



## Psalm 23

This is one of the most famous poems in the Bible, and is often sung at important times in people's lives. There are many different English versions.

Music: R Field  
Translation: Common Worship

The Lord is my shep-herd; I shall not be in want.

- 1 The Lord is my / shepherd:  
therefore can I / lack / nothing. *lack = not have*
  - 2 He makes me lie down in green / pastures :  
and leads me be- /side still /waters. **R** *pasture – grassy field*
  - 3 He shall refresh my / soul:  
and guide me in the paths of \*righteousness / for his / name's sake.
  - 4 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. **R** *rod and staff = shepherd's tools for  
rescuing a sheep which is stuck somewhere*
  - 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who / trouble me:  
you have anointed my head with oil *anointed = smeared*  
and my / cup · shall be / full.
  - 6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my / life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the / Lord for / ever. **R** *dwell = stay*
- \*righteousness = right living*

This sort of singing is called "Responsorial," because everyone sings a Response between verses sung by a soloist or choir. In the early years of Christianity this was the only sensible way to do the Psalms, because thousands of new members joined who were not Jewish, didn't know the Psalms, and couldn't read Hebrew! They could manage to learn the Response by heart, though.