

Sermon Title: Psalms: From the Heart, Part XXVIII 9.13.2026

Themes: God is the author of your life and is the one who guides and guards your life. Live-streaming and sermon notes are at trinitycg.org.

Focus Question: If the Lord is your Shepherd, who and what are you trying to control?

Introduction: Psalm 23 provides a beautiful five-part progression from provision, to peace, to restoration, to protection, to eternal presence.

Sermon Points:

1. The Shepherd provides for us.

Psalm 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. David begins with who the Lord is. The Lord is our Shepherd. We can trust Him with our needs, our future, and our fears. God's provision is not about having everything we want; it is knowing that in Him we truly have everything need. The sheep trust the Shepherd.

2. The Shepherd leads us into His peace.

Psalm 23:2. Sheep desire safety but they constantly need help finding it. Sometimes God has to make us lie down because we have become so busy trying to manage the chaos in our lives that we lose sight of our much-needed peace. Sometimes God doesn't calm the storm *around* you, but He can calm the heart *within* you.

3. The Shepherd restores us.

Psalm 23:3. His paths are righteous because He is holy. God doesn't simply want to get us *somewhere*; He wants to make us *someone* "for his name's sake." Our obedience isn't about building our reputation. It is about reflecting who He is and what He is doing in our life and in the world around us. Sometimes sin, grief, disappointment, failure, or the countless hurts of life leave us feeling like we're no longer useful to God. The Shepherd doesn't throw weak sheep away. He carries them to safety. God doesn't merely forgive broken people; He restores them. Our restored soul is a testimony of the Good Shepherd's goodness.

4. The Shepherd protects us in the darkest valley.

Psalm 23:4. Faith isn't knowing everything that is yet to come. Faith is knowing who is holding your hand when you can't see what's next. Notice the pronoun change: "*He* makes me." "*He* leads me." "*He* restores my soul." Then suddenly: "*You* are with me." The darker the valley becomes, the more personal the Shepherd is.

5. The Shepherd brings us to His eternal presence.

Psalm 23:5-6. Psalm 23 ends where every believer wants to finish: at home with the Good Shepherd. God's goodness isn't occasional, and His mercy isn't temporary. He pursues us through every season until we finally dwell with Him forever. The Shepherd isn't merely getting us through our difficulties. He's bringing us home. David doesn't end with green pastures. He doesn't end beside still waters. He doesn't even end in the valley. He ends at home: "**I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**" The Shepherd isn't simply leading you through life. He's leading you to eternal life. You may not know where the Shepherd is taking you tomorrow. You may not understand every road He leads you down. But you can trust the Shepherd because He knows the way home. The Good Shepherd provides what you need. He gives you peace when life is chaotic. He restores what life has broken. He stays with you when the road gets dark. And He will bring you home. Psalm 23 keeps bringing us back to one profound question: "Do you trust the Good Shepherd?"

Reflection: Dear Lord, help me to trust Your plan even when it takes me through life's dark valleys.