

# Morning Worship

Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## Antipsalm 23

I'm on my own. No one looks out for me or protects me. I'm always restless. I'm easily frustrated and often disappointed. It's a jungle—I feel overwhelmed. It's a desert—I'm thirsty. My soul feels broken, twisted, and stuck. I can't fix myself. I stumble down some dark paths. Still, I insist: I want to do what I want, when I want, how I want. But life's confusing. Why don't things ever really work out? I'm haunted by emptiness and futility—shadows of death. I fear the big hurt and final loss. Death is waiting for me at the end of every road, but I'd rather not think about that.

I spend my life protecting myself. Bad things can happen. I find no lasting comfort. I'm alone... facing everything that could hurt me. Are my friends really friends? Other people use me for their own ends. I can't really trust anyone. No one has my back. No one is really for me—except me. And I'm so much all about ME, sometimes it's sickening. I belong to no one except myself.

My cup is never quite full enough. I'm left empty. Disappointment follows me all the days of my life. Will I just be obliterated into nothingness? Will I be alone forever, homeless, free-falling into void? Sartre said, "Hell is other people." I have to add, "Hell is also myself." It's a living death, and then I die.

But the antipsalm doesn't tell the final story...

It only becomes my reality when I construct my reality from a lie. In reality, someone else is the center of the story. Nobody can make Jesus go away. The I AM was, is and will be, whether or not people acknowledge. When we awaken, as we see who Jesus actually is, everything changes. You see the person whose care and ability you can trust. You experience his care. You see the person whose glory you are meant to worship. You love him who loves you. The real Psalm 23 captures what life feels like and looks like when Jesus Christ takes you in hand, when he puts his hand on your shoulder, when he takes your hand.

-David Powlison

## *Enter His Gates with Thanksgiving and Praise*

### **Call to Worship: Psalm 100: 1-5**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

### **Come Thou Fount**

Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Broken I shall be in spirit, till released from flesh and sin,  
Yet from what I do inherit, here thy praises I'll begin;  
Clothed in flesh, till death shall loose me, I cannot proclaim it well,  
How his kindness still pursues me human tongue can never tell.

Here I raise my Ebenezer; here by thy great help I've come;  
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood;

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

O that day when freed from sinning, I shall see thy lovely face;  
Clothed then in blood wash'd linen how I'll sing thy sovereign grace;  
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry, take my ransomed soul away;  
Send thine angels now to carry me to realms of endless day.

### **Prayer of Invocation**

*We ask God's presence to enable us to worship him as we ought.*

## ***Confess Your Sin to the Lamb Who Rescues Lost Sheep***

### **Call to Confession**

**Isaiah 40:10-11**

Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Lamb of God, Gentle Shepherd,

The thought of your infinite serenity delights our souls. We live in various states of toil, trouble and stress, but you are forever at perfect peace. We are foolish and prone to running away from you, yet our weakness and sin cause you no fear or distress, for your will stands as fast as the eternal hills. Your power and goodness know no limit, and you set your love upon us long before we were born. As you first brought order out of chaos with a just a word, speak to us today and bring order to our unruly souls. We come to you as sinners with many cares and sorrows. You remember our weakness and promise to carry us gently, yet we spend our lives trying to prove how strong we are and how much we don't need you. You have laid down your precious life for us, yet we spend our days trying to save ourselves with law keeping and endless self-salvation strategies. You have promised to supply all of our needs, yet we make ourselves sick with worry because we can't trust you. You gave us your life, but we will not believe that our lives are safe in your hands: that you are always for us and never against us. You left heaven to rescue each of us byname, but we don't value you enough to spend much time loving, worshipping, and thanking you. Lord, our sins tower over us like a great mountain of guilt; forgive us, we pray. Though our sins threaten to bury us, your righteousness soars above them all and makes intercession for us at the Father's right hand. Your death cancels our debt, and you have stripped away the filthy garments of our own righteousness, dressing us in the finest robes of your glowing goodness. Lord Jesus, thank you. Holy Spirit, let us live near our Great Shepherd and learn to know, love, and trust his voice. Give us ears to hear him, eyes to see him, and hearts to believe and follow him. Help us to trust that when we wander, he will always bring us back, for he cannot lose even one of us. In our weakness, give us confidence in his strength, and fill us with gratitude to warm our lukewarm souls with joy and comfort. Replace our unbelief with growing faith that our only hope rests in the Lamb who died for us and who now lives for us. In his name we pray, amen

## **Silent Prayers of Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon: John 10:11-15**

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

### **Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us**

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;  
In thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

We are thine, thou dost befriend us, be the guardian of our way;  
Keep thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.

Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;  
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse and power to free.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus! Let us early turn to thee.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus! Let us early turn to thee.

Early let us seek thy favor, early let us do thy will;  
Blessèd Lord and only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.  
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.

## **Pastoral Prayer**

### ***Listen to Your Good Shepherd***

#### **Scripture Reading**

**Luke 15: 1-10**

“Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats

with them.”<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup>“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ <sup>7</sup>Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. <sup>8</sup>“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? <sup>9</sup>And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup>Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

## **Sermon    “*Accusations: The Case Against Jesus*”**

Rev. Bob Schmidtberger

## ***Feast on the Body and Blood of Your Good Shepherd***

### **The Lord’s Supper**

*All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior and Lord, who are communicant members of a Bible-believing church, and who seek strength and grace to live more faithfully to Christ are invited to participate. The cups with lighter liquid contain grape juice, the darker liquid is wine. The darker bread in the paper cup in the center of the plate is gluten-free. While communion is being served, please feel free to join in song or meditate quietly on Christ’s sacrifice.*

### ***Song of Preparation:***

#### **He Was Wounded for Our Transgressions**

He was wounded for our transgressions,  
He bore our sins in his body on the tree;  
For our guilt he gave us peace, from our bondage gave release,  
And with his stripes, and with his stripes,  
And with his stripes our souls are healed.

He was numbered among transgressors,  
We did esteem him forsaken by his God;  
As our sacrifice he died, that the law be satisfied,

And all our sin, and all our sin, and all our sin was laid on him

We had wandered, we all had wandered, far from the fold  
Of the shepherd of the sheep; but he sought us where we were,  
On the mountains bleak and bare,  
And brought us home, and brought us home,  
And brought us safely home to God.

Who can number his generation?  
Who shall declare all the triumphs of his cross?  
Millions dead now live again, myriads follow in his train!  
Victorious Lord, victorious Lord, victorious Lord and coming King.

## **Celebration of the Lord's Supper**

### ***Song of Response:***

#### **There is a Hope**

There is a hope that lives within my heart,  
That gives me strength for ev'ry passing day;  
A glimpse of glory now revealed in meager part, will drive all doubt away:  
I stand in Christ, with sins forgiv'n; and Christ in me, the hope of heav'n!  
My highest calling and my deepest joy, to make his will my home.

There is a hope that lifts my weary head,  
A consolation strong against despair,  
That when the world has plunged me in its deepest pit, I find the Savior there!  
Through present sufferings, future's fear, he whispers, "Courage!" in my ear.  
For I am safe in everlasting arms, and they will lead me home.

There is a hope that stands the test of time,  
That lifts my eyes beyond the beckoning grave,  
To see the matchless beauty of a day divine when I behold his face!  
When sufferings cease and sorrows die, and every longing is satisfied,  
Then joy unspeakable will flood my soul, for I am truly home.

#### **Benediction**

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