When the words, "The **LORD** is my shepherd; I shall not want," are read almost everyone recognizes them as the opening line of the great 23rd Psalm, perhaps the most well-known of all the one-hundred fifty in the book of Psalms. Frequently it is read at funerals. Why, I do not know for it is not about death but about life, and in particular the life of the writer of that psalm – a life of rest and refreshment, prosperity and abundance. There is peace and calm in the psalmist’s life. He wants for nothing. He has no fear of anything. God’s mercy and goodness are with him. That it is the psalm of David most agree. Your Bible probably has written over it “A Psalm of David.” Mine does.

There is one line in that psalm that is particularly interesting to me as we come to the Lord’s Table this morning and all the mornings to come. It is that of verse five: "**You prepare a table before me...**" Consider those words as they are applied to the Lord’s Supper table that is spread every Lord’s Day.

Every table must be prepared for dining. When we were children and even as growing teenage adolescents our mothers prepared the table for us. When we arrived everything was there waiting for us: the dishes, the utensils, the napkins, the drinks, and yes, the food. We all can remember the food that our mother prepared for us. She did all the work. We just came and enjoyed.

Later when we who are husbands were married to our wives, it was usually our wife who did these preparations. Sometimes we husbands shared in preparing the table but if your home was like my home it was almost always our wife who labored in preparing the table.

When the meal was ready the call to supper was eagerly answered. Seldom, if ever, did anyone ever have to be called a second time. When the family gathered around the table it was a time of joy. There was confusion at times. There was noise and racket and a lot of chatter. But it was a time of joy when everyone sat down and enjoyed the good food that was prepared by a loving mother and wife for her family.

The table of our Lord is like the table around which we gathered as a family at home. None of us who are in the family of the Lord – not even our mother or wife – has done anything to prepare this table. All of the work has been done by the Lord our God. Long before the foundation of the world He ordained and prepared His table. He prepared it without anyone’s help. He sent His only begotten Son to the earth for the sole purpose of shedding His blood on the cross of Calvary for those who would come to His table and those who would not. It is His blood and it is His body on the table. He not only prepared the table; He prepared those who sit around His table. Only those who are in His family are invited to be his guests and to
sit at this sacred table. He washed each one from their sins by the very blood that sits on the table. He sanctified each one. He justified each one. And according to 1 Corinthians 6:11 He did all of this “in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.” Holy people come to the holy table.

King David said, “My cup runs over.” King Jesus said, “I have come that [my sheep] may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10) The Lord’s Table is a table of joy. It is where we are reminded of how blessed we are to be forgiven of our sins and to be a part of His saved family. It is where we are reminded of the blessed hope of our resurrection and our dwelling forever with Christ in a place we call heaven where there will be no fear of our enemies – especially our enemy called “death.” Like David, at this table our cups run over. They are not merely filled; they run over. They cannot contain all of the hope and promises and blessings and privileges that have been given to us by the grace of the One who prepared the table. His goodness and His mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives and we are glad that we will dwell in the house of the LORD to the end of our days.

So let us look upon and come to this table in anticipation of the great marriage supper table waiting for us in the heavenslies and in the hereafter. By the grace of God each one of us who remains faithful unto the end will be seated at that table that is prepared for us. As Jesus said in Matthew 22, “I have prepared my dinner...all things are ready. Come to the wedding.” There the apostles will be seated as well as all of the great Christian martyrs. But at the head of His table will be the Head of the redeemed, the church. May God help us to place Him at the head of His table around which we gather this morning.

Let us pray.