



## LIVING IN GREEN PASTURES

**People needed: Five readers and one to read the “Voice.” The person reading the “Voice” should not be seen.**

**Sing:** *The Lord's My Shepherd* (LSB 710)

**Reader 1:** O Lord, I am so worried about losing my job. I have hardly any money saved up because we have had so many expenses lately. My four children will soon begin a new school year and will need new clothes. They have outgrown or worn out all the clothes they wore last year. Groceries are so expensive and it takes a lot to feed my children. My landlord isn't very patient about the late rent payments. I just don't know where to turn. None of the jobs I see in the newspaper seems to fit my abilities. Please help me!

**Voice:** *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want* (Psalm 23:1).  
I promise that I will always take care of my sheep's needs.

*And why worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own*  
(Matthew 6:28- 34).

**Reader 2:** O Lord, I know I have greatly sinned. I have every intention of following your commands. Yet I so often do what you do not want me to do. I become angry when my children disobey me. I was short with my husband when he came home late from work. When my neighbor was telling me gossip about another neighbor I listened eagerly. I worry about so many things that never materialize. How can I ever live a life good enough to please you? Please help me.

**Voice:** *He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake*  
(Psalm 23:2, 3).

Look to me for peace of mind, I have paid the price for all your sins and forgive you for the many times you have sinned against me. I loved you so much that I willingly came to earth to die for you.

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).*

**Reader 3:** O Lord, I just found out that I am seriously ill. The doctor has told me that I have cancer. It has already progressed into an advanced stage and the doctor said there is nothing that can be done to provide a cure. It is just a matter of time before my life on earth will end. I know you promised me eternal life because of my faith in you, but I am a little scared of leaving this earth and my family. I am concerned how they will get along without me because I have always done so much for them. To be really honest, God, I am afraid to die. Please help me.

**Voice:** *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me (Psalm 23:4).*

I have promised to be with you through every circumstance – in life and in death. When I returned to heaven and left my disciples I reassured them with these words.

*And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age (Matthew 28:20b). I will be with you in death as I have been in life. I comforted Mary and Martha when Lazarus had died. I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; whoever lives and believes in me will never die (John 11:25, 26a).*

**Reader 4:** O Lord, sometimes it seems like there is so much unrest in this world. We hear about the terrorists who threaten our country. Every time I board an airplane, I am made aware there are people who wish to harm those living in this country. I feel insecure. Please help me to feel safe and protect us from all wishing to harm us. Help me to be more aware of Your presence all the time and to know You are always in control. I want to trust You and have a stronger faith Lord. Please help me.

**Voice:** *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Psalm 23:5, 6).*

These verses will comfort you and remind you that I am always with you and will shower my love on you – to the point that your cup will overflow with my mercy for you. My promise is that I will be with you and protect you. Because of your belief in me, you will one day, live with me forever. Come and live with me in green pastures. Be comforted by my words and promises. Know that your sins are forgiven and that when death comes and you go to your final home, I will be waiting for you.

**Reader 5:** Let us pray. Thank you, God, for sending Jesus to suffer and die for our sins. Thank you for the forgiveness You give to us as we daily confess our sins. Help us to live our lives joyfully in the sure knowledge that You will take care of both our spiritual and physical needs always. We praise You for Your being our Good Shepherd. Help us to live in green pastures, totally at peace with You, knowing we belong to You and we are in Your care. In Your name we pray. Amen.

**Sing:** “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us (LSB 711)

All Scripture is from NIV.