



First Christian Reformed Church of Lynden
From Generation to Generation for the Glory of God

God's precious and exceedingly great promises in hard times

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Scripture

This world we live in is created and sustained by a shepherd God.

Psalm 23:1-3 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

³ He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Psalm 78:52 He led out his people like sheep and guided them in the wilderness like a flock.

Psalm 100:3 Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Isaiah 40:11 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.

We live in a world redeemed by a shepherd Savior who reconciles us to our shepherd God.

John 10:11, 14-15 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Hebrew 13:20-21 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, ²¹ 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.

Revelation 7:16-17 They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; ¹⁷ for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.

We live in a world that will be judged by a shepherd Judge.

Matthew 25:31-33 When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.

All who make the Lamb of God his shepherd, the shepherd of his soul, will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm 28:9 Oh, save your people and bless your heritage!
Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

Isaiah 53:6-7 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

John 1:29 Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Luke 12:32 Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Song

Psalm 59:16 But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.

[You can Google the hymn to hear it if you would like to sing along.]

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

We are Thine, do Thou befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear, O hear us when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear, O hear us when we pray.

Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to Thee;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to Thee.

Early let us seek Thy favor, early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with Thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.

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Prayer

II Chronicles 7:14 If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Prayer based on Psalm 23:

Our Lord and our God, what a glorious blessing to have a shepherd God, a God who is the chief and great shepherd, to whom we are sheep under your care. Because of this we have no real need that is unmet. You can only do good for us so we rest in the pastures you have chosen and lead us into.

Our thirsty and disquieted souls find satisfaction in the living water of your Word. Fill us with your peace in this over-anxious world. Father, lead us away from the unrighteous paths we continually wander off on, enable us to seek your righteousness alone.

We dwell daily in a world in the grip of sin, darkness and death. While in death's shadow be our light and guide. May our only fear be the fear of the Lord which is the beginning of wisdom and salvation. May we dwell secure in the shadow of your cross. May we never despise your rod of discipline and conviction, but submit in obedience to your staff.

Our life is filled with enemies, in the world, our own sinful flesh, and the devil. May we feast on the riches of your grace and goodness, your provision and protection, your health and strength.

Truly you have done more than we deserve, more than we could ask or imagine. Thank you, faithful Shepherd, that you can never leave us or forsake us, you are with us always. One thing we ask, one thing we seek after:

Psalm 27:4-5

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.

⁵ For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble.