

Singing Our Faith
4th Sunday of Easter – April 22, 2018

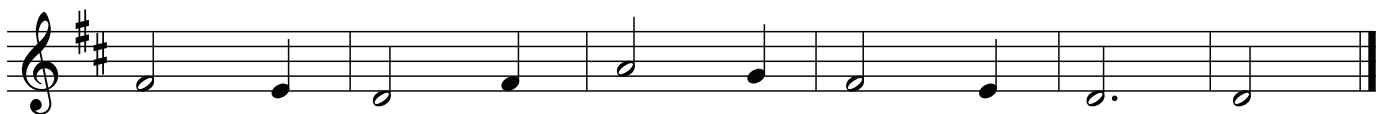
The King of Love My Shepherd Is



1. The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good-ness
 2. Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran-somed
 3. Con - fused and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in
 4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill With you, dear
 5. You spread a ta - ble in my sight, Your sav - ing
 6. And so, through all the length of days Your good-ness



fails me nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul he's lead - ing, And, where the ver - dant
love he sought me, And on his shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, Your rod and staff my
 grace be - stow - ing; And, oh, what trans - port
 fails me nev - er; Good Shep - herd, may I



I am his And he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - ing.
gent - ly laid, And home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still, Your cross be - fore to guide me.
 of de - light From your pure chal - ice flow - ing!
 sing your praise With - in your house for - ev - er.

Text: Psalm 23; Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877, alt.
 Tune: ST. COLUMBA, 8 7 8 7; Gaelic; harm. by A. Gregory Murray, OSB, 1905–1992

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The Fourth Sunday of Easter is often referred to as “Good Shepherd Sunday.” In all three lectionary cycles, we hear the gospel reading in which Jesus refers to himself as the Good Shepherd. The opening hymn “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” is a beautiful poetic rendering of Psalm 23, written by 19th century Anglican priest Henry W. Baker.

Pope Francis has named today as **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**. While we are praying specifically for vocations to the ordained and consecrated ministries, it’s important to pray for a true discerning to the single and married vocations as well. The pairing of “Vocations Sunday” with “Good Shepherd Sunday” is no coincidence. In the gospel, Jesus names the difference between the Good Shepherd and the hired man: “This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep.” As Christians, we are called to model Christ, and certainly in his role as the Good Shepherd. Through examining the hymn text above, we recall what Christ has done and continues to do for us. Through this lens, we discover that **vocation** is an attitude of love, sacrifice, and ownership that the Good Shepherd teaches us through example. Whether we’re discerning or strengthening our vocation, let us pray that Jesus will guide us in his way of taking true ownership of our vocation.

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