

Psalm 23 - A Dramatic Reading

Three readers, preferably placed around the room. The dialogue overlaps in some parts, indicated by overlapping text and bracketed lines. Bold type shows words to emphasise and linger over. Italics show directions for readers. Pauses are indicated by gaps between and within lines, longer pauses by larger gaps.

1,2,3: The Lord is my shepherd

1:	The Lord is my shepherd	<i>these lines said</i>
2:	The Lord is my shepherd	<i>directly one</i>
3:	The Lord is my shepherd	<i>after another</i>
1:	The Lord is my shepherd	<i>with no gaps</i>
2:	I shall not want	<i>slowly and deliberately</i>

3:	He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;	
	He leadeth me beside the still	still waters) <i>like drops</i>
1:		still still) <i>of water</i>
2:		still still) <i>in a pool</i>
3:	He restoreth my soul	<i>peaceful, almost sleeping</i>

1: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness

1,2,3: for His name's sake

1: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
I will fear no evil

1,2,3: for Thou art with me *straight after 'evil'- confidently*

1: Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me

2: Thou **preparest a table** before me *with astonished gratitude throughout*
in the presence of mine enemies

Thou **anointest my head** with oil

2:	my cup runneth over	my cup runneth over)
3:	my cup runneth over	my cup runneth over)
1:	my cup runneth over	my cup runneth over)

The above line not too hurried. It should sound like a cascade, not jostling crowd

2: Surely **goodness**

3: and **mercy**

1: shall **follow** me all the days of my life;

1,2,3: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

To get the pause in the last line it is helpful to continue the beat of the line in the silence. The beat is two light syllables followed by one heavy, with a comma gap before 'for', thus: I will dwell in the house of the Lord , for ever. So you could insert a silent phrase to maintain the beat and make sure you all come in together. Eg I will dwell in the house of the Lord (in the house of the Lo-rd) for ever.