

Psalm 23:3

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

“He Restores Me!”

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Easter 5

Vicar Miguel Gonzalez-Feliciano

Grace, Mercy, and Peace are yours from God our Heavenly Father and Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:**

**[Introduction]**

Have you ever restored an item? Such as an heirloom rocking chair, rolltop desk, or china cupboard? A car, an old photo, or even a crashed computer?

You know how difficult it is to restore an old item that has seen better days, even harder a broken relationship. It takes time, money, and lots of hard work to restore things back to the way they were, and even greater efforts to restore a broken relationship.

David knows firsthand of broken relationships—with King Saul who tried to murder him; with his son Absalom who tried to overthrow him from his throne; and with his God over his sin with Bathsheba.

David, the author of this beloved psalm, states in confidence that

**Yahweh, Our Loving Shepherd, Will Restore Us.**

He has this confidence that God’s anger will not last forever because he is compassionate and slow to anger. David knows that his Shepherd is the one who comes to his aid and restores his life from the pit of despair.

**[You are the Man]**

You see, David is like every other sinner who walked on the face of the earth; he needs God’s forgiveness to restore the relationship he had with him—from the first Adam to the last Adam who will walk on the face of the earth.

David needed to be restored. In Psalm 51, he cries out to God, “Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit” (v 12). David had sinned with Bathsheba, and God had sent the prophet Nathan to tell David “*You* are the man”.

David didn’t try to blame someone else or make excuses, saying to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” And Nathan said to David, “The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die” (2 Sam 12:13).

Restoration and hope given immediately.

For this reason, David in this psalm uses the word *shuv*, which often means “repent” or “turn.” He uses a verb form that means Yahweh *is* super-restorer—completely—of my life. This is to say, he is not only thinking of restoration here on earth, but of the final restoration at the resurrection.

### [History of Restoration]

Holy Scripture is littered with stories of broken relationships, broken bodies, and broken lives.

We meet Joseph as his brothers sold him to slavery for twenty pieces of silver, but their relationship was restored as Joseph forgave them their sin. Naaman, the commander of the army of Syria, was restored from his leprosy by the servant of the Most High God—Elisha (2 Kings 5). We can’t forget the restoration of the prodigal son by his loving and caring father. And Luke tells us of Barnabas and Paul, the great missionaries to the Gentiles, who had a falling out over taking Mark with them. It was so severe that they parted ways. But later on, God restored their relationship.

Likewise, you and I have had fallings out with our brothers and sisters. But when we come to the throne of grace in mercy, seeking forgiveness, God restores. When you and I confess that we have sinned against him in word and deed, He restores us. When we let the devil get the best of us by disobeying God and we come crawling back in repentance, the faithful Good Shepherd hears our confession and restores us through his gift of absolution.

### **[Restoration: For You and Me]**

Beloved lambs of the Good Shepherd, Jesus, daily we need to be restored, and only the Good Shepherd restores. Restoration takes a lot of work. Restoring those old and intricate pieces of furniture requires great attention to detail to make the restoration complete.

Nowhere was the work of restoration harder than the work our Lord Jesus Christ did at the cross. It was more than a cut. It was more than just a layer of lacquer. Your restoration took the ultimate work of Christ's life and death to make you whole. And it's hard because this restoration was not about your outside. It was about your whole being. The restoration that the Good Shepherd did on you was a matter of taking you from death to life!

Our restoration by Christ, the heaven-sent Savior, reached its height on the cross, in the tomb, and at Jesus' mighty resurrection. So precious did Jesus consider each and every sinner that he was willing to pay the maximum price for each one—his life and his own holy, precious, and crimson blood.

The faithful Shepherd restores the sinner to his right standing with the Father by taking the place of the sinner and making the sinner holy and righteous. He does all of this through his gracious mercy shown to us.

Our restoration is a miracle brought about by Jesus. There is no moment in the history of humanity that deserves to be told and retold more than this. It is the moment on the

cross when Jesus echoed the words of Psalm 22 and said, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mt 27:46). It was that moment when the greatest injustice of all time was happening. This horrible moment of great evil was endured for the lost, least, and last—you and me.

No wonder David said that Yahweh, his loving Shepherd, would restore him.

For six long hours, Christ hung on the cross. For six long hours, he endured suffering, shame, and humiliation. For six long hours, he stood strong and was willing to endure all of God’s wrath. For six hours in the heat of the day, with lips cracked and chapped, he stayed on the cross to restore you to the loving Father, who day after day waits for us, his prodigal children, to bless us and fill us with his joy and peace.

### **[The Old has Passed, the New has Come]**

Paul, the former murderer and persecutor who became the greatest messenger and preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, speaks of the restoration of the sinner in this way: “From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Cor 5:16-17).

Today, we remember the words of David that the Lord “restores my soul.” He has, and he does. By the grace of God, the Holy Spirit has brought us here today to be restored. We have been restored, and therefore we praise our Restorer, our faithful Good Shepherd, for his mighty work in our lives.

So be it.

Amen.

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As followers of Christ, “Keep loving one another earnestly  
And show hospitality to one another without grumbling.” AMEN! (1Pt 4:8-9)

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