

# The King of Love

The Fourth Sunday of Easter (May 7th) is Good Shepherd Sunday. On that day, the readings and hymns will emphasize Jesus as our Good Shepherd. The picture of the Lord as our Shepherd is not just a New Testament theme. Psalm 23, which is a favorite Psalm for many Christians, gives us a wonderful description of the Lord as our Shepherd. Hymn 709 (LSB) is based on the Good Shepherd references in the Bible.

*The King of love my shepherd is,  
Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am His  
And He is mine forever.*

Jesus, our Good Shepherd willingly laid down His life for His sheep – that’s us! By nature, all of us are lost in sin, separated from God and without earthly help. Nothing in this world can deliver us from our sin and its dreadful consequence – eternal death. But we have hope – not in ourselves or anything of this world – but in our Good Shepherd, who died on the cross and rose from the grave for us. Now we have forgiveness for our sins, life with God and the promise of heaven.

As we go through life, we see so many good gifts that God has given us. Our church, our family, many conveniences, health care, food, clothing and much more. But we are also aware of how sin affects mankind around the world. There is conflict, violence, personal problems, disease, war, starvation and

more. Our Good Shepherd “leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.” Because Jesus is the King of love, He is always with us and we are always with Him. He helps, comforts, consoles, encourages and strengthens us in life’s most difficult situations. That’s why Psalm 23 includes these words of comfort and peace: “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever” (v. 6).

This promise is emphasized in the final verse of hymn 709 (“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”):

*And so through all the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never  
Good Shepherd may I sing Thy praise  
Within Thy house forever!*

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