

Trinity Devotion 29

Week of April 18, 2021

Fred Young

Psalm 23

A David Psalm

GOD, my shepherd! I don't need a thing.
You have bedded me down in lush meadows,
you find me quiet pools to drink from.
True to your word, you let me catch my breath
and send me in the right direction.
Even when the way goes through
Death Valley, I'm not afraid when you walk at my side.
Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure.
You serve me a six-course dinner
right in front of my enemies.
You revive my drooping head;
my cup brims with blessing.
Your beauty and love chase after me
every day of my life. I'm back home in the house of GOD
for the rest of my life.

The Message

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The familiar words of Psalm 23 offer comfort and reassurance, but these words follow the lament and anguish found in Psalm 22, and it's first words, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" The same words which Jesus cried out from the cross. Divine goodness and love follow, Jesus, the early disciples and all God's sheep.



Psalm 23 is rooted in real-life circumstances, even for the modern day believer. It prompts us to face our enemies and life's trials and tribulations head on, rather than avoiding them. God's goodness and mercy never simply follow at a distance, and certainly they do not maintain some kind of holding pattern until we breathe our last breath. Instead, God's goodness and mercy pursue us, actively seeking to engage us and refresh our lives, no matter what!

The shepherd's voice is one of promise, protection, sustenance, and care. In the midst of social distancing, what does your Shepherd's voice sound like to you? What does your shepherd's care look like? What promise does it speak? What is the Shepherd calling you to do? Even from our isolation we continue to be called to join the great multitude from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, gathered before the Lamb of God. What role will you play in offering your praises?

PRAYER

You watch over your creation, a shepherd with whom all living things are safe.

You know us all and keep us wherever we move.

O God, do this, we ask you, all the days of our lives:

May we never want and may we enter your rest and know your peace,
today and every day of our lives. Amen.