

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 S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied*

Words from the
Scottish Psalter, 1650

TRADITIONAL ENGLISH MELODY
Arranged by JAY ALTHOUSE

Tenderly (♩ = ca. 84 - 88)

SOPRANO
ALTO

TENOR
BASS

ACCOMP.

mp

unis. or solo mp

The

5

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

mp

unis. or solo mp

* Also available for S.A.B. voices, No. 16002, and 2-part voices, No. 16003.

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9 *(tutti)*
mp
 pas - tures green; He lead - eth_ me, The qui - et_ wa - ters by. My_ *(tutti)*

13 *rit.*
 soul_ He doth_ re - store_ a - gain and me to walk doth_ make_ With -

17 *a tempo*
 in the paths of right - eous - ness e'en for His_ own name's

a tempo

23

sake. *mf* Yea, though I walk in

24 *rit.* death's dark vale, yet will I fear none ill, *a tempo* For Thou art with me,

a tempo

28 *rit.* and Thy rod and staff me comfort still. *f* My

rit.

31

A bit more broadly

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

A bit more broadly

35

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

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

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

a tempo

rit. *mf*

45 *rit.* *mp* Slower

dwel - ling_ place shall be, And in God's house for -

Slower

mp

48 *rit.* *mp* *rit.* *p*

ev - er - more_ my dwell - ing_ place shall be.

mp

Slower still

rit. *rit.* *p*



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