**Psalm 23 - *Green Pastures***

Green is a symbol for life. It carries the idea of growth and prosperity. It is brought about by light. In surveys made in Europe and the United States, green is the color most commonly associated with [nature](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nature), [life](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Life), [health](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Health), [youth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Youth), [spring](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spring_(season)), and [hope](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hope).

The Hebrew word rendered “pastures” means usually “dwellings,” or habitations.” It is applied here properly to “pastures,” as places where flocks and herds lie down for rest.

“Green pastures were not the natural terrain of Judea. The hills around Bethlehem where David kept his flock were not lush and green. Even today they are white and parched. Any green pasture in Judea is the work of some shepherd. He has cleared the rough, rocky land. Stumps have been torn out, and brush has been burned. Irrigation and cultivation are provided. Such is the work of a shepherd. My Shepherd makes me lie down in finished work. With his own pierced hands, Jesus created a pasture for the soul.” (Safe in the Shepherd’s Arms - Max Lucado)

The phrase “green pastures” is applied to the psalmist himself, or to the people of God including us. The idea is that the wants of our souls are met and satisfied. Now there can be full enjoyment of this lush meadow. The rest of the soul is at present satisfied.

The green pastures are the Word and the Sacraments. Luther says that Holy Christian Church is a “green pasture.” It is in the Church’s worship that God is present with His gifts.

* God’s Word brings us to the knowledge of our sins and quickly restores us when we confess our sin.
* The Gospel gives spiritual life and peace to our souls.
* Through Baptism the Holy Spirit brings us to faith in Christ.
* Through the Lord’s Supper we are fed by Christ Himself. Here our sins are forgiven and out faith is strengthened.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for the green pastures you provide continually in Your Word and Sacraments. Help me to regularly feast on them use of them. Amen.