

# DEVOTIONAL

Pastor Doerr of  
Garden Homes  
Lutheran Church

"When you feel like a lamb who has barely escaped being led to the slaughter, can you say, "Thank you, Lord, for being my shepherd"?"

When you lack the strength to think any good thoughts, the strength to get rid of any of your anger toward those who victimized you or lied to you or who pushed aside your pleas for help, God says that so long as you have him you "lack nothing."

You can thank him for the reassurance from Psalm 23:1, "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want", even if you can't sense his providing in the moment. When even driving on the road that goes toward the place where you were mistreated, makes your hands tremor on the steering wheel, he promises he has a right path for you. He will lead you on it, till you lie down in green pastures and rest beside quiet waters.

You can thank him for his leading, even while you're desperate for that place of quiet.

Your Shepherd helps you to say:

"Thank you for the refreshing that my soul has found in you."

"Thank you for the hope that all of this will somehow bring glory to your name."

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"Thank you for getting me through the dark valleys, at least this far."

"Thank you for fighting—with your rod and your staff and your holy presence—against all the darkness that still follows me."

As he helps you to thank him, he is helping you heal. He is with you. No one can snatch you from his hand. (Psalm 23:1-4; John 10:28)

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