

THIS IS THE DAY ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR THAT IS COMMONLY KNOWN AS GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY. I READ LAST WEEK OF A PREACHER THAT SIMPLY CALLED IT "SHEEP SUNDAY" BECAUSE OF OUR PSALM AND OUR GOSPEL READING ARE ABOUT SHEEP AS WELL AS ABOUT THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

BUT I GOT TO WONDERING LAST WEEK AS I WAS WORKING ON MY SERMON, WHY SHEEP? WHY COULDN'T WE HAVE READ FROM 40<sup>TH</sup> CHAPTER OF ISAIAH, "THEY WHO WAIT FOR THE LORD SHALL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH. THEY SHALL MOUNT UP WITH WINGS LIKE EAGLES, THEY SHALL RUN AND NOT BE WEARY, THEY SHALL WALK AND NOT BE FAINT." WHY NOT EAGLE SUNDAY? WOULDN'T IT BE WONDERFUL IF WE COULD ALL RUN AND NOT GET WEARY AND WALK AND NOT BE FAINT?" I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I DON'T DO MUCH RUNNING THESE DAYS. MAYBE I **AM** MORE LIKE A SHEEP THAN AN EAGLE.

A FEW YEARS AGO I LEAD A LENTEN STUDY BASED ON THE 23<sup>RD</sup> PSALM AND WE SPENT SEVERAL WEEKS LEARNING MORE ABOUT SHEEP AND SHEPHERDS THAN

