



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

Matthew 4:4 But Jesus answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Psalm 23:1-6

¹ 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.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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.]

My Shepherd, you supply my need

[Isaac Watts' hymn based on Psalm 23]

My Shepherd, you supply my need; most holy is your name.

In pastures fresh you make me feed, beside the living stream.

You bring my wandering spirit back when I forsake your ways,
and lead me, for your mercy's sake in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death, your presence is my stay;

one word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away.

Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread;
my cup with blessings overflows, your oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;

oh, may your house be my abode and all my work be praise.

Here would I find a settled rest, while others go and come;
no more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.

Prayer

Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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 Shephard, 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.
For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble.*