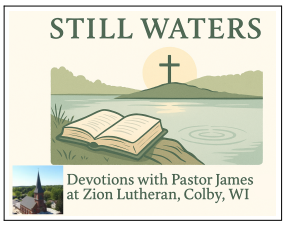
Date: November 22, 2026
Suggested Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26
Text: Ezekiel 34:15
I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD.



When the Season Changes

We put away the garden tools, find the winter gloves, and wonder how the year slipped past so quickly. Some changes are easy to prepare for. Others arrive without warning: an unexpected diagnosis, an empty chair, or a responsibility we no longer feel strong enough to carry.

We want to believe we can manage every season if we plan carefully enough. When our plans fail, we may question God's care. We also become so occupied with our own worries that someone else's need feels like an interruption. Our hearts need more than reassurance. We need forgiveness.

Our Shepherd does not wait for us to become stronger before He comes near. Through Ezekiel, He promises to seek the lost, bring back the straying, bind the injured, and strengthen the weak. Jesus fulfills that promise. He carried our sins to the cross and rose from the grave. His faithfulness reaches deeper than our failures and farther than death.

We may not see how He is caring for us today. We can still hear His promise in His Word. In Baptism He has claimed us as His own. His resurrection assures us that our last season here will not be the end of life with Him.

Held by that mercy, we can receive help without shame and offer it without keeping score. A meal, a visit, a listening ear: our Shepherd's care can reach a neighbor through us.

Thought for the Day:
Our seasons change; our Shepherd remains faithful. Our hope rests in His cross and resurrection.

Prayer:
Lord Jesus, our faithful Shepherd, forgive our wandering and keep us trusting Your promises through every change. Open our eyes to Your gifts and our hands to neighbors who need Your care. Amen.

Hymn: LSB 709 — The King of Love My Shepherd Is
(especially stanzas 3–4)

