Main Thought  Christ the Shepherd will return for his STEWARDS, WORSHIPERS, and VICTORS – the three privileges of the believer.

INTRODUCTION – This psalm ends a trilogy of Christ the Shepherd – He DIES (Psa. 22), CARES (Psa. 23), and RETURNS (Psa. 24) for his sheep. This antiphonal (people – vs. 1-2; leader’s questions – 3, 8, 10) processional psalm may have been composed for the ark coming to Jerusalem. In the church it is read 40 days after Easter to commemorate Christ’s entrance into heaven.

WE ARE STEWARDS – ENJOYING HIS CREATION (1-2).

- The earth is the “theater of the universe” (Clarence Benson) for the “greatest drama ever staged” (Dorothy Sayers). It ALL belongs to the LORD (50:10-12; Ex. 19:5).
- It was given to us for our enjoyment (1 Cor. 10:26 – direct quote) and our stewardship for we are to take care of it (Gen. 2:15).

WE ARE WORSHIPERS – EXPERIENCING HIS GRACE (3-6).

- Who will be able to ASCEND (Psa. 2:6) into his presence? Who may “dwell in the house of the Lord forever” (23:6)? Only those with clean hands and a pure heart (Psa. 15:1-5; 1 John 1:9).
- We are instructed to examine ourselves before communion (1 Cor. 11:27-30).
- The only way to get a clean heart is by IMPUTED righteousness (Rom. 3:21-24; 5:17) – given to us by Christ as a gift (grace) – as a reward for our faith (Gen. 15:6).
- We are to seek his face – have an audience with the King (Heb. 10:19-22) and like Jacob, we should not let go of God (Gen. 32:26, 30).

WE ARE VICTORS – CELEBRATING HIS GLORY (7-10).

- The KING OF GLORY (5x here) is about to come into the gates, the ancient doors of Jerusalem. They are to be lifted up for God will ARISE (132:8; Num. 10:35). Christ knocks on our hearts door asking to come in (Rev. 3:20).
- Sanctuaries are where God dwells with men beginning in Eden, Mt. Sinai, the Tabernacle, Solomon’s Temple, the Second (Herod’s) Temple, and finally the Third Temple (Ezek. 43:1-2, 4-5). Today God’s temple is the body of the believer (1 Cor. 6:19-20) as he lives inside us.
- He was victorious in Egypt and now he will be victorious in our lives (Rom. 8:37; 1 Cor. 15:57). Jesus Christ is the OVERCOMER (John 16:33). He will enable you to be an OVERCOMER (1 Cor. 10:13; 1 John 4:4).
- Here the Chief Shepherd appears with his CROWN OF GLORY that will never fade away (1 Pet. 5:1-4). He will GLORIFY every believer (Rom. 8:30).