

## **The Living Message of Christ**

*The Truth of the Living Word, Jesus, the Savior of the World*

### **The Lamb . . . Will Shepherd Them!**

*Have you ever heard of a lamb that was also a shepherd? Today's second reading tells us that Jesus, the Lamb of God, will shepherd the saints who stand before the heavenly throne. Although this Lamb still bears the wounds of his sacrifice, he will protect the saints, lead them to the living water, and wipe away their tears (Revelation 5:6; 7:17). How odd!*

*Actually, it's not so odd. Jesus, the Lamb of God, is a perfect shepherd for us. Here's why:*

- This Lamb is a shepherd who lived his life completely obedient to the will of his Father. Every moment, he united himself with God's will. He alone perfectly walked in the path of righteousness, so of course he knows how to lead us on the same path!*
- This Lamb is a shepherd who defeated the powers of darkness, through his humble self-offering. He freely handed himself over to death on the cross. When he rose from the dead, he defeated sin and death! He is uniquely able to protect us in the face of whatever trouble or foe comes our way.*
- The Lamb is a shepherd who poured out his own blood on the cross to cleanse us from all impurity. The water that flowed from his pierced side is the living water of Baptism and new life. It is to this life-giving water that he leads us.*
- The Lamb is a shepherd who has suffered in every way we have. He embraced our weakness and frailty. His experience of sorrow makes him all the more attentive to our own, and he tenderly wipes away our tears.*

*As you celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday today, spend some time considering Jesus, the Lamb who is your shepherd. Rejoice that he has not left you to make your way on this journey alone. He has gone before you, and will lead you home.*

***“Jesus, Good Shepherd of my soul, thank you for your love and protection!”***