

**Collect Prayer**

**Leader:**

Listen kindly to our prayer, O Lord,  
and as our faith in your Son,  
raised from the dead, is deepened,  
so may our hope of resurrection for your  
departed servants also find new strength.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

**All: Amen**

**Gathering Song: Be Not Afraid**

You shall cross the barren desert,  
but you shall not die of thirst.  
You shall wander far in safety,  
though you do not know the way.  
You shall speak your words in foreign lands,  
and all will understand.  
You shall see the face of God and live.

**Refrain:**

*Be not afraid.  
I go before you always.  
Come follow Me,  
and I shall give you rest.*

If you pass through raging waters  
in the sea, you shall not drown.  
If you walk amid the burning flames,  
you shall not be harmed.  
If you stand before the pow'r of hell  
and death is at your side,  
know that I am with you, through it all.

**Refrain**

Blessed are your poor,  
for the Kingdom shall be theirs.  
Blest are you that weep and mourn,  
for one day you shall laugh.  
And if wicked ones insult and hate you,  
all because of Me,  
blessed, blessed are you!

**Refrain**

**Gospel Reading (Luke 24:13-35)**

<sup>13</sup> Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, <sup>14</sup> and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. <sup>15</sup> And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

<sup>17</sup> He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast.

<sup>18</sup> One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?"

<sup>19</sup> And he replied to them, "What sort of things?"

They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. <sup>22</sup>

Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning <sup>23</sup> and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see."

<sup>25</sup> And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"

<sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup> As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight.

<sup>32</sup> Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?"

<sup>33</sup> So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them <sup>34</sup> who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"

<sup>35</sup> Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**Responsorial Psalm** (Ps 23:1-3a,3b-4,5,6)

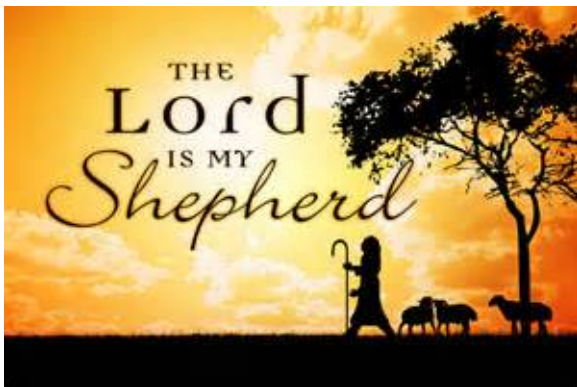
**R. The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;  
beside restful waters he leads me;  
he refreshes my soul.

**R. The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.**

He guides me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk in the dark valley  
I fear no evil; for you are at my side  
with your rod and your staff  
that give me courage.

**R. The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.**



**Intercessions**

**R: Shepherd us, O Lord.**

For the Holy Father, Pope Francis, and for all bishops, that God will give them the grace and wisdom to touch the lives and hearts of many.  
**We pray...**

For the Church throughout the world, that this may be a time of increased faith in keeping with the Year of Faith.  
**We pray...**

For the sick and the suffering, that this may be a time for them to experience Christ even in the midst of their illnesses and needs.  
**We pray...**

May our deepening of faith help us to long for justice and peace in the world.  
**We pray...**

Through reading and studying the Bible, may all Catholics come to know and love and grow in a desire to share the saving truths of Jesus Christ in our homes, places of work and community.  
**We pray...**

May Christ remind us of ways to serve those in our midst who are overlooked, ignored or rejected, so that all may experience the peace and healing of His love.  
**We pray...**

For those who have died (*pause*)  
and for those who have no one to pray for them.  
**We pray...**

**Concluding Prayer**

Merciful One, it is not for us to judge those who have died. Rather we come to you with the assurance of your great compassion. We unite with these wounded brothers and sisters of ours and believe that you draw all people to your forgiving heart. May the love we bear be encouragement for all souls winging their way home to you. Thank you for your unconditional love for all you have created. Amen.

*(Out of the Ordinary, by Joyce Rupp)*

## Closing Prayer

### Call to Prayer

Leader: Eternal Father, we humbly implore You, be with us always,  
so that in all things we may act under the influence of Your holy inspiration.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

**Song:** Here I Am Lord (*see back*)

### Reading (*Luke 1:46-56*)

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (pause)*

And Mary said: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;  
because he has looked upon the humiliation of his servant.  
Yes, from now onwards all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Almighty has done great things for me.  
Holy is his name and his faithful love extends age after age to those who fear him.  
He has used the power of his arm, he has routed the arrogant of heart.  
He has pulled down princes from their thrones and raised high the lowly.  
He has filled the starving with good things, sent the rich away empty.  
He has come to the help of Israel his servant,  
mindful of his faithful love according to the promise he made to our ancestors  
of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

*(Pause for silent reflection)*

### Response (*Psalm 1*)

*Women:* How blessed is anyone who rejects the advice of the wicked

*Men:* and does not take a stand in the path that sinners tread,

*Women:* nor a seat in company with cynics,

*Men:* but who delights in the law of the Lord and murmurs his law day and night.

*Women:* Such a one is like a tree planted near streams;

*Men:* it bears fruit in season and its leaves never wither, and every project succeeds.

*All:* For the Lord watches over the path of the upright,  
but the path of the wicked is doomed

### Concluding Prayer

Leader: Creator Spirit, come and visit the souls that are Yours:  
fill with heavenly grace the hearts that You created.  
You are the finger of the Father's right hand.  
You, the clear promise of the Father, give our tongues the grace of speech.

All: Kindle a light in our minds, pour love into our hearts,  
and uphold with Your unfailing strength the frailty of our human nature.

Leader: May God bring us to full maturity in Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

# HERE I AM, LORD

Dan Schutte

## Verses



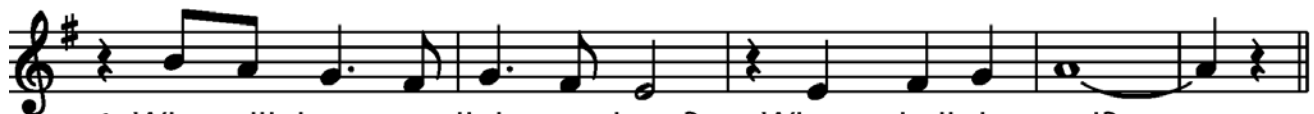
1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple's pain.
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



1. All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save. I, who
2. I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
3. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin-est



1. made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
2. break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love a - lone.
3. bread I will pro-vide Till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



1. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
2. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
3. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

## Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo-ple in my heart.