

# Season after Pentecost, Proper 23A

(Sunday between October 9 and October 15 inclusive)

**Color:** Green

**Scriptures:** [Scripture linked to NRSV at Oremus Bible Browser]

[Exodus 32:1-14](#) (*The people forge a golden calf*)

[Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23](#) (*Remember me, O Lord, when you show favor to your people*)

[Philippians 4:1-9](#) (*Rejoice in the Lord always; the Lord is at hand*)

[Matthew 22:1-14](#) (*Parable of the wedding banquet; many are called, few are chosen*)

Alternate First Reading and Psalm

[Isaiah 25:1-9](#) (*The Feast of Victory for all people*)

[Psalm 23](#) (*You spread a table before me; I will live in your house forever*)

**Themes:** Sin/Forgiveness, God's Provision, Rejoicing, Joy, Grace

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## HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to [Hymnary.org](http://Hymnary.org), a searchable resource with a wealth of information. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts, and the biblical/thematic references suggest the hymn's association with the morning's scriptures or themes.

<a href="#">Come to the Feast of Heaven and Earth</a> (TABLE OF PLENTY) .....	Isaiah, Matthew
<a href="#">For the Beauty of the Earth</a> (DIX) .....	Philippians
<a href="#">Gather Us In</a> (GATHER US IN) .....	Isaiah
<a href="#">He Leadeth Me! O Blessed Thought</a> (HE LEADETH ME) .....	Psalm 23
<a href="#">I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table</a> (WELCOME TABLE) .....	Isaiah, Psalm 23, Matthew
<a href="#">In Heavenly Love Abiding</a> (NYLAND) .....	Isaiah, Psalm 23
<a href="#">Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult</a> (GALILEE) .....	Exodus
<a href="#">Jesus, Lover of My Soul</a> (ABERYSTWYTH; MARTYN) .....	Isaiah
<a href="#">The King of Love My Shepherd Is</a> (DOMINUS REGIT ME; ST. COLUMBA) .....	Psalm 23
<a href="#">The Kingdom of God is Justice and Joy</a> (HANOVER; LAUDATE DOMINUM) .....	Matthew
<a href="#">Love Divine, All Loves Excelling</a> (BEECHER; HYFRYDOL) .....	Psalm 106
<a href="#">Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</a> (LOBE DEN HERREN) .....	Isaiah
<a href="#">Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart</a> (MARION) .....	Philippians
<a href="#">Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us</a> (BRADBURY) .....	Psalm 23
<a href="#">Standing in the Need of Prayer</a> (PENITENT) .....	Exodus

# ANTHEMS

*E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult*

**Blessèd, How Blessèd** - ME ..... Psalm 106  
Scottish Melody/David Cherwien, arr.  
© 2019, MorningStar Music, 50-6199  
2-Part Mixed, Organ

**Brother James's Air** - ME..... Psalm 23  
James Leith Macbeth Bain/Mack Wilberg, arr.  
© 2010, Oxford University Press, 9780193372245  
SATB, Keyboard

**Grant Unto Us Thy Peace, O Lord** - ME..... Exodus  
Felix Mendelssohn  
© 1998, E.C. Schirmer, 5212  
SATB, Keyboard

**Jesus, Good Shepherd** - M ..... Psalm 23  
Bradley Ellingboe  
© 1999, Augsburg Fortress, 978-0-8006-5827-2  
SATB, Piano

**The Lord Is My Shepherd** - E ..... Psalm 23  
Allen Pote  
© 2002, Choristers Guild, CGA 551  
SATB (opt. SAB), Piano

**Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep** - E ..... Psalm 23  
Philip Ledger  
© 1988, Roger Dean Publishing, HRD 244  
SATB, Organ

**No More a Stranger or a Guest** - ME ..... Psalm 23  
*RESIGNATION*/David Ashley White, arr.  
© 1998, Selah Publishing Co., 410-833  
2-Part, C-Instrument, Handbells (or keyboard)

**O God, Beyond All Praising** - ME..... Philippians  
*THAXTED*/Dan Forrest, arr.  
© 2010, Hinshaw Music, HMC 2245  
SATB, Piano, or opt. Strings or Brass with Perc.

