

Prayer of Thomas Merton with Psalm 23 (trans. Nan C. Merrill, *Praying with the Psalms*)
compiled by Claire McKeever-Burgett, March 2020

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.

*O, my Beloved, You are our shepherd,
we shall not want.*

I cannot know for certain where it will end.
nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.

*You bring us to green pastures
for rest and lead us beside still waters,
renewing our spirits. You restore our souls.*

But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

*You lead us in the path of goodness
to follow Love's Way.*

And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.

*Even though we walk through the valley of the shadow
and of death, we will not fear; For you are ever with us.
Your rod and your staff they guide us,
they give us strength and comfort.*

Therefore, will I trust you always though
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

*You prepare a table before us
in the presence of all our fears;
you bless us with oil, our cups overflow.*

I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

*Surely goodness and mercy will follow us
all the days of our lives;
and we will dwell in the heart
of the Beloved forever.*

Amen.