



PRAYER SERVICE WEDNESDAY, February 24th, 2021

Join us at 7pm in the Sanctuary or on [Facebook](#) and use this guide to pray along with us.

- **INTRO**

Welcome to Prayer Service! Tonight we have the privilege of praying through the beloved Psalm 23—one of the most well-known and well-loved Scriptures of the entire Bible. You probably know that as we’ve been journeying through the whole book of Psalms on Wednesday Nights, Trinity Church has been journeying through the Bible in One Year each day. This happens to be the week this year where the “planets aligned” and the Psalm we’re praying through tonight happens to also be the Scripture we just studied at worship this past Sunday! If you didn’t get to hear that message, take time to go and watch last Sunday’s worship service: it will give you a good overview of the book of Psalms as a whole and some deeper study into the meaning and application of Psalm 23. This beautiful Psalm simply describes what it’s like to have a *personal experience* of living in this covenant relationship with God. Dallas Willard said that many know the words of Psalm 23, but too few *experience* the reality of Psalm 23 in our daily lives: this prayer describes the life we all long for, the life we were made for, the life that is *readily available to us through Jesus and His Word*. So, get ready for a real treat. Let’s pray.

- **PAUSE**

“As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still; to breathe slowly; to re-center my scattered senses upon the presence of God.” (Lectio365) *Pause and pray.*

As we read the first half **Psalm 23** together, be open with the parts that confuse or challenge you; meditate on the parts that stand out to you:

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, ³ he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

- **SONGS**

“Psalm 23 (The Lord Is My Shepherd)”

VERSE 1

The Lord is my Shepherd
He goes before me
Defender behind me
I won't fear
I'm filled with anointing
My cup's overflowing
No weapon can harm me
I won't fear

CHORUS

Hallelujah I am not alone
He's my Comfort always holds me close

VERSE 2

He always guides me
Through mountains and valleys
His joy is refreshing
Restores my soul
Mercy and goodness
Give me assurance
That I'll see His glory
Face to face

BRIDGE

Your Spirit lives within me
So I will walk in Your peace
Your Spirit lives within me
My victory my victory

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• **PSALM 23:**

We're going to simply go through this Psalm verse by verse. After each verse, we'll see a reflection from Dallas Willard's book, *Life Without Lack*¹, a question to ponder, and an invitation to pray. Let's start from the beginning with verse 1.

¹ *The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.*

"In other words, I'm in the care of someone else. I'm not the one in charge. I've taken my kingdom and surrendered it to the kingdom of God. I am living the with-God life. The Lord is my shepherd. And what follows from that?...I shall not want." (Willard, *Life without Lack*)

Who is "in charge" of my life? Is there any part of my life I need to surrender to the Good Shepherd tonight? *Pause and Pray.*

² *He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, ³ he refreshes my soul.*

"What kind of sheep lies down in a green pasture? A sheep that has eaten its fill...A sheep that is being led beside still water is a sheep that is not thirsty. Jesus said to the woman at the well, "...whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But that water...will become in him a fountain...springing up into everlasting life," (John 4). The broken depths of my soul are healed and reintegrated in a life in union with God..." (Willard)

What empty, dry, or broken places of your life might the Spirit be prompting you to bring before God to seek restoration and healing in His presence tonight? *Pause and Pray.*

¹ Dallas Willard, *Life Without Lack: Living in the Fullness of Psalm 23*, © 2018 by Willard Family Trust, Thomas Nelson Publishing

He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

*“The effect of the restoration of my soul is that I walk in paths of righteousness on his behalf as a natural expression of my renewed inner nature...A life without lack is one that carries no fear of evil. Our confidence in God soars far above wants and fears. Would you like to have a life without fear, a life of soaring faith?...You can live without fear even in the midst of a world dominated by fear...Why? Please read the answer out loud: **For You are with me.**”*
(Willard)

Pose that question to yourself: “Would you like to have a life without fear, a life of soaring faith? *Pause and Pray.*”

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

“Here you might think in terms of hot showers and warm fluffy towels, things that make us feel clean, comfortable, and special, and how God makes that possible...the abundance of God's provision rings out from the psalmist's pen: ‘My cup is full!’ Is that what it says? No. ‘My cup runs over.’ I have more than my cup will hold.” (Willard)

“My cup overflows.” Repeat that and reflect on that. “My cup overflows.” *Pause and Pray.*

⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

“This is a description of the eternal life available to us now in the Kingdom of the Heavens; the abundant with-God life that comes from following the Shepherd, where we dwell and abide with God in the fullness of his life—a life in which all the promises of Christ's Gospel are realized.” (Willard)

What would it look like for me to step deeper into this kind of eternal, “with-God” life in God's Kingdom? What is the next step Jesus is calling me to on this journey? As you think of all we have read, pray where you feel led: if you're drawn to go deeper in prayer for your own life of discipleship, do that; if you feel led to pray for someone else, do that. *Pause and Pray.*

- **SONGS**

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

CHORUS

Leaning, Leaning, Safe and secure from all alarms
Leaning, Leaning, Leaning on the everlasting arms

VERSE 1

What a fellowship what a joy divine
Leaning on the everlasting arms
What a blessedness what a peace is mine
Leaning on the everlasting arms

VERSE 2

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way
Leaning on the everlasting arms
O how bright the path grows from day to
day
Leaning on the everlasting arms

VERSE 3

What have I to dread what have I to fear
Leaning on the everlasting arms
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near
Leaning on the everlasting arms

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“Way Maker”

VERSE 1

You are here moving in our midst
I worship You I worship You
You are here working in this place
I worship You I worship You

VERSE 3

You are here turning lives around
I worship You I worship You
You are here mending ev'ry heart
I worship You yeah I worship You Lord

CHORUS

(You are) Way Maker Miracle Worker
Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness my God that is who
You are

TAG

That is who You are, That is who You are
That is who You are, That is who You are

VERSE 2

You are here touching ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You
You are here healing ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You

BRIDGE

Even when I don't see it You're working
Even when I don't feel it You're working
You never stop You never stop working
You never stop You never stop working

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• Closing

“Father, help me to live this day to the full, being true to you in every way. Jesus, help me to give myself away to others, being kind to everyone I meet. Spirit, help me to love the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do and say. Amen.” (Lectio365)