneath thy care,
Let us all thy goodness share.

Children’s Message

Hymn Thine Forever, God of Love (Vienna 77 77)

Thine forever! Thou our guide,
All our wants by thee supplied,
All our sins by thee forgiv’n;
Lead us, Lord, from earth to heav’n.

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 40:10-11

Epistle Reading 1 Peter 2:24-25

Gospel Reading John 10:11-16

Sermon Hymn The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want (Belmont CM)

The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

Sermon: Shepherd and Sheep

Hymn of Response Almighty Father, Bless the Word (Old Hundredth LM)

Almighty Father, bless the Word
Which through your grace we now have heard.
Oh, may the precious seed take root,
Spring up, and bear abundant fruit!

Offering

Prayers

Lord's Prayer

Benediction (John 10:11, 16; Hebrews 13:20-21)

P I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

C **There will be one flock, one shepherd.**

P Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn The King of Love My Shepherd Is (St. Columba 87 87)

The King of love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
And he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow,
My ransomed soul he leadeth
And, where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth.

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Week 1: Shepherd and Sheep

Complete Script for Worship Leaders

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune St. Peter CM:

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
And drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole
And calms the heart's unrest;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul
And to the weary rest.

Dear name! The rock on which I build,
My shield and hiding place;
My never-failing treasury filled
With boundless stores of grace.

O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end,
Accept the praise I bring.

- An **Invocation and Responsive Reading** (Psalm 23:1-2) is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

C **My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.**
(Philippians 4:19)

P He makes me lie down in green pastures.

C **We your people, the sheep of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever.** (Psalm 79:13)

P He leads me beside still waters.

C **Jesus said, “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”** (John 7:38)

- A **Confession and Absolution** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

C **Almighty God, you have promised to supply our every need, but we fail to trust your constant care. You lead us and provide for us, yet we wander from you and follow our own desires and the tempting voices of the world around us. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**

P God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son to be our Savior, the Shepherd who laid down his life to save us. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C **The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want!**

- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

☐ Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd, you provide for our every need and shelter us with your loving care. By God's grace, through faith in your name, we have forgiveness and eternal life. Lead us by your Spirit to be faithful witnesses for you so that others will come to know and worship you as Shepherd and Lord. Give us opportunities to share your love through acts of kindness and service. Hear our prayer, Lord, and bless our worship and the study of your Word. Amen.

- A **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Vienna 77 77:

Thine forever, God of love!
Hear us from thy throne above;
Thine forever may we be
Here and in eternity!

Thine forever! Shepherd, keep
These thy frail and trembling sheep;
Safe alone beneath thy care,
Let us all thy goodness share.

- The **Children's Message** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

Needed: a plastic sheep figure or a stuffed toy sheep or lamb

☐ Who are the people who take care of you? (*Let children respond.*) Your parents and grandparents, maybe aunts and uncles and your teachers and pastors are some of the people who take care of you. What kinds of things do these people do to help and care for you? (*Let children answer.*) The people who care for you make sure that you have food to eat and a place to live and sleep and play. They take care of you when you are sick and take you to a doctor or to the hospital if you are sick or hurt. The people who care for you teach you the things that you need to know as you grow. They teach you about God's love and about Jesus your Savior.

In our worship today we are learning about the ways that Jesus takes care of us. Jesus said that he is our Good Shepherd. A shepherd protects his sheep—like this sheep I have here today—from danger. (*Hold up sheep figure or stuffed toy.*) He chases away wolves and other animals that might hurt the sheep. If any of the sheep wander away and get lost, the shepherd goes to find the sheep and bring them back to safety. Jesus our Good Shepherd died for us, for his sheep, to save us from our enemies—not from wolves, but from sin, death and the devil. Jesus rose from the dead on the first Easter morning. He promises that we will live forever with him, and he always keeps his promises. There are many people who take care of us. Jesus our Good Shepherd cares for them and he cares for us! Let's pray:

Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd. You died to save us, your sheep, and wash away our sins. Keep us always safe in your care. Amen.

