

# SHEPHERD

*God faithfully cares for His people. Christ is the Good Shepherd. (Pastors are responsible as shepherds.)*

SCRIPTURE*	MUSIC†
<b>Psalm 23</b> Psalm 23:1-4 <b>Psalm 100</b> Isaiah 40:6-11 <b>Isaiah 40:6-11</b> <b>Matthew 9:35-38</b> <b>John 10:1-18</b> <b>Hebrews 13:15-21</b> <b>1 Peter 2:21-25; 5:1-11</b>	All the Way My Savior Leads Me God Leads Us Along Great Is Thy Faithfulness Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah He Leadeth Me <b>He Shall Feed His Flock (Courtney)</b> His Name Is Wonderful Mercies Anew <b>My Shepherd Will Supply... (Wilberg) SATB</b> The King of Love My Shepherd Is <b>The King of Love My Shepherd Is (Forrest) SATB</b> You Are Always Good



**NORTHWEST VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**

nwvbc.org | 623-581-3115 | 4030 W Yorkshire Drive, Glendale, AZ 85308

\* Daily preparatory readings shown in **bold**.

† Published choral and vocal music shown in **bold**.

# PRESENTING & PROMOTING THIS THEME

## A CHILD'S WORDS

*Walk through Psalm 23 with an adult and child reader. Reading could also be performed by another combination.*

Adult: Psalm 23—the beloved shepherd’s psalm. What a beautiful illustration of God’s very personal care for us.

Child: But Psalm 23 isn’t just pretty pictures and nice thoughts. It shows us just how complete God’s care is for each one of us. It’s real. It’s personal.

Adult: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Child: God makes sure I have everything I really need.

Adult: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.

Child: God gives me rest. He provides nourishment.

Adult: He leadeth me beside the still waters.

Child: He refreshes me.

Adult: He restoreth my soul.

Child: God brings me out of times of discouragement.

Adult: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Child: He directs me into doing right so that I can reflect Him better.

Adult: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;

Child: When things are getting really bad, I still won’t be afraid; God is with me.

Adult: Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Child: I’m glad God won’t let me go too far in sin before He corrects me.

Adult: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.

Child: No one—not even my enemies—can keep me from enjoying God’s provision.

Adult: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Child: You honor me. You bless me so much more than I deserve.

Adult & Child: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

## GOD OF STRENGTH YET GENTLE SHEPHERD

In Isaiah 40, it reads, “Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.... Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?”

We read here of God’s decisive power and immensity. But I left out a passage—just one verse in our Bibles—that sits between these two. And it’s surprising: “He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.”

Can this be the same God!? This God who measures the heavens as with the span of His hand and deals with mountains like weights on a scale—does He deal with His people in such tenderness, such gentleness? Yes, He does. And He is *our* Shepherd.

But how can this be? What could close so great a gap between His immensity and our smallness? This powerful God had raised His strong hand in wrath for our sin. Had it fallen on us, it would have crushed us. But there was another who called Himself “Shepherd”—Jesus, God made flesh. He assumed frailty and weakness, and He let God’s hand fall upon Him. He let it crush Him.

Through Jesus, the Good Shepherd, we become the sheep of Jehovah, our Shepherd. We praise Him today for His tenderness toward us—for supplying our needs, for guiding us in the best paths, for taking us into His fold, His house, forever. (Caleb French)

## TESTIMONY

*Have a church member give a personal testimony on how Psalm 23 has been important to him or her in life. Explain how it has helped in specific situations and decisions.*