

Prayers of the People

Our prayer today uses the words of Psalm 23 as our guide.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Loving God, we thank you for your guidance, as a good shepherd, for all the gifts you have given us, so that truly we lack nothing.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

We thank you, O God, for the gift of creation, for the earth, the water, the air, and the sun, and especially with the warmer weather, that we can enjoy these gifts more.

He restoreth my soul:

We thank you that you are always working to restore us and renew us, O God; us and all your children, and all of creation, being restored by your Holy Spirit.

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Holy God, lead us to not only consider ourselves in this time of crisis, but to still walk in your paths of righteousness and justice, caring for our neighbours, both near and far, speaking up for what is right, and living with love and kindness.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;

O God, there are times we are afraid, and these days, there seem to be many things for us to be afraid of.

We know you are with us no matter what, but God, help us to remember that. Help us when we walk those dark paths, to be confident that you walk beside us.

We pray also for those around us who are afraid, may the peace of your presence, and your steadfast love wrap them up and never let them go.

Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

We thank you, O God, for the comfort you give us when we are afraid, for your comfort and compassion for all of your children.

We pray for those who need comfort, for those who are grieving, for those who are alone and lonely, for those who are unwell, physically, mentally, or spiritually.

If it is in us to offer comfort to these, our kin, God, may you give us the nudge we need.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

We pray with gratitude for the abundance that many of us enjoy, and we pray for those that do not have enough. If we find ourselves with full tables and cups running over, God, inspire us to your generosity, and may we give freely to those in need.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

We place our hope and trust in you, our shepherd God. We know that no matter where we go, your goodness, mercy, and love will find us. All your children dwell together in this, your gift of creation. May we all treat one another with that love that you give us. Bless us all, today, and always, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, and we continue to pray with his words, because, O God, we know that you are our Mother and...

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory

forever and ever. Amen