- A **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Vienna 77 77:

Thine forever! Thou our guide,
All our wants by thee supplied,
All our sins by thee forgiv'n;
Lead us, Lord, from earth to heav'n.

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Isaiah 40:10-11, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

- The **Epistle Reading**, 1 Peter 2:24-25, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

- The **Gospel Reading**, John 10:11-16, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

- A **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Belmont CM:

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me
The quiet waters by.

- The **Sermon: Shepherd and Sheep** is delivered by the pastor:

Ⓟ A lamb worked its way out of a fenced pasture and headed toward a busy highway that passed through the farm country. Some people driving by spotted the lost lamb. They pulled over and tried to coax the lamb away from the road and back toward its pasture, but the frightened creature fled from its would-be saviors. Then a battered pickup truck bumped down a dusty road alongside the pasture. As soon as the rancher stepped out of the truck, the lamb ran right up to its shepherd and was carried safely back to the pasture. Much of that scene is very different from what might have been observed in Jesus' day, in first-century Palestine, but the overall events are the same. Sheep wander, but they know their shepherd and they follow the voice that they know. Their shepherd keeps them safe.

Jesus is our shepherd and we are “the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand” (Psalm 95:7). Yet so often we are tempted to wander from his care! We will squeeze our way—with a variety of excuses—between or beneath the boundary fence of his Word and his will and take off on our own. Sometimes we just make small forays into freedom—the juicy bit of gossip that is overheard and enjoyed and passed on to someone else, the dislike, even hatred, for a co-worker, the disregard, however temporary, for a spouse or sibling or parent. We know the commands of God that surround our lives for our safety, but we can, and often do, choose to work our way around his commandments, often with little thought to the effort. Other escapes into what we imagine as freedom will range more widely, and often have deadly consequences that bring harm to others and to our own bodies. The Lord Jesus spoke of these many escapes into sin and their origin in our hearts: “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander” (Matthew 15:19). The Shepherd knows his sheep very well—and he loves them.

Our God and Shepherd desires our safety and seeks to keep us close to himself, now and for all eternity. He was not content to let his sheep wander. God himself came down to earth to seek out his wandering, dirty, bedraggled sheep and bring them back to himself. Isaiah foretold his coming. God would come to earth with might, wielding ruling power to reward the good and punish the evil. But this mighty God was also coming as a gentle, caring shepherd to tend his flock, to gather his wandering lambs and carry them close to his heart.

God our Shepherd was born among us in Bethlehem, his arrival first announced, appropriately enough, to shepherds watching over their flocks. During his earthly ministry, Jesus, God the Son, described his work as that of a shepherd. And he was not just any shepherd; he was and is the Good Shepherd. Hired help, temporary shepherds, those to whom the sheep do not really belong, will run for safety to save themselves when the flock is threatened by a wolf or another predator. But the Good Shepherd knows his sheep; he calls them by name and the sheep know him. The Good Shepherd will stand firm and fight for his sheep. He will lay down his life to save them.

Jesus our Good Shepherd laid down his life to save us. The lamb in the earlier story escaped a tragic death, but for us, death is the penalty for wandering. That is the penalty that God decreed for sin, for wandering from his commands and disregarding his Word and will. As the apostle Paul write, “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). Death—physical death and eternal death and separation from God for all eternity—that is the penalty we deserve, the wage earned by our wandering.

But our shepherd is the Good Shepherd, the Shepherd who was willing to lay down his life for his sheep. God, who came in might and power to tend his flock, came to earth to rescue his sheep. Jesus, God in human flesh, came to be not only our Shepherd, but also the innocent Lamb offered up as final and perfect sacrifice for our sins. Jesus took onto himself all of our sins, every wandering step, however great or small. He bore in his own body our sin and guilt and carried that shameful burden to the cross. There he suffered the penalty of death that should have been ours, the just penalty for sin. Then, his sacrifice complete, he took up his life again as he had promised, and in his resurrection we have the promise of eternal life through faith in his name

We are healed from sin, cleansed by our Shepherd’s wounds from the dust and dirt of our sinful wandering. We strayed, but we have been rescued, returned to our Shepherd’s care, secure in his pasture and surrounded by the safe walls of his will. And our Shepherd is still out there searching. He has other sheep that must be brought into the safety of his fold. One flock, one Shepherd—that is what he wants. As his sheep, we want that too, and faithfully share the story of our rescue and our Shepherd so that new sheep—his sheep—will hear their Shepherd’s voice and believe. They will be brought into his pasture, “so there will be one flock, one shepherd” (John 10:16). Amen.

