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## Journeying in Grace

Renewed in Mercy

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT, YEAR A**

This year, the lectionary once again gives us a very familiar text. Whether read at a baptism, wedding, or funeral, Psalm 23 has accompanied many of us through important moments in our lives.

### REFERENCES

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

### COLORS

Purple

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Beloved, the journey of grace takes us to still waters, the valley of the shadow of death, even to tables surrounded by our enemies.

We gather to worship God, our Shepherd, who guides us on the journey.

The journey of grace points us toward the Light so that we may bear the fruit of the Light in all that we do.

We gather to be formed by grace so that our lives may bear the fruit of all that is good and right and true.

The journey of grace calls us to pay attention, to discern what is pleasing to God.

We gather to listen to the Spirit, who empowers us to go from this place to work together to do

what is pleasing to God.

Come, let us worship God who provides, inspires, and empowers us on the journey of grace.  
Come, let us worship God as we journey in grace together! Amen.

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025.*

## OPENING PRAYER

Loving Shepherd,  
you know our names;  
you care for us.  
When we face darkness and death,  
journey alongside us.  
When we hunger for your love,  
fill us with your presence.  
When we are fearful,  
feed us at your table.  
May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy  
all the days of our lives. Amen.

*Written by Mary Petrina Boyd and posted on Ministry Matters. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/>.  
Re-posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2015/04/opening-prayer-psalm-23.html>.*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, you are our shepherd,  
And yet we want.  
We lie down when we could act,  
We stir the pot when we could offer peace,  
We wander tempting paths instead of following you.  
We seek courage and comfort in earthly things rather than in you.  
We hate our enemies and refuse to break bread with them,  
We see scarcity even when you offer us abundance.  
We pray for forgiveness, for your goodness and mercy,  
So that we might dwell in You, in your grace, forever. Amen.

Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, “Hold Fast to What Is Good,”  
<https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/>. Used with permission.

## BENEDICTION

Beloved, may the blessing of God’s mercy go before you, behind you, and all around you as we journey in grace, reflecting the Light of new life wherever we go. Amen.

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