**SINGING:**  286:1,5,6; 280:1,3,4; 419:1,3,4; 369; 200

**READING:**  Deut.5: 1-21 - Ezekiel 34: 11-31 – Psalm 23

**THE SHEPHERD’S CARE IN FREEING HIS SHEEP FROM FEAR**

By Rev. A.T. Vergunst

Text Psalm 23: 1-2a

*“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie*

*down in green pastures”.*

**Introduction**

* When we consider Paul, Silas, David and even the Son of

man, Jesus, we usually think about what amazing faith

these people or the Lord had.

* As we focus on Him, it will bring praise to the Shepherd

and it will also minister to our fears, struggles and pains.

**Sheep must be free from fear**

* This fear sits deep in all our hearts.

It makes us afraid to think deeply about God.

* When He has made a heart hungry for Him, He will never

leave such a heart unsatisfied.

* He does that through His Spirit, giving us the ability to

embrace His Word or the message visibly displayed in the

sacraments.

* Is that where you are?

You have lost the sight and the sound of the Shepherd?

* Do not ever think you need to be better, holier, worthier,

sincerer, have more faith or have more repentance

before you may come to this Shepherd.

**Sheep need to be free from friction within the flock**

* You only need one or two of the sheep in the herd to be

like this and their actions, jealousy or rivalry will affect

the entire flock.

* Gossip or backbiting causes separation and antagonism

to be fostered in relationships among each other.

* There is only one way that such flocks may be delivered

from this cruel competition.

* How will it be seen when we honour the Chief Shepherd

by our shepherding principles?

**Sheep need to be free from flies, parasites, and those**

**insects which bite and sting**

* A good shepherd will therefore do everything to prevent

the assaults of these insects.

* How often does envy or jealousy or covetousness against

God and men rise in our hearts?

* It is the Shepherd’s task, and the Shepherd’s joy to

minister to His sheep.

**Sheep must be full of food**

* To prepare green pastures, the land needs to be cleared

from rocks.

* To know Jesus and to experience Him and the Father

through the Holy Spirit is the best green pasture for us

in this wilderness world.

* But how can we enter these green pastures of God?
* Jesus laid down His life to bring reconciliation and

salvation.

* Why are ye so fearful, oh ye of little faith?
* For what does it profit a man to gain all the beauties of

the world and yet to lose his own soul?