**Rejoice In God** - M..... Philippians  
Heinrich Schütz/Nancy Grundahl, arr.  
© 2004, Augsburg Fortress, 978-0-8006-7651-3  
SATB, Keyboard, Flute, Finger Cymbals (or Tamb.)

**Soon and Very Soon** - E ..... Isaiah  
Andraé Crouch/Jack Schrader, arr.  
© 1994, Hope Publishing Co., GC 952  
SATB, Piano (also avail. in SAB, 2-Part Mixed & TTBB)

-- Youth and Children --

**Everything Good** - E..... Philippians  
Don Schlosser  
© 2009, Choristers Guild, CGA 1166  
SAT(B), Keyboard

**Rejoice in the Lord Always** - E..... Philippians  
Richard W. Gieseke  
© 1987, MorningStar Music, 50-0003  
Unison, Keyboard

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## ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

*You bring my wandering spirit back, when I forsake your ways;  
you lead me, for your mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.*

— ISAAC WATTS, "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need," 1719

*Be thou a bright flame before me, Be thou a guiding star above me,  
Be thou a smooth path below me, Be thou a kindly shepherd behind me,  
Today, tonight and for ever.*

— ST. COLUMBA (521-597)

## CALL TO WORSHIP

(based upon Isaiah 25:1-9)

- One: O Lord, our God. We exalt you and praise your name,  
for you have done wonderful things.
- Many: You have toppled the ruthless powers that oppress and destroy  
and are a refuge and shelter for the poor and needy.**
- One: You invite us all to feast on your abundance,  
destroying all that clouds our vision and swallowing up death forever.
- Many: This is our God, for whom we have waited.**
- All: *Let us be glad and rejoice in God's salvation.***

-- Brittany Stillwell\*

## GATHERING PRAYER

(based upon Psalm 23 and Philipians 4:1-9)

Good Shepherd, we come to you today from our scattered places: valleys and hills, mountains and pastures, seasons of drought and tables of abundance. Draw us together today; help us to be of the same mind in you, so that we might feel you near. Inspire our songs of praise, calm our anxious hearts, and hear our prayers—the ones we say aloud together and the silent cries from the depths of our souls. Fill us with your peace and center our minds. Help us to focus on what is true and honorable and to fight for what is just and pure. May our thoughts and actions be pleasing to you. Be with us now and in the days ahead, oh God of peace. Amen.

## CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(based upon Psalm 23 and Isaiah 25:1-9)

- One: Good Shepherd, with you as our shepherd we lack for nothing and yet  
there is so much we want.
- Many: Forgive us when we doubt your provision. Subdue our restless hearts.**
- One: The world feels chaotic and unstable and sometimes we can't help but  
scoff at the thought of green pastures and still waters.
- Many: Forgive us when we allow the valley to consume us. Remove the shroud  
that inhibits our imagination.**
- One: You have prepared an abundant table for all your people and yet  
sometimes we make light of your invitation and even greet it with violence  
and hostility.
- Many: Forgive us when we reject your call to unity and peace. Swallow up our  
pride and shame.**



- One: Even as we wrestle with all that keeps us from you, you are at work.
- Many: You prepare a table before us in the presence of our enemies.  
You anoint our heads with oil. Our cups overflow.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our life,  
and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord our whole life long. Amen.**

## CALL TO THE TABLE

(based on Psalm 23 and Matthew 22:1-14)

One: The table has been set, even as the chaos of the world swirls around us.

**Many: Here at this table we find blessing and abundance.**

One: Come! Bring all that you are. You are welcome here.

**Many: Here at this table we are transformed and redeemed.**

One: Do not take this invitation lightly,  
for you are feasting with the Lord, your God.

**Many: Good Shepherd, ruler of heaven and earth,  
we come into your presence with gratitude and awe.**

**All: Here we are made whole. Our cup overflows.**

## BENEDICTION

(based upon Psalm 23 and Philippians 4:1-9)

As you go to your scattered places, keep on doing the things that you have  
learned and received and heard and seen in this place—

open wide the invitation,

share in the feast of abundance,

be still and rest beside the quiet waters—

and know that the God of peace is with you always. Amen.

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\*Thanks to Brittany Stillwell for contributing this week's prayers and liturgies.

Warren Howell, editor