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
2: The Lord **is** my shepherd
3: The Lord **is my** shepherd
1: The Lord **is my shepherd**
2: I shall **not want**

3: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
   He leadeth me beside the still **still waters**
1: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
   He leadeth me beside the **still still waters**
2: He leadeth me beside the **still still waters**
3: He restor eth my soul
4: He restor eth my soul

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
1: Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me

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

2: my cup **runneth over**
2: my cup runneth over
2: my cup runneth over
   my cup runneth over
3: my cup **runneth over**
3: my cup runneth over
3: my cup runneth over
   my cup runneth over
1: my cup **runneth over**
1: 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.