

# September

## 3. Rosh Hashanah: Psalm 23

Rosh Hashanah is commonly referred to as the Jewish New Year. It commemorates the creation of humankind and is the first of the High Holidays, which are days specifically set aside to focus on repentance that conclude with the holiday of Yom Kippur.

Psalm 23 is perhaps the best known of the psalms. There are numerous settings of the biblical text. So why write another setting?

For me, the translations I know of are not gender-inclusive and portrays a paternalistic view of God. I decided to write my own version of the text which was gender-inclusive and non-paternalistic.

*God is my shepherd  
I need nothing more  
In fields of green grass I rest;  
and safe waters surround me.  
My strength is restored  
and I am guided along the beautiful path of life.  
Even when I go through the most difficult times of my life  
I am not afraid for I am not alone.  
I receive the gift of courage.  
I sit at the banquet table  
and am filled with wonderment and joy.  
My cup is filled to the brim.  
Every day I will seek love and goodness  
and the earth will be my beloved home  
for the rest of my life.*

- Wally Kleucker

# Psalm 23

## God Is My Shepherd

Psalm 23 /  
English translation by Wally Kleucker

Wally Kleucker

Moderato (♩ = 54)

Musical score for the first system of "God Is My Shepherd". It features four vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a Piano accompaniment. The tempo is Moderato (♩ = 54). The music is in G major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are "God is my shep - herd." The piano part provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands.

Musical score for the second system of "God Is My Shepherd". It features four vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a Piano accompaniment. The tempo is Moderato (♩ = 54). The music is in G major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are "I need no - thing more. I need no - thing". The piano part continues with harmonic support, including a prominent bass line.

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## Psalm 23: God Is My Shepherd

7

S *f* *mf*  
more. In fields of green grass I rest;

A *f* *mf*  
more. In fields of green grass I rest;

T *f* *mf*  
more. In fields of green grass I rest;

B *f* *mf*  
more. In fields of green grass I rest;

Pno. *f* *mf*

10

S  
and safe wa - ters sur - round me.

A  
and safe wa - ters sur - round me.

T  
and safe wa - ters sur - round me.

B  
and safe wa - ters sur - round me.

Pno.

13

S  
My strength is re - stored. and I am guid ed a -

A  
My strength is re - stored. and I am guid ed a -

T  
8  
My strength is re - stored. and

B  
My strength is re - stored. and

Pno.

16

S  
long the beauti-ful path of life. E - ven when I

A  
long the beauti-ful path of life. E - ven when I

T  
8  
I am guided a - long the beautiful path of life. E - ven when I

B  
I am guided a - long the beautiful path of life. E - ven when I

Pno.

20

S go through the most diff - i - cult times of my

A go through the most diff - i - cult times of my

T go through the most diff - i - cult times of my

B go through the most diff - i - cult times of my

Pno.

23

S life. I am not a - - - fraid.

A life. I am not a - - - fraid.

T life. I am not a - - - fraid.

B life. I am not a - - - fraid.

Pno.

26

S I re - ceive the gift of

A I re - ceive the gift of

T for I am not a lone.

B for I am not a - lone.

Pno.

29

S cour - age. I sit at the ban - quet

A cour - age. I sit at the ban - quet

T cour - age. I sit at the ban - quet

B cour - age. I sit at the ban - quet

Pno.

32

S ta - ble and am filled with won - der - ment and

A ta - ble and am filled with won - der - ment and

T ta - ble and am filled with won - der - ment and

B ta - ble and am filled with won - der - ment and

Pno.

35

S joy, my cup is

A joy, my cup is

T joy, my cup is

B joy, my cup is

Pno.

38

S filled to the brim, *f*

A filled to the brim, *f*

T filled to the brim, *f*

B filled to the brim, *f*

Pno. *f*

41

S , *p* Ev' - ry day Ev' I will

A , *p* Ev' - ry day Ev' I will

T , *p* Ev' - ry day Ev' I will

B , *p* Ev' - ry day Ev' I will

Pno. , *p*

44 **Slower** ♩ = 50

S seek love and good - ness, and the

A seek love and good - ness, and the

T seek love and good - ness, and the

B seek love and good - ness, and the

Pno. **Slower** ♩ = 50

47 *rit.*

S earth will be my be - lov - ed home for the

A earth will be my be - lov - ed home for the

T earth will be my be - lov - ed home for the

B earth will be my be - lov - ed home for the

Pno. *rit.*

50

S  
rest of my life.

A  
rest of my life.

T  
rest of my life.

B  
rest of my life.

Pno.  
rest of my life.

*ff*