

**Catalog for Composers**

**TEXTS FROM THE EHV FOR**

**USE IN MUSICAL COMPOSITIONS**

***John F. Brug***

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The Wartburg Bible series

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In the EHV logo, the circle of light or the rainbow radiating from the cross is divided into three parts to symbolize the three *solas* of the Reformation: by grace alone, by faith alone, and by Scripture alone. This semi-circle, together with the base, forms the Latin letter D, which means 500 and honors the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, the year in which the first edition of the EHV was published.

**Catalog for Composers**

**PSALMS TEXTS FROM THE EHV**

**FOR USE IN MUSICAL COMPOSITIONS**

This is a catalog of texts which are recommended to composers for creating compositions that are based directly on the biblical text. They are also recommended for responsive readings.

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We have chosen and arranged about 70 psalm selections from the EHV to serve as a basis for musical compositions or responsive readings. In addition to the selections from psalms, we have also included a few other poetic selections, mostly from Isaiah, which would be very fitting for use on certain special occasions for which there are few appropriate psalms. The verse numbers remain in these psalms that have been abbreviated, so that it is easier to see how the psalm was shortened. If verse numbers are omitted from the composition, it should be stated that these are abbreviations of a psalm, not the whole psalm. In a few cases conjunctions were dropped or pronouns were adjusted if the omission of a preceding verse made them unclear or inappropriate.

These selections are typically longer that those that are used in the “psalms bites” that appear in many hymns. We hope that composers will use larger portions of psalms, which more fully represent the psalm, especially when they produce compositions to be presented by choirs or soloists. If a shorter work is desired for congregational use, some verses or sections of the psalm can be omitted, or some of the sections of the psalm can be selected to fit the theme of the week. Verses that can most easily be omitted are sometimes marked in brown.

The texts are formatted according to the poetic style of the Hebrew text. The main feature of Hebrew poetry is parallelism. Lines are grouped in pairs. The second line echoes the thought of the first line of the pair. In responsive reading, when the poetry is written in this parallel style, the two singers or two groups sing alternate lines. When there is no parallelism, the two choirs can alternate verses. The practical problem is that Hebrew poetry almost never follows a regular pattern. It mixes the styles, seemingly with reckless abandon. For congregational singing, composers will probably want to choose one style of responsive reading throughout a composition, though it is possible to assign the individual parts by marking them. This practice of assigning parts is more feasible when the composition is being performed by a choir or soloists.

In the catalog, the text is formatted for responsive use. If two lines are parallel to each other, they have the same left margin. These lines should be sung as parts A and B.

A But his delight is in the teaching of the LORD,

B and on his teaching he meditates day and night.

In cases in which lines are only partial parallels, if there is a comma at the end of the first line, the lines should be treated as two parallel lines even if the second line is not a complete sentence.

A Blessed be God, who has not turned aside my prayer,

B or turned aside his mercy from me!

A You will not fear the terror of night,

B nor the arrow that flies by day,

Lines which are run-ons of the preceding line with no parallelism are indented two spaces. The indented line should be sung with the preceding line.

A You have placed joy in my heart greater than the joy

 when grain and new wine are plentiful.

This verse is sung as one line.

Sometimes there are triplets instead of doublets. Then each line is its own unit.

The following verse should probably be treated as one unit.

Pay attention to my cry for help,

 my King and my God,

 for to you I pray.

In the following the second and third lines are parallels and could be treated as such.

I will fulfill my vows to you,

 which my lips uttered,

 which my mouth spoke during my trouble.

The selections are punctuated on the basis of poetic units, not by rigid grammatical rules. The parallelism and line length are so irregular in Hebrew poetry that composers must exercise their judgment on what to do with the arrangement of individual poems.

Hebrew poets often abbreviated the second line of a pair by leaving out some Hebrew words to make the lines more equal in length. This sometimes results in very unequal English lines, which the composer may wish to restore to more equal length. Sometimes word order or length of words must be adjusted for a musical fit.

