**Psalters:** 268:1-4. 435:8-9. 286:1-3+6. 390:1-3. 312:1-4.

**Reading:** Exodus 20:1-17. Jeremiah 31:10-34

**Title** 4th sermon **The Shepherd’s Ministry of Refreshing His Sheep.**

**Minister Rev. A.T. Vergunst.**

**Text**: Psalm 23:2 “He leadeth me beside the still waters.

1. The sheep need water

2. The Shepherds supplying still waters

1. Genesis 3 shows the depths of our fallout with God in paradise. God’s unspeakable goodness of the promised Messiah for sinners.
2. Why are there so many troubles upon our pathway?
3. God does not leave His chosen people without promises of hope in Him.
4. Realize we are only His sheep when we are born again, adopted sons and daughters, by His grace. Sadly not every church member is one of His sheep, Jesus said, “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3
5. Jesus said in John 10:10, “I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” He brings this life through the messages of the Scripture.
6. Exhortation to seek your spiritual feed through meditation upon God’s Word.
7. David said, “Jehovah is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He leadeth me beside still waters.”
8. Solomon learnt from experience. “I looked on all the works that my hand had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do, and behold all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.” Ecclesiastes 2:11
9. Further from Solomon. “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter; Fear God, and keep His commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.” Ecc. 12:13-14
10. Wake up friends, life without Christ and His Spirit is a mortal danger. Give yourself no rest outside a saving interest in the preciousness of Christ who adopts sinners as His child.
11. Jesus said to the multitude that were excited about Him feeding the 5000 with 5 barley loves and 2 small fish, they were duty bound to labour for the meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you. John 6:27 Jesus continued with, “No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him, and I will raise him up at the last day.” John 6:44 Pray for the dew of the Holy Spirit to make this real for you. May He draw you with His tender love. Jesus love can break the hardest of hearts, He also invites children and young people to come to Him.
12. “Those that seek me early shall find me” Proverbs 8:17

2 The Shepherd supplying “still waters”

1. Jesus said, “Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again; but whosoever drink of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst, but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” John 4:13-14
2. Four “still waters” that God has prepared.
3. 1st still waters. God’s one-sided grace and unconditional love. If it was not for God’s grace no one would saved.
4. 2nd still waters. “The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth from all sin.” 1 John 1:7 A certain woman, “having spent all that she had, and was nothing the better, but rather grew worse?” Look to Jesus, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” John 1:29
5. 3rd still waters. Jesus has paid the price, He has satisfied the Heavenly Father’s demands. Jesus said, “It is Finished.”
6. Apostle Paul exhorts the children of God, “Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof?” Romans 13:14

“I find then a law, that when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man; but I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity of the law of sin which is in my members.” Romans 7:22-23.

1. 4th still waters. His promise , “I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, the Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.” Hebrews 13:5-6
2. “I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. In the world you shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33.
3. Conclusion; prayerfully meditate upon God’s Word. Do not leave off seeking Him. Pray the Lord will work in your heart, a true saving faith and love in the preciousness of the Lord Jesus, a Saviour for sinners. The Scribes and Pharisees in Jesus time were “to good” to be saved. Do not seek your righteousness in your good works. Our fall in paradise is enough to show that we are eternally condemned by God. Letter to the church of Sardis, “I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.” Rev.3:1
4. Plead upon God’s promises.