

**Intro:**

We need to trust God's providence. Christ has bought or bred you: He is invested in your care/wellbeing.

Main Point of Text: God will always guide you where you can eat, ensure that you do eat – and that you eat only the best.

Sermon Point: *The Good Shepherd Will Always Provide for You.*

**Move 1: *Your Good Shepherd will always provide for all your basic needs.***

Vs. 1: "I shall not want": lack, be deficient. Vs. 2: the Spirit of Christ takes you where you need to be to eat and drink and survive and thrive. Vs. 5: table likely a trough. Perhaps, a "mesa" in the mountains. Like the green pastures, the shepherd prepares them ahead of time. Jesus prepares places for you ahead of taking you there in this life. And in the next life. Ps. 37:25) Thus, 1 Tim. 6:8. Because Jesus your Good Shepherd said: John 14:2-3) And He has prepared the way there through Himself: *I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.* (John 10:11; see also vss. 15, 17). Green pastures/still waters (Word and Prayer). Table and Cup (Sacraments). Christ provided Means of Grace for you to persevere.

**Move 2: *Your Good Shepherd will always provide you with an appetite.***

Vs. 3: "He restoreth my soul", lit., "My soul he brings back". Heb., "return/come back, change mind"; translated elsewhere, "repent". God grants us repentance to be recovered from Satan (2. Tim. 2:24-26). Vs. 2: lit., "In dwellings of grass *God causes me to lie down*; on waters of rest *He refreshes me.*" The fact that they are laying down shows they have eaten; the fact that they are drinking is by God's still, small voice speaking. Of four things that keep sheep from eating/drinking, first/foremost is *fear*: vs. 4. The Shepherd takes care of the flock's needs so they can rest, and brings them back to the flock to have it when the stray: Luke 15:4-7. Shepherds take the sheep out of the sheepfold (night protection) through the gate every day to go where the fresh/health food and water are to be had with the flock. John 10:2-4,7, 9. Mat 11:28, 29.

**Move 3: *Your Good Shepherd will always provide you with what is best for you.***

Vs. 3: "He leadeth me into paths of righteousness". Not same old "ruts" (without the shepherd, sheep will overgraze/ruin same pastures: shepherd keeps them moving to new places). Vs. 2b, quiet waters. Mainly had along narrow paths through the dark valleys, where the best water and food is on the way to summer mountain grazing (on earth and in heaven) Mount Zion. *I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.* (John 10:10) Abundance of God's goodness is had in suffering: Vs. 4a.

**Conclusion:**

***The Good Shepherd Will Always Provide for You.***