



**Lectionary Bible Study
Our Savior Lutheran, Vero Beach**

Easter 4B – April 25, 2021

**Live Bible Studies Hosted on Zoom
Wednesdays @ 10:00 AM**

More Info & Link at

www.OurSaviorELCA.com/BibleStudy

Each year, the fourth Sunday of Easter is commonly referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday. The metaphor of shepherd and specifically of Jesus as the good shepherd is one that the church has long used as a means of assuring Christ's followers of his unending and unfailing care for them.

Psalm 23 (The Message Paraphrase)

¹⁻³ God, my shepherd! I don't need a thing. You have bedded me down in lush meadows, you find me quiet pools to drink from. True to your word, you let me catch my breath and send me in the right direction. ⁴ Even when the way goes through Death Valley, I'm not afraid when you walk at my side. Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure.

⁵ You serve me a six-course dinner right in front of my enemies. You revive my drooping head; my cup brims with blessing. ⁶ Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life. I'm back home in the house of God for the rest of my life.

1. Do you know Psalm 23 by memory, or at least part of it? Consider looking up Psalm 23 in different bible translations. What is your first memory of hearing or imaging Psalm 23? Which phrase of the 23rd psalm speaks to you most meaningfully? Do you find any phrase challenging or even troubling?

John 10:11-18

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.

¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

2. In John’s gospel, Jesus identifies himself as “the good shepherd” as he is in conversation with the Pharisees (see John chapter 9). How do you think the Pharisees responded to Jesus contrasting a Good Shepherd, the hired hand and the wolf?
3. Based on Jesus’ words, what would you say is the main characteristic that differentiates a good shepherd from a bad shepherd?
4. Who do you think Jesus is referring to in vs.16?