

Psalm 23 (The Passion Translation)

Yahweh is my best friend and my shepherd.

I always have more than enough.

He offers a resting place for me in his luxurious love.

His tracks take me to an oasis of peace near *the quiet brook of bliss*.

That's where he restores and revives my life.

He opens before me the right path

and leads me along in his footsteps of righteousness

so that I can bring honor to his name.

Even when your path takes me through

the valley of deepest darkness,

fear will never conquer me, for you already have!

Your authority is my strength and my peace.

The comfort of your love takes away my fear.

I'll never be lonely, for you are near.

You become my delicious feast

even when my enemies dare to fight.

You anoint me with the fragrance of your Holy Spirit;

you give me all I can drink of you until my cup overflows.

So why would I fear the future?

Only goodness and tender love pursue me all the days of my life.

Then afterward, when my life is through,

I'll return to your glorious presence to be forever with you!

For Reflection and Prayer:

As you listened to the text, was there a word, phrase or image which caught your attention?

Gently repeat the word or phrase, giving it room to settle deeply in your heart.

Reflect on what you heard. Relish the words. Notice how the word or words affected you.

Which emotions stirred within you? You might choose to journal about what you heard.

Respond to what you heard and reflected on in your prayer with God. Is there a prayer of which rises within you?

Rest in God as you simply be and entrust yourself to God in the quiet.