

Covenant Life

- We will have an in-person Community Gathering **today** at 4pm in the MSMCS gym.
- If you were not able to attend our last Gathering, you can listen to the audio [here](#) and review the Word Gift summary [here](#) and read the transcript [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

Reflection - The idea of God as the Good Shepherd is a common theme in the New and Old Testament, we even have a special Sunday to celebrate it. The Church selecting [Psalm 23](#) as the responsorial psalm today prompts me to reflect on it again. Ponder the author David who was faced with so many major life challenges in his day...what a blessing it is for you and me that he authored these words and they have been handed down to us.

Three years ago, Laurie and I had the privilege of visiting the Holy Land and our first day was spent walking and wondering in the desert. It was hot and dry and after several hours I was spent, even with the knowledge that at the end of the trek was the tour bus. Later that day we stopped at the Wadi David, an oasis near where the water runs off the nearby mountains into the Dead Sea. We walked barefoot in the water and experienced the lush vegetation, animals, and refreshing waterfalls. It was like going from one land extreme to another. I pondered what David must have felt hiding in the desert caves and then finding the Lord in this oasis. The experience helped me understand the total joy, surrender, and love that David felt from God. This must have been an inspiration for some of the psalms.

Today we are treated to the entire [Psalm 23](#) and if you have not done so already I recommend a prayer rereading and reflection. The Lord is our Shepherd and in Him we lack for nothing. He leads us to green pastures and still waters and refreshes us. As we surrender to Him, He guides us along right paths through dark valleys with nothing to fear. He provides bountifully for us and only

goodness and mercy surround us all our days. Why would we not follow Him and dwell in His house all our days?

Sisters and brothers, individually and collectively we have endured a lot this last year and a half and we are not through it yet. This psalm provides us clear direction for surviving whatever life throws at us. Lord God, be our Good Shepherd today and every day!

Let us pray *"Heavenly Father, I repent of the times I take matters into my own hands. I know You love me unconditionally and only want the best for me...but it is hard to let go sometimes. Guide me along Your paths and continue to provide what I need to constantly surrender to You. I commit to dwelling in Your house until You call me home. Amen."*

God bless,
David