

OPENING DECLARATION

Isaiah 40:11

*He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms
And carries them close to his heart;
He gently leads those that have young.*

PRAYER

Father God, I thank you that I can rest in the warm embrace of Your arms and that you hold me close to your heart. I rejoice that I mean so much to you, and that I can trust you to always care for me in every circumstance of my life.

OPENING SCRIPTURE

Psalm 23

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
He leads me beside quiet waters,
he restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness
For his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of
my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely your goodness and love will follow me
All the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

PRAYER

Lord, sometimes life can be really hard, tiring, painful and not kind to us and sometimes I just don't feel Your love. As I read this Psalm I hear the reassurances you want me to take deep into my heart and I thank you that I can trust in Your unfailing love, even when my feelings seem to be all over the place. I choose to put my trust in You now.

OPENING REFLECTION

Have you noticed that Psalm 23 is so positive throughout? When we are helpless, lose direction, feel vulnerable, or are faced with frightening circumstances (just like sheep), we can draw on the words from this psalm to give us hope, confidence, comfort and strength. Because the Lord is My Shepherd, I shall not be in want – we have that assurance in every line. Let's dwell on the riches of His presence and provision described in each verse.

WORDS FROM SCRIPTURE

*Because of the Lord's great love we are not
consumed, for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
Great is your faithfulness.
Lamentations 3:22-23*

*The eternal God is your refuge,
And underneath are the everlasting arms.
Deuteronomy 33:27*

SILENCE

When our burdens seem great and the road ahead seems rocky, let's dwell on the fact that, because of the Lord's great love, we needn't be overwhelmed. We have a faithful and compassionate God we can call on, whose resources will never run dry and who gives us safety, protection and unconditional love.

HYMN

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
Thy head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
And he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one,
Stoop down and drink, and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in him.
Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889

PRAISE PRAYER

I praise you, Lord, that I can find my rest in You.

I praise You that I can come to You for
sustenance and refreshment.

I praise You that in You I find security and
contentment, because of Your great love for me,
now and for evermore.

BLESSING

*And my God will meet all your needs according
to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:19



www.caraway.uk.com
caraway@caraway.uk.com

HOME PRAYER

**THE LORD
IS MY SHEPHERD**