- A **Hymn of Response** is sung by the congregation to the tune Old Hundredth LM:

Almighty Father, bless the Word
Which through your grace we now have heard.
Oh, may the precious seed take root,
Spring up, and bear abundant fruit!

- The **Offering** is collected at this time.
- The **Prayers** are offered by the pastor or other worship leader:

☐ Jesus, our Good Shepherd, you came to rescue us from sin and death and bring us safely into your kingdom. Keep us in your care. In a world of many tempting voices, help us to listen to your voice in your holy Word and to follow only you. Empower us by your Spirit to join you in seeking out your lost sheep. Make us bold witnesses for you, so that others will come to

hear your voice in the Gospel and believe in you, so there will be one flock and one Shepherd.
Amen.

- The **Lord's Prayer** is spoken in unison.
- The **Benediction** (John 10:11, 16; Hebrews 13:20-21) is spoken by the pastor:

☐ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

☑ **There will be one flock, one shepherd.**

☐ Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

☑ **Amen.**

- The **Closing Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune St. Columba 87 87:

The King of love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
And he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow,
My ransomed soul he leadeth
And, where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth.

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

A SERIES OF SERVICES ON PSALM 23

Week 1: Shepherd and Sheep

Scripture Readings

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Isaiah 40:10-11, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:
 - Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.
- The **Epistle Reading**, 1 Peter 2:24-25, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:
 - He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.
- The **Gospel Reading**, John 10:11-16, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:
 - I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own

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A SERIES OF SERVICES ON PSALM 23

Week 1: Shepherd and Sheep

Children's Message

- The **Children's Message** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

Needed: a plastic sheep figure or a stuffed toy sheep or lamb

- P** Who are the people who take care of you? (*Let children respond.*) Your parents and grandparents, maybe aunts and uncles and your teachers and pastors are some of the people who take care of you. What kinds of things do these people do to help and care for you? (*Let children answer.*) The people who care for you make sure that you have food to eat and a place to live and sleep and play. They take care of you when you are sick and take you to a doctor or to the hospital if you are sick or hurt. The people who care for you teach you the things that you need to know as you grow. They teach you about God's love and about Jesus your Savior.

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THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

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Week 1: Shepherd and Sheep

Sermon

- The **Sermon: Shepherd and Sheep** is delivered by the pastor:

☐ A lamb worked its way out of a fenced pasture and headed toward a busy highway that passed through the farm country. Some people driving by spotted the lost lamb. They pulled over and tried to coax the lamb away from the road and back toward its pasture, but the frightened creature fled from its would-be saviors. Then a battered pickup truck bumped down a dusty road alongside the pasture. As soon as the rancher stepped out of the truck, the lamb ran right up to its shepherd and was carried safely back to the pasture. Much of that scene is very different from what might have been observed in Jesus' day, in first-century Palestine, but the overall events are the same. Sheep wander, but they know their shepherd and they follow the voice that they know. Their shepherd keeps them safe.

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We are healed from sin, cleansed by our Shepherd's wounds from the dust and dirt of our sinful wandering. We strayed, but we have been rescued, returned to our Shepherd's care, secure in his pasture and surrounded by the safe walls of his will. And our Shepherd is still out there searching. He has other sheep that must be brought into the safety of his fold. One flock, one Shepherd—that is what he wants. As his sheep, we want that too, and faithfully share the story of our rescue and our Shepherd so that new sheep—his sheep—will hear their Shepherd's voice and believe. They will be brought into his pasture, "so there will be one flock, one shepherd" (John 10:16). Amen.