# Yesterday, today, forever

A collection of devotions on Psalm 23, The Lord's prayer, Lent and Advent



## Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

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.

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

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 series of five devotions based on Psalm 23. The devotions follow the Psalm, offering reflections on its themes.



## The Lord is my shepherd

Let's spend some time reflecting on Psalm 23. These words remind us that just as a shepherd watches over the sheep in their care, so our Lord watches over and cares for us.

### Psalm 23:1

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you that you truly are the Good Shepherd. You know your sheep and loved them so much that you laid down your life for them. Thank you for protecting us and providing for all our needs. Amen.

#### The Lord's my shepherd

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want He makes me down to lie In pastures green; he leadeth me The quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again And me to walk doth make Within the paths of righteousness Even for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale Yet will I fear no ill For thou art with me, and thy rod And staff me comfort still.

My table thou has furnished In presence of my foes; My head thou dost with oil anoint And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life Shall surely follow me, And in God's house for evermore My dwelling-place shall be.

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#### He leads me

Psalm 23 tells us that God is always with us, leading and guiding us through life's journey. He shows us the way and remains close to us.

#### **Psalm 23:2-3**

He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths For his name's sake.

#### Prayer

Father God, you are faithful and good. Thank you for guiding our path and being with us throughout all of life's seasons. Amen.

#### And can it be

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Saviour's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain—
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Refrain
Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray—
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him, is mine; Alive in Him, my living Head, And clothed in righteousness divine, Bold I approach th' eternal throne, And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Verses 1, 4 and 5. Lyrics: Charles Wesley, public domain