The Hebrew word *selah* seems to indicate spots where the psalmist wanted an instrumental interlude to be inserted for meditation. These points are marked in the selections by the word *interlude*. The psalmist’s positioning of interludes is quite interesting. As we might expect, they are often dividers between sections, but sometimes they come right in the middle of a thought. In a given psalm, the psalmist usually uses one or the other of these patterns.

All of the refrains for the psalms are adapted from the psalms themselves or from a related biblical text. In a few cases, refrains consist of more than one line, but it would not be difficult to shorten these if you wish. Also it is easy enough to substitute other refrains, such as hymn lines, if you prefer that type of refrain rather than refrains from the text itself.

This catalog is a list of suggestions. Composers and arrangers should make the needed adjustments.

For help on the interpretation of the text see *The People’s Bible: Psalms 1 and 2,* Northwestern Publishing House.

**Categories**

With each psalm we have listed the occasion or topics which we especially had in mind when we chose the psalm. The following table lists the psalms that have been selected for each occasion. It is not intended to be comprehensive, but it may be useful to help you in deciding on selections. The psalms selections are in numerical order, rather than topical order, in the catalog that follows.

GENERAL WORSHIP and PRAISE Psalms 1, 18, 23, 27, 29, 33, 51B, 66, 84, 96, 100, 103A, 103B,

 111, 117, 121, 133-134, 139A, 139B, 145, 148

THE WORD: Psalms 1, 19B, 25, 42-43, 111, 119 a b c d

CONFIRMATION Psalms 1, 25, 119A

THE CHURCH Psalms 133-134, 48

GOD Psalms 19A, 139A & B

CREATION AND Psalms 8, 19A, 29, 33, 65, 66, 104, 111, 121. 127, 128

PROVIDENCE:

NATIONS Psalms 33, 65, 66

COMFORT IN DISTRESS Psalms 4, 5, 6, 11, 13, 27; 18, 31, 37, 42-43, 62, 63, 68,

AND AFFLICTION: 69, 73, 91, 103, 116, 119d

DEATH, FUNERAL Psalms 16, 17, 23, 31, 90, 103, 116, 47, 46

PERSECUTION, EVIL TIMES Psalms 11, 37, 73,

SIN Psalms 14, 32, 51A,

SANCTIFICATION Psalms 15, 51

JUSTIFICATION Psalms 32, 51

REPENTANCE & CONFESSION Psalms 6, 19B, 25, 32, 51A, 51B, 103A, 103B, 130

(also for Lent and Advent)

ADVENT Psalms 24, 45; Is. 9, Isaiah 11, Is 40, Is 42, also repentance

CHRISTMAS Psalms 96; Is 9, Is 11

NEW YEARS Psalm 90

EPIPHANY Psalms 8, 45, 72, Is 42, Is 60, Is 61. See missions. Psalm 67

LENT Psalms 2, 8, 22A, 31, 32, 40, 41, 69, 110; 118, Is 53A & B, Is. 42. See repentance.

PALM SUNDAY Psalms 8, 45, 118 or Lent

EASTER and Psalms 16, 22B, 118; 17, 22B, 45, 110. 118

POST-EASTER;

GOOD SHEPHERD Psalms 23, 100, Is 40

ASCENSION Psalms 8, 22B, 47, 48, 68, 110

PENTECOST Joel 2 or missions, especially Psalm 67

MICHAELMAS Psalms 91, 148

REFORMATION Psalms 46, 11, 12. See Word.

THANKSGIVING Psalms 65, 68, 103A, 136. See providence.

END TIMES Psalms 2, 11, 24, 45, 46, 68, 96, 110, Is 60B, Joel 2, Is 11

GOD’S ATTRIBUTES Psalm 139

CHRIST THE KING Psalm 72, 110

MESSIAH Psalms 2, 8, 16, 18, 22, 23, 24, 40, 41, 45, 69, 72, 110, 118

MISSIONS Psalms 22B, 47, 67, 72, 117, Is 60

DEDICATION Psalms 115, 90, 127

& ANNIVERSARY

FAMILY Psalms 127, 128

UNITY Psalm 132-133

EVENING Psalms 4, 63

MORNING Psalms 5, 17

MUSIC Parts of Psalm 47

MOSES’ SONG,

HANNAH’S SONG,

MARY’S SONG,

ISAIAH’S SONG

SONGS OF REVELATION

**LIST of all the Psalms that are set up for composition in the catalog**

1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17,18, 19A, 19B, 22A, 22B, 23, 24, 25, 27 , 29, 31, 32, 33, 37, 40, 41, 42-43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 51A, 51B, 62, 63, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 72, 73, 90, 91, 96, 100,

