**SINGING:** 286:1,2,5,6; 242; 123; 84; 422: 4,5,6

**READING:** Exodus 20: 1 – 17; Psalm 5

 **A SHEPHERD LEADING HIS SHEEP**

*By Rev. A.T. Vergunst*

Text: Psalm 23: 3b

“*He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness, for His name’s*

*sake”.*

**The Shepherd needs to lead His sheep**

* In verse three, the leading is like “constraining”’

There is obviously more force applied in this particular

leading.

* In a former sermon we learned that eating the best

grass without enough moisture could kill a sheep.

* Instead of the ‘whole counsel of God’ being your guide,

you allow yourself to be led into a by-path.

* Only He can lead us away from this very subtle and

soul-fatal error. And in this ‘gentle-leading’ won’t work.

* As you began to realize you are in the wilderness

without God, fear gripped your heart.

**The Shepherd leads His sheep along the only pathway**

* The Shepherd deals with their destructive tenderness

by keeping them on the move.

* The way that God leads His people into new truths in

His Word is often by unsettling their comforts to lead

them to new comforts.

* It is to this ultimate restoration of communion with

God that the Shepherd is leading His people.

* So what is the meaning of “righteousness”? Children,

let me try to make it as simple as possible.

* Here we face the problem for which no man has a

solution.

* How necessary that the Shepherd leads us out of this

way into the way of true righteousness!

* Beg God to teach you what Luther so pointedly

stated, “I am not only miserable, I am misery.

I am not only sinful, I am sin itself.”

* The only right place before Him is as a guilty sinner,

seeking for His sovereign mercy.

* Every thread in this coat is woven by the obedience

of Jesus.

* “Oh, it is in Him, it is through Him’ it is possible for

me through the Lord Jesus Christ.”

* Are you learning to confess it as your own only

refuge and hope?

* The Shepherd is still gathering His sheep.

There is still room!