

*The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: **Feed the flock of God** which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. (1Pe 5:1-4 KJV)*

0. Good Shepherd Sunday: **Misericordias Domini** (IX = Good Shepherd Bonum pastor)
 - 0.1. IX asks Peter: "Do you love me – feed my sheep" (Yesterday's sermon by Professor Nordling)
 - 0.2. Remember, when Lord said during the run up to his passion, death and resurrection: "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."
 - 0.3. Well, St. Peter now admonishes fellow elders, bishops and pastors – just like the good Shepherd IX – the Son of the Father – our best friend and closest brother called him to.
1. **Feed the flock of God (3x!)**
 - 1.1. Good stewards over God's precious gifts (Kitchen/Pantry): Word and Sacrament.
 - 1.2. Taking oversight – episcopo (Bishops!) Pascite – pastor – shepherd the flock! Episkopontes!
 - 1.3. Law and Gospel: True distinction
 - 1.3.1. Law: Pharisees, hard-hearted und unrepentant sinners
 - 1.3.2. Gospel: wretched and repentant sinners.
 - 1.4. Not just once a week – feasting, but "daily bread" – Psalm 1;
 - 1.5. Doing the will of the Lord in our different callings.
2. **Not by constraint, but willingly (Service agreement, calling!)**
 - 2.1. Not for filthy lucre (gain), but of a ready mind (voluntarily. ML tr from the bottom of your heart d.h. aus Herzensgrund)
 - 2.1.1. Simony: Wizard
 - 2.1.2. Acquiring finances, heaping up wealth, going about it like a business... (Hireling)
 - 2.1.3. Salary: Is not payment, but rather so that we are free to dedicate ourselves fulltime to the work of the Lord.
 - 2.1.4. Part-time, little time... (Watch and pray)
 - 2.1.5. Do as little as possible for this – only what is absolutely required to not get me fired!
 - 2.2. **Not as lords** over God's heritage: Minister – serving, not to be served!
 - 2.3. **But being examples** of the flock: Washing of the feet!
3. **I – St. Peter - exhorts you elders as**
 - 3.1. Witness of the **sufferings of Christ** (*Church militans*).
 - 3.1.1. Suffering for good and evil
 - 3.1.2. Innocent suffering of IX
 - 3.1.3. Persecutions for our faith
 - 3.1.4. Bearing his cross to: *Quo Vadis?*
 - 3.1.5. Being crucified upside-down
 - 3.2. **Partaker of the glory** to be revealed: Triumph and crown of victory. Church victorious (*Ecclesia triumphans*)
 - 3.2.1. Sitting at the right and left of the Lord in his kingdom
 - 3.2.2. Willing to guard the door in the house of the Lord
 - 3.2.3. A day in your forecourts is better than otherwise a 1000 ...
 - 3.2.4. You'll be feasting with Moses and Abraham and those

Hymn: LSB 716 "I walk in danger all the way..."