



### This week's prayer :

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning, help us to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and forever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us one God, now and forever. in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Song 1

#### The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.

He makes me lie in pastures green.  
He leads me by the still, still waters,  
His goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in You alone,  
And I will trust in You alone,  
For Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my ways in righteousness,  
and He anoints my head with oil,  
and my cup, it overflows with joy,  
I feast on His pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path,  
I will not fear the evil one,  
for You are with me, and Your rod and staff  
are the comfort I need to know.

*Psalm 23 adapted Stuart Townend  
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### Song 2

#### You are here moving in our midst

I worship You I worship You  
You are here rearranging destinies  
I worship You I worship You  
You are here turning lives around  
I worship You I worship You  
You are here working miracles  
I worship You I worship You  
*Way maker miracle worker  
Promise keeper light in darkness  
My God, that is who You are  
Way maker miracle worker  
Promise keeper light in darkness  
My God, that is who You are*  
You are here touching every heart  
I worship You I worship You  
You are here healing every life  
I worship You I worship You  
You are here turning lives around  
I worship You I worship You  
You are here mending every heart  
I worship You I worship You  
*CCLI Song # 7115744  
Osinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu  
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### Reading of the week: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16

You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. <sup>2</sup>We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. <sup>3</sup>For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. <sup>4</sup>On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. <sup>5</sup>You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. <sup>6</sup>We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. <sup>7</sup>Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, <sup>8</sup>so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. <sup>9</sup>Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.

<sup>10</sup>You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. <sup>11</sup>For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, <sup>12</sup>encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. <sup>13</sup>And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe. <sup>14</sup>For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own people the same things those churches suffered from the Jews <sup>15</sup>who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to everyone <sup>16</sup>in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last.

### Thought for the day: Tony Carey

As Paul continues his letter of encouragement to the Thessalonians he reminds them of where he and the other members of the team had come from, and how previously they had suffered persecution at Philippi concerning the gospel. However they faithfully shared God's word with them humbly as children, but with the caring heart of a mother and, also father like, encouraging, comforting and urging them to live the sort of life that God wants. He then goes on to encourage them by recognising that they had become imitators of Paul's team and the message shared with them accepting it as the word of God and responding, believing to the point where they also were suffering for the faith from their own people. Quite a challenge for us all in this day and age as to whether we will seek to please men or God with His Word (v4).

### Song 3

#### He's coming on the clouds

Kings and kingdoms will bow down  
And every chain will break  
As broken hearts declare His praise  
For who can stop the Lord almighty

Our God is the Lion  
The Lion of Judah  
He's roaring with power  
And fighting our battles  
And every knee will bow before Him  
Our God is the Lamb  
The Lamb that was slain  
For the sin of the world  
His blood breaks the chains  
And every knee will bow before the Lion  
and the Lamb  
Oh every knee will bow before the Lion

So open up the gates  
Make way before the King of kings  
The God who comes to save  
Is here to set the captives free  
For who can stop the Lord almighty

Who can stop the Lord almighty  
Who can stop the Lord (almighty)

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