

3rd Sunday of Easter:

Meditation: The Good Shepherd Cares for His Sheep

Ezek. 34:11-16 | 1 Pet. 2:21-25 | John 10:11-16 | Psalm 23

Our Lord Jesus is the Good Shepherd (John 10:11–16). He is not like the hireling, who cares nothing for the sheep and only for himself, who flees when he sees the wolf coming. Rather, Jesus is the Good Shepherd who seeks out His scattered sheep to deliver them (Ezek. 34:11–16). He gathers them and feeds them in rich pasture. He binds up the broken and strengthens the sick. He lays down His life for wandering and wayward sheep. On the cross, Christ bore in His body the attacks of the predators of sin and death and the devil for you that you might be saved. He now lives to restore your soul in the still waters of baptism, to lead you in the paths of righteousness by the voice of His Gospel, to prepare the table of His holy supper before you, that you may dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Psalm 23). "For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls" (1 Peter 2:25).

Daily Readings

S Ex 32:15–35
Luke 6:39–49
M Ex 33:1–23
Luke 7:1–17
T Ex 34:1–28
Luke 7:18–35
W Ex 34:29—35:21
Ex. 35:22-38:20
Luke 7:36–50
Th Ex 38:21—39:8, 22–23, 27–31
Luke 8:1–21
F Ex 39:32—40:16
Luke 8:22–39
S Ex 40:17–38
Lev. 1:1-7:38
Luke 8:40–56

Merciful Father, You gave Your Son as the loving Shepherd of the sheep. Look with compassion on all sheep who have gone astray. Cause all Christians to dwell together as one flock united under Christ, our Good Shepherd; through the same, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Send down on us Your Holy Spirit, that as we walk through the dark shadows of this world, we would be protected by the voice of our Shepherd. Help us, that we not be overcome by false belief, despair or other great shame and vice.

The Shepherd laid down His life for us. Pardon our many sins, and fill us with His life, for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Lutheran Church

9:00 am Bible Class, Sunday School **10:30am** Worship

600 West Sumner Street, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

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Art by Emilyn Kyle



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