

PSALM 23 (Fran Webber)
(Read in Hebrew, then English)

23 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

JOHN 17:20-26 (Scott Higgins)

Jesus Prays for All Believers

²⁰ "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴ "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

²⁵ "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I have made you^[a] known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

THE NICENE CREED (325) (Priscilla Monson)
(With the prayers of God's people)

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord, Jesus Christ His son. The only begotten, the firstborn of all creation who was begotten of his Father before all worlds and not made. True God of true God, of one substance with his Father by whom the worlds were fashioned and everything was made...

"Dear Lord it seems you are so madly in love with your creatures that you could not live without us so you created us and then when we turned away from you, you redeemed us..." - Catherine of Sienna

Who for us and for our salvation descended from heaven and became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and became man...

"Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, a Light to lighten the Gentiles, the Glory of Your people Israel"
- Simeon in the temple

He was conceived and born of the Virgin Mary...

"My soul glorifies The Lord..." - Mary mother of Jesus

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, and was buried...

"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." - Jesus Christ

and rose on the third day as it is written, and ascended into heaven and sat down at the right hand of His Father; and he is going to come in order to judge the dead and the living; and in one Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth...

"Lord who has mercy on us all take away from me my sins and mercifully kindle in me the fire of the Holy Spirit." - Ambrose of Milan

who proceeds from the Father, the life-giving Spirit; and in one holy, apostolic, and catholic church; and confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection of our bodies...

"For the terror of absence from our beloved, we plead for your comfort. For the scandalous presence of death in your creation, we plead for the resurrection..."
- Book of Common Prayer

and life forever and ever. Amen

FOR THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH (Lauren Webber)
Book of Common Prayer (1549)

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior,
the Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the
great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions; take away
all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us
from godly union and concord; that, as there is but one Body
and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith,
one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all
of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth
and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and
one mouth glorify thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A MINISTER'S PRAISES (Gil Malfatti)
A Puritan Prayer (1600-1800)

O God, my exceeding joy,
Singing thy praises uplifts my heart,
 for thou art a fountain of delight,
 and dost bless the soul that joys in thee.
But because of my heart's rebellion
I cannot always praise thee as I ought;
Yet I will at all times rest myself in
 thy excellences, goodness, and loving-kindness.
Thou art in Jesus the object of inexpressible joy,
 and I take exceeding pleasure in the thought
 of thee.
But Lord, I am sometimes thy enemy;
 my nature revolts and wanders from thee.
Though thou hast renewed me,
 yet evil corruptions urge me still to oppose thee.
Help me to extol thee with entire heart-submission,
 to be diligent in self-examination,
 to ask myself
 whether I am truly born again,
 whether my spirit is the spirit of thy children,
 whether my griefs are those that tear
 repenting hearts,
 whether my joys are the joys of faith,
 whether my confidence in Christ works
 by love and purifies the soul.
Give me the sweet results of faith,
 in my secret character, and in my public life.
Cast cords of love around my heart,
 then hold me and never let me go.
May the Saviour's wounds sway me more
 than the sceptre of princes.
Let me love thee in a love that covers
 and swallows up all,
 that I may not violate my chaste union
 with the beloved;
There is much unconquered territory
 in my nature,
scourge out the buyers and sellers
 of my soul's temple,
and give me in return pure desires,
 and longings after perfect holiness.

CONSTANTLY REJOICING IN THE MAIN THING (2017) (Nancy Murphy)

Scotty Smith

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” **Luke 10:17-20** (ESV)

Lord Jesus, thank you for commending our joy, and for giving us **so** many reasons to be a people of joy. You created a world for us to enjoy; and though it’s lost the perfections of Eden, creation still reveals your beauty, goodness, and majesty. And you’ve blessed us with so many creature comforts—things we either take for granted or assume we deserve. Thank you for our vocations and vacations, food and clothing, cars and feet, sleep and sweets... and the list goes on and on.

And like the seventy-two disciples in this passage, you give us the joy of being used in your service—no small thing, indeed. Thank you for the privilege of sharing the gospel and serving in your church, working for the common good and laboring in your kingdom. Thank you for the honor of loving our neighbors and working for justice, caring for the poor and bringing freedom to the bound.

BUT, Jesus, we are zealous to obey the main command in this text. Above all reasons for heart-palpitating felicity and soul-energizing joy, thank you for writing our names in heaven—for securing our place in your heart and eternity. They are written with the indelible ink of God’s grace; and no eraser can remove our names from the only book that really matters.

May the joy of our irrevocable, free, and über-glorious salvation shut down our whine-fest and pity-parties, our lust for something more or our craving to be somewhere else. May the delight of being yours transform our suffering and heal our heartaches, intensify our hope and calm our fears. So very Amen we pray, in your generous and grace-full name.