

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 23

October 11, 2020

**AS WE GATHER**

St. Paul in Philippians 4 says, “Rejoice in the Lord always” and a little later, “Let your requests be known to God.” As we continue to work through the changes in our lives due to COVID it is good to hear some words of comfort and encouragement from God. We hear those words today in Psalm 23.

**PRESERVICE MUSIC**

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* - Paul Grime  
*The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want* - Gerike/Hildebrand

**BELLS**

**WELCOME**

*Stand*

**OPENING HYMN**

*The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want* - LSB 710



1 The Lord's my shep - herd, I'll not want; He makes me  
2 My soul He doth re - store a - gain And me to  
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I  
4 My ta - ble Thou hast fur - nish - ed In pres - ence  
5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life Shall sure - ly



down to lie In pas - tures green; He  
walk doth make With - in the paths of  
fear no ill; For Thou art with me,  
of my foes; My head Thou dost with  
fol - low me; And in God's house for -



lead - eth me The qui - et wa - ters by.  
righ - teous - ness, E'en for His own name's sake.  
and Thy rod And staff me com - fort still.  
oil a - noint, And my cup o - ver - flows.  
ev - er - more My dwell - ing place shall be.

Text and tune: Public domain

## LITANY OF PREPARATION

**Pastor:** *In the name of the Father, who has loved us with an everlasting love; who has given His Son as the Lamb, and raised Him as the Good Shepherd*

**People:** **In the name of God, the Son, Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd; who knows His sheep by name, who gave His life for the sheep, and took His life back again.**

**Pastor:** *In the name of God the Holy Spirit, who works faith in those who will receive, and guides those who are believers in the way of the Good Shepherd.*

**People:** **Amen.**

**Pastor:** *Father, in the words of your prophet Isaiah you described our condition: "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way."*

**People:** **You sent Your Son to be our Good Shepherd. We confess that, at times, we have chosen to be our own shepherd; we have abandoned the green pastures and still water, and have search for shallow satisfaction; we have wandered off the path of righteousness; we have hid from your presence and have gone off on our own; we have ignored the table you have prepared, and have anointed ourselves with the oil of worldly pleasure; we have not recognized Your goodness and mercy. Forgive us, we pray. Amen**

**Pastor:** *People of God's creation, God forgives our sin through the words and work of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ. Christ carried our sins in His body on the cross so that freed from our sins, we could live a life that has God's approval. His wounds have healed you. You were like lost sheep; now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your lives. Rejoice, for your sins are forgiven!*

**People:** **Amen. We rejoice in the Lord always!**

✠ WORD ✠

## SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Pastor:** *The Lord be with you.*

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** *Let us pray. Almighty God, merciful Father, since you brought back from the dead the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit to know His voice and to follow Him, that sin and death may never pluck us out of Your hand; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**People:** **Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 25:6–9

<sup>6</sup>On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,  
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.  
<sup>7</sup>And he will swallow up on this mountain  
the covering that is cast over all peoples,  
the veil that is spread over all nations.  
<sup>8</sup>He will swallow up death forever;  
and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces,  
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the Lord has spoken.  
<sup>9</sup>It will be said on that day,  
“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.  
This is the Lord; we have waited for him;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalm 23 (KJV & paraphrase, Leslie Brandt)

Leader: We speak the comfort that comes from Psalm 23:

People: **The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.**

Leader: The Lord is my constant companion. There is no need that He cannot fill.

People: **He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

Leader: Whether his course for me points to the mountaintops of glorious ecstasy or to the valleys of human suffering, he is by my side, he is ever present with me.

People: **Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and they staff they comfort me.**

Leader: The Lord is close beside me, when I tread the dark streets of danger, and even when I flirt with death itself, he will not leave me. When the pain is severe, he is near to comfort. When the burden is heavy, he is there to lean upon.

People: **Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**

Leader: When depression darkens my soul, he touches me with eternal joy. When I feel empty and alone, he fills the aching vacuum with his power.

People: **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

Leader: My security is in his promise to be near to me always, and in the knowledge that he will never let me go.

## EPISTLE

Philippians 4:4–13

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup> do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup> What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

<sup>10</sup> I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. <sup>11</sup> Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. <sup>12</sup> I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 22:1–14

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, <sup>2</sup> “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, <sup>3</sup> and sent his servants[a] to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup> Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.”’ <sup>5</sup> But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup> while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. <sup>7</sup> The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. <sup>8</sup> Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup> Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ <sup>10</sup> And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.

<sup>11</sup> “But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. <sup>12</sup> And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ <sup>14</sup> For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Sit*

**SERMON**

In the Comfort of the Shepherd

*Stand*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

***Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us - LSB 711:1-2***

1 Sav - ior, like a shep - herd lead us; Much we  
2 We are Yours; in love be - friend us, Be the  
need Your ten - der care. In Your pleas - ant pas - tures  
guard - ian of our way; Keep Your flock, from sin de -  
feed us, For our use Your fold pre - pare.  
fend us, Seek us when we go a - stray.  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have  
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us  
bought us; we are Yours. Bless - ed Je - sus,  
chil - dren when we pray. Bless - ed Je - sus,  
bless - ed Je - sus, You have bought us; we are Yours.  
bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us chil - dren when we pray.

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**CREED**

*Apostles' Creed*

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life + everlasting. Amen.

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:** With full confidence that our prayers will be heard by our loving God, we offer our petitions for the Church, the world, and all people in need. We pray for the well-being of creation in our land and every land, for all coastlands and waters and for all fields and forests. Grant that we be proper stewards of all of the gifts we have received. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** We pray for the Church that it may grow as the Spirit leads and directs, even in those places where persecution of Christian people still is a daily reality. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Remembering Your promise to be the Good Shepherd, we pray for your continued care for all those in need, especially those we name before You now along with those in our hearts, (....) Even as you care for us, teach us to care for others. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Guide the nations, guard Your church, and strengthen us for service in Your kingdom. Lord, we entrust to Your mercy all for whom we pray, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**People:** 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  
forever and ever. Amen.

## BLESSING

**Pastor:** *Listen to the sound of Jesus' voice, and follow where He leads. For Jesus will find for you the pastures of the kingdom, where you may have life and have everything you need.*

**People:** **We have heard the voice of the Good Shepherd and we will follow. God is calling us to serve a hurting world in the name of Jesus Christ.**

**Pastor:** *May it be so with you, now and always, in the name of the Father, Son + and Holy Spirit.*

**People:** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

### *Have No Fear, Little Flock - LSB 735*



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; Have no fear, lit - tle  
2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; Have good cheer, lit - tle  
3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; Praise the Lord high a -  
4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; Thank - ful hearts raise to



flock, For the Fa - ther has cho - sen To  
flock, For the Fa - ther will keep you In  
bove, For He stoops down to heal you, Up -  
God, For He stays close be - side you, In



give you the King - dom; Have no fear, lit - tle flock!  
His love for - ev - er; Have good cheer, lit - tle flock!  
lift and re - store you; Praise the Lord high a - bove!  
all things works with you; Thank - ful hearts raise to God!

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## POSTLUDE

### *Have No Fear, Little Flock - Richard Gieseke*