

The King of Love My Shepherd Is  
(a rendition of Psalm 23)

①

The King of love my Shepherd is,  
My good he makes his own;  
He gives me all I truly need,  
His peace, his rest, his Son.

②

Where streams of living waters run,  
My thirsty heart he leads;  
And where the richest pastures grow,  
My hungry mind he feeds.

③

In pride and foolishness I stray,  
And leave you, bold to roam;  
Yet out you come to find me lost,  
And gently lead me home.

④

In places where Death shadows me,  
O Lord, you're by my side;  
Your cross as staff, my comfort still,  
Your Spirit near to guide.

⑤

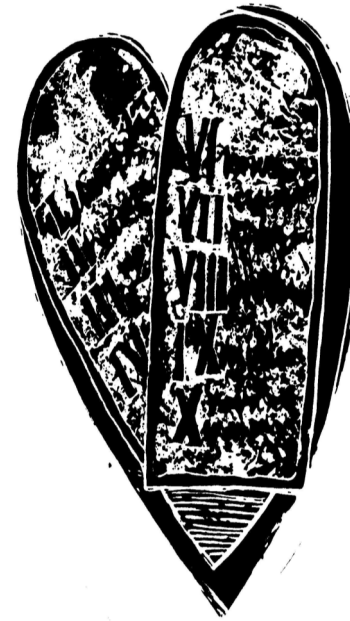
Your table spread within their sight  
My foes refuse to taste;  
But sweet I feed upon the hope:  
To see you face to face.

⑥

Your mercy walks me through the years,  
Your goodness trails my days;  
Forever in your house I dwell,  
With everlasting praise!



'Love the Lord your God



with all  
your heart  
and with  
all your soul  
and  
with all  
your mind.'

This is the first and  
greatest commandment.

— Matthew 22:37 —

We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

Old Orchard Church

October 18, 2009 — 10:15-11:45 a.m.

*Celebrating Jesus Christ in the Greatest Commandment:  
The Law of Love*

**Before the foundation of the world God loved us;  
His love is the root of all things:  
the fount of every blessing, the comfort in every pain,  
the hope for every last thing out of joint in the world!**

**The law of love is the law of the world,  
And God calls the redeemed to live that law --  
to love him more than we love all others,  
and loving him,  
to love all others as they need to be loved:  
as we love ourselves.**

**Praise be to Christ the Son for his everlasting love!**

**Blessed be his name,  
for the love revealed in the cross exposes all counterfeit loves.  
Let us glory in our high privilege of bearing Christ's goodness  
to a world fascinated with love—and starved of it.**

**O Lord, we bless you for your love!  
Work in us the love you command;  
receive our worship through Jesus Christ!**



*Scripture Readings*

Old Testament Lesson: Leviticus 19:9-18; Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:34-37

*Today's Sermon*

“Living in the Light of the Second Coming”

Matthew 24

Ron Lutjens, senior pastor, preaching

*Love and Good and the Law*

Sin is about our failure to be and do good—which means it is about our failure to love—which means it is about our failure to keep the Law. Everywhere in Scripture love, and the good, and the law are drawn together as three strands in the “cord” of what God calls us to. But how can love, a disposition of the heart, be demanded by law? Because love is what we were made for, and the law calls us back to it—back to ourselves.

Today we celebrate in our liturgy the **law** of love as Jesus sets it out in Matthew 22: the good that is good to do is what we are **required** to do; and it can all be boiled down to this: *love God and love each other*. It doesn't mean that the good and the law have no specific definition. That's the heresy of so-called “situation ethics”: there are no rules, no boundaries to which love, by definition, conforms; but in the situation you'll know, somehow, which behavior love calls for. But Jesus's words certainly don't mean that.

But they do mean that behind all the rules is the core of the law's demand, and the heart of what goodness is really about: *loving someone*. When, for instance, Proverbs 6:9 says it's not good to sleep too much, otherwise you'll wind up poor from committing the sin of sloth, it's teaching us how love behaves. But how much sleep is too much? That's the question we tend to go to first, but it's not the most important question. The most important question is, Do I want to love by doing what's good? If I do, then the proverb gives me something very specific and concrete to explore seriously: am I spending too much time in the sheets? The stronger my desire to love, the more determined I will be to find an answer to that question. I'll pray, talk it through with others, try sleeping less if my conscience bothers me—there are fifty things I can do to try to answer the question, if only the question becomes important to me, if only I want to love.

**Constrain my heart, O Lover of my inmost soul, that I may love as you love. Lord, grant me the inner power to glory in the law, the law of love; open my eyes that I may see goodness in the law, the goodness which serves love. Teach me to love the good and to love love. Persuade me of your right to demand that of me. Teach me the wisdom that connects the dots between law and love; teach me that in my lawbreaking I am hating others—and you. I love poorly now, I know. But in the End I shall love perfectly, when you come and everything lawless, everything loveless, everything evil, everything mortal in me will be swallowed up by Life, your Life in mine. O Christ my God, teach me that the obligation of love is not a drag on my soul, not a burden. Make me see that in losing myself in the law, in love, in goodness, I find myself—because there I find you. Show me that in Jesus's death I died to the threats of the law that I might be free to see its glories and its goodness, for the sake of love, by the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.**

—Ron Lutjens