

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Isaiah 25:1-9

Psalm 23

You prepare a table before me, & my cup is running over. (Ps. 23:5)

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples & poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, & pure, & transform us into a people of righteousness & peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Psalm 23 (*Lutheran Book of Worship translation, 1978*)

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures & leads me beside still waters. ³He revives my soul & guides me along right pathways for his name's sake. ⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod & your staff, they comfort me. ⁵You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, & my cup is running over. ⁶Surely your goodness & mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, & I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. What connections do you find between the *Old Testament* lesson (*Isaiah*) & the *Psalm*? Each week the *Psalm* is chosen as a reflection & response to the first reading. It helps us interpret the *Old Testament* lesson.
2. Although not specifically or strictly a “messianic psalm”, how does *Psalm 23* connect with Jesus? See *John 2:1-11, 13-22, 3:1-5, 16-17, 22, 6:1-14, 41-68, 10:1-18, 11:1-43, 13:1-16, 18:1-11; 20:19-23; Matthew 11:28-30* What other cross-references can you think of?

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. List at least 10 things you find encouraging, comforting, inspiring, refreshing, etc. about this *Psalm*. Share them with someone else & listen to their list. What did you have in common?
4. Go through each metaphor in the *Psalm* (it's only six verses) & match it to something specific & concrete in your everyday life. Revise your thoughts into complete sentences & you'll have your own personal faith story or “testimony/witness”.

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. How does the imagery of *Psalm 23* help you explain how the Church, your congregation, & your pastor (means “shepherd”, cf. *1 Peter 5:1-4; Large Catechism*:4th Commandment 158-166) are instances & examples of God's gifts being used for God's purposes?
6. Given the weirdness of 2020 (even scariness), how does *Psalm 23* help you explain to others that no matter what happens next, your future (& that of all true believers) is secure with God? By the way, the Hebrew verbs are better translated as future tense (*i.e.* vv1, 6) See *Small Catechism: Creed*

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19th Sunday after Pentecost

10.11.20

Series: Using God's Gifts for God's Purposes

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

(Purpose of) Delivering Us from His Enemies

You spread a table before me... & my cup is running over. (v5)

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; You spread a table before me in the presence of
those who trouble me (v4,5)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad & rejoice in God's salvation. (*Isaiah 25:9*)

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