

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

(a rendition of Psalm 23)

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.

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

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.

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.

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

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

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.**

"I am the good shepherd.

The good shepherd

lays down his life for the sheep....

My sheep listen to my voice;

I know them, and they follow me."

John 10: 11 & 27

Third Sunday in Lent

Old Orchard Church

March 23, 2014—10:15 - 11:50 a.m.

Descent to the Cross: I am the Good Shepherd

Alone even in a crowd,
We look for love,
We long for someone to care,
Someone to hold and protect our fragile selves.

Christ came into the world to throw his arms around us;
a Shepherd, he came to carry us gently.

But we despised him, crucified him,
And counted him rejected by God.
Yet, by the power of the Holy Spirit

He rose from the dead:
he called,

and we recognized his voice;
alone, we ran to him
for cover, for love,
for everlasting peace.

Good Shepherd, Lamb of God, we are yours,
And gladly sing your praise!



Today's Scripture

Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 23
Gospel Lesson: Luke 9:56-62

Today's Sermon

**“Returning Our Money to the Lord:
Old Covenant and New”** (Part 3)

Malachi 3:6-12, Mark 12:41-44; I Corinthians 8:1-14;
II Corinthians 8 & 9; Galatians 6:6-10
Ron Lutjens, lead pastor, preaching

Being A Sheep

"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?" (Luke 15:4)

We have spoken of those people who make use of the love of God as a means of wriggling away from religion, and who smile at the whole thing.

But there are others who do not smile.

They are never many in number. Jesus gives figurative expression to this in the parable when He speaks of the one and the ninety and nine.

Listen now, you lonely, fearful, lost soul: Jesus loves you.

No, He does not love me, you say. He is angry with me. And rightfully so. I...sin against Him.

Yes, you are right. If you were to receive according to what you have merited, you would have nothing to hope for. However, Jesus has taken upon Himself that which you should have suffered. **“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5**

Such is His love toward you.

That is why He was so grieved when you went away from Him. He has sought you day and night. Have you not heard Him call?

Yes, you have. And it makes you restless. It is then that sin becomes such a burden to you. It is then that you begin to long for God, for reconciliation and forgiveness.

But how shall I find the way to God, you ask?

That you cannot do. Nor has God asked you to do that. It is He who seeks you. And now He has found you. Now the only question is: Will you yield and not run away from Him any more? If so, He will lay you on His shoulder and carry you home.

That is what it means to be converted.

—*Ole Hallesby in God's Word For Today (1937)*