



This week has seen the beginning of Lent, a time when we can focus especially on the life of Jesus as he journeyed towards the cross.

We often refer to Jesus as 'the Good Shepherd', but we also know him as the lamb that was slain for our sins.

Isaiah 53:

*He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.
Like one from whom people hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.*

Song

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

It makes the wounded spirit whole,
And calms the troubled breast;
'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.

Jesus, my shepherd, brother, friend,
My prophet, priest, and king;
My Lord, my life, my way, my end,
Accept the praise I bring.

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Read Psalm 23



Song

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.

He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.

Stuart Townend

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Teaching

- Am I prepared to admit that I'm like a sheep?
- Am I prepared to allow the Lord to be my shepherd?

Song

The Lord is my shepherd
He restores my soul
He leads me by still waters
He restores my soul

Surely Your goodness and mercy are chasing
after me
All of the days of my life

Even when I'm lost in the deepest valley, I'll
fear no evil
Even when the silence falls around me, I
know You hear me
Even when it feels like we're separated,
You're holding on to me

You lift my head, You wipe my tears
You restore my soul
You draw me into Your embrace
You restore my soul

Surely Your goodness and mercy are chasing
after me
All of the days of my life

Even when I'm lost in the deepest valley, I'll
fear no evil
Even when the silence falls around me, I
know You hear me
Even when it feels like we're separated,
You're holding on to me

Even when I'm lost in the deepest valley,
You're holding on to me
Even when the silence falls around, You're
holding on to me
Even when it feels like we're separated,
You're holding on to me

Lauren Harris | Matt Fury | Tom Read
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Prayers

We praise you Father for your love towards
all creation and that all sin has been laid
upon Jesus - so we can all be free.

We pray for those we know who need your
healing, *as we name them before you now.*

We pray for those we know who need your
rescuing, *as we name them before you now.*

We pray for those we know who need your
blessing, *as we name them before you now.*

We pray also for those we don't know because
you know them Father, you know their every
need.

Be with them in the dark place; may they know
your comfort. Rescue them we pray, that they
may dwell in your house

We pray for rulers, who are called to care for
their people like shepherds. Give them the
wisdom, compassion, courage and strength to
rule justly and effectively.

Song

Higher than the mountains that I face
Stronger than the power of the grave
Constant through the trial and the change
One thing remains, yes, one thing remains

Your love never fails
It never gives up
It never runs out on me

Because on and on, and on, and on it goes
Before it overwhelms and satisfies my soul
And I never, ever, have to be afraid
One thing remains, yes, one thing remains

Your love never fails
It never gives up
It never runs out on me

Brian Johnson | Christa Black Gifford | Jeremy Riddle
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I pray that the God of peace will give you
every good thing you need so you can do
what he wants. God raised from the dead our
Lord Jesus, the Great Shepherd of the sheep,
because of the blood of his death. His blood
began the eternal agreement that God made
with his people. I pray that God will do in us
what pleases him