

The Valley
Deaconess Carol Brown
St. John, Sycamore

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. Psalm 23:4

Psalm 23 is a familiar Psalm to most of us, most often heard at funerals. But this is a beautiful Psalm to reflect upon daily as we go about the usual tasks of our everyday life, a life we live in a broken world.

The valley of the shadow of death does not loom out at us just in our final earthly moments. We walk through this valley every day. We see it all around - in sickness, pandemics, dysfunctional souls, and the lawlessness of our culture. This whirl of evil can cause us to despair and to be frightened. But there is our Savior, leading us through the messiness. We are comforted by His presence. We go to the table He has prepared for us and receive the assurance of His forgiveness. We are His anointed ones.

Through Word and Sacrament, Jesus remains ever-present with us. In the midst of this broken world we find an oasis of comfort and peace. Restoration for our souls is always at hand. Just look to the Shepherd and follow where He leads you.

Dearest Jesus, Faithful Shepherd, thank You for being with us every day. Help us to steadfastly and courageously follow You as You continue to lead us through life's joys and shadows. We live with joyful hearts knowing we will dwell with You forever. Amen.