

**The Twenty-Third Psalm** is a general anthem that may be especially appropriate for Lent, Eastertide, and services focusing on stewardship. The common lectionary cycle includes Psalm 23 in its listings for Lent and Christ the King Sunday in Year A, and for the fourth Sunday in Easter in all three years:

Lent 4, Year A: Psalm 23, 1 Samuel 16: 1-13, John 9: 1-44, Ephesians 5: 8-14

Christ the King, Year A: Psalm 23, Ezekial 34: 11-16 & 20-24, Matthew 25: 31-46,  
1 Corinthians 15: 20-28

Easter 4, Year A: Psalm 23, John 10: 1-10, Acts 2: 42-47, 1 Peter 2: 19-25

Easter 4, Year B: Psalm 23, John 10: 11-18, Acts 4: 8-12, 1 John 3: 18-24

Easter 4, Year C: Psalm 23, John 10: 22-30, Acts 13: 15-16 & 26-33, Revelation 7: 9-17

One basic homiletical theme is that Jesus, the Shepherd, guards us and guides us on the pathway to salvation.

This tender anthem is best performed with gently flowing four-measure phrases. The beautiful English folk tune is sometimes referred to as *Forest Green*. Each of its phrases begins with a pick-up note, or anacrusis. Caution the singers to avoid the natural tendency to accent the anacrusis. This note should act as a springboard into the phrase, with the accent generally falling on the following note. Sensitivity to proper text inflection will aid in avoiding this problem. An exception to this rule is presented by the word "Goodness" in mm. 38-39.

**Jay Althouse** has written choral music for all levels of school and church choirs. He has over 400 choral compositions and arrangements in print. Jay received a B.S. in Music Education and an M.Ed. in Music from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

# THE TWENTY-THIRD PSALM

for 2-part voices, accompanied\*

Words from the  
Scottish Psalter, 1650

TRADITIONAL ENGLISH MELODY  
Arranged by JAY ALTHOUSE

Tenderly (♩ = ca. 84 - 88)

PART I *opt. solo mp*

PART II

ACCOMP. *mp*

5

Lord's my Shep-herd, I'll not want. He makes me down to lie.

*(end solo)*

*opt. solo mp*

In

\* Also available for S.A.T.B. voices, No. 16001, and S.A.B. voices, No. 16002.

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9 *mp*

My\_

(end solo) ,

pas - tures green, He lead - eth\_ me, The qui - et\_ wa - ters by. My

13 *rit.* ,

soul He doth re - store a - gain and me to walk doth make With -

soul\_ He doth re - store a - gain and me to walk doth make With -

*rit.*

17 *a tempo*

in the paths of right - eous - ness e'en for His\_ own name's

in the paths of right - eous - ness e'en for His own name's

*a tempo*

23

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

sake. Yea, though I walk in—

sake. Yea, though— I walk in—

20

24

*rit.*

*a tempo*

death's dark vale, yet will I fear none ill, For Thou art with me

death's dark vale, yet will I fear none ill, For Thou art with me

*a tempo*

*rit.*

28

*rit.*

*f*

and Thy rod and staff me com - fort still. My

and Thy rod and staff me com - fort still. My

*rit.*

31

A bit more broadly

ta - ble Thou hast fur - nish - ed in pres - ence of my foes. My

ta - ble Thou hast fur - nish - ed in pres - ence of my foes. My

A bit more broadly

*f*

35

head Thou dost with oil a - noint and my cup o - ver - flows. Good -

head Thou dost with oil a - noint and my cup o - ver - flows. Good -

39

ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low

ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low

42 *rit.* *mf* 43 *a tempo*

me, And in God's house for - ev - er - more my

me, And in God's house for - ev - er - more my

*rit.* *mf* *a tempo*

45 *rit.* *(opt. solo) mp* Slower

dwell - ing - place shall be, And in God's house for -

dwell - ing - place shall be,

Slower

*rit.* *mp*

48 *rit.* *(end solo) mp* Slower still *rit.* *p*

ev - er - more my dwell - ing place shall be.

my dwell - ing place shall be.

Slower still

*rit.* *rit.* *p*

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