**Scripture**: John 10:1-18

**Psalters**: 3:1,3 - 383:5 - 55:1,2,3 - 422:5,6 - 255:1,3

**THE GOOD SHEPHERD WHO LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE**

1. **Sent by the Father**

* Consider the context of Jesus’ discourse in chapter 10.
* Jesus’ parable puts the Pharisees to the test regarding their claim they are not blind.
  + By nature we are the same as these Pharisees (1 Cor. 2:14).
* Jesus often used the image of a shepherd to explain the character and the work of the Lord (e.g. Lk 15: 3-7; Mat. 7:15; 25:32).
* Now He refers to the OT promises (Jer. 23:1-3; Eze 34:2-5, 23).
* He reveals Himself as the Good Shepherd who will die to gather His sheep.
* For this purpose He was sent by the Father (Jn. 8:42; 17:3).

1. **Known by the Father**

* Note reasons why the hireling flees when he sees the wolf coming.
* The Good Shepherd knows the sheep and the sheep know the Shepherd.
* Deep reason: Father and Son know each other intimately.
* According to the Godhead, the Father has never been without the Son (Ps. 2:7; Mic. 5:2; Prov. 8:22).
* According to human nature of Christ there is also the closest communion (Jn 10:15, 30; Jn 7:16, 29).
* The Son has to reveal the Father to us (Lk. 10:22).
  + He does that through the Holy Spirit in the heart (Eph. 2:18).
  + That is why Jesus had to lay down His life (Heb. 10:7-10).
* When sinners are regenerated they long for the communion with God which is experienced in Christ (Col. 2:9; Jn. 10:27).

1. **Loved by the Father**

* Jesus’ sheep fold will extend to the whole world, not just to the Jews.
* “Therefore” refers *forward* to second half of v17.
* The Father fully agrees with, and rejoices in, the work of the Son.
* Contrast an ordinary good shepherd with the Good Shepherd.
* The Good Shepherd dies as an act of His free will (Jn. 10:17-18).
* The Good Shepherd wants to glorify His Father freely and voluntarily (Jn. 17:4).
* Divine love within the Trinity is made manifest in this world through the Good Shepherd (cf. Jn. 3:16).
* How is it with you?
  + If you continue in your unbelief you shall perish under the wrath of God (cf. Heb. 12:25).
  + God wants to see His children bearing fruit through His love (1 Jn. 4:9-11).