103A, 103B, 104, 110, 111,115, 116, 117, 118A, 118B, 119 a b c d, 121, 127, 128, 130, 133-134,

136, 139A, 139B, 145, 148

Joel 2, Isaiah 53A, Isaiah 53B, Isaiah 9, Isaiah 11, Isaiah 42, Isaiah 40, Isaiah 60, Isaiah 12, Revelation

SOME CHALLENGES See the notes at the selection.

Psalm 68 is the ultimate challenge. How would you perform it?

Psalm 69 Create a speech of prophecies for Christ.

Isaiah 53 Create five songs, one for each Wednesday of Lent after Ash Wednesday.

Psalm 118 Create a song for service of Holy Week from Palm Sunday till Easter.

Psalm 126 and 127 Combine parts into one family song.

**CATALOG OF PSALMS SELECTIONS FOR**

**MUSICAL VERSIONS AND RESPONSIVE READING**

**Psalm 1: Two Responses to God’s Word**

General, Word, Confirmation. The parallelism is irregular.

Refrain: How blessed are those who love God’s Word.

1How blessed is the man

 who does not walk in the advice of the wicked,

 who does not stand on the path with sinners,

 and who does not sit in a meeting with mockers.

2But his delight is in the teaching of the LORD,

and on his teaching he meditates day and night.

 Refrain: How blessed are those who love God’s Word.

3He is like a tree planted beside streams of water,

 which yields its fruit in season,

 and its leaves do not wither.

Everything he does prospers.

 Refrain: How blessed are those who love God’s Word.

4Not so the wicked!

No, they are like the chaffthe wind blows away.

5Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,

nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

6Yes, the LORD approves of the way of the righteous,

but the way of the wicked will perish.

 Refrain: How blessed are those who love God’s Word.

**PSALM 2 The Nations Conspire, But God’s King Rules Securely**

Lent, Messiah, End Times. Parallelism is quite regular.

Refrain: How blessed are those who trust God’s Son.

1Why do the nations rage?

Why do the peoples grumble in vain?

2The kings of the earth take a stand,

and the rulers join together

 against the LORD

 and against his Anointed One.

3“Let us tear off their chains

and throw off their ropes from us.”

 Refrain: How blessed are those who trust God’s Son.

4The one who is seated in heaven laughs.

The Lord scoffs at them.

5Then he speaks to them in his anger,

and in his wrath he terrifies them.

6“I have installed my King on Zion, my holy mountain.”

 Refrain: How blessed are those who trust God’s Son.

7I will proclaim the decree of the LORD.

He said to me:

“You are my Son.

Today I have begotten you.

8Ask me,

and I will give you the nations as your inheritance

and the ends of the earth as your possession.

9You will smash them with an iron rod.

You will break them to pieces like pottery.”

 Refrain: How blessed are those who trust God’s Son.

10So now, you kings, do what is wise.

Accept discipline, you judges of the earth.

11Serve the LORD with fear,

and rejoice with trembling.

12Kiss the Son,

or he will be angry,

and you will be destroyed in your way,

for his wrath can flare up in a moment.

How blessed are all who take refuge in him.

 Refrain: How blessed are those who trust God’s Son. [May be omitted]

**PSALM 4 My Righteous God, Give Me Relief**

Evening Prayer. Persecution, Affliction. *Interlude (selah)* indicates an instrumental interlude may be placed here. Parallelism is irregular.

 Refrain: My righteous God, answer me when I call.

1My righteous God, answer me when I call. Interlude

3Know this: The LORD has set apart

 his favored onefor himself.

The LORD will hear when I call to him.

 Refrain: My righteous God, answer me when I call.

4You may be upset, but do not sin.

When you are on your beds,

 speak to your heart, but remain silent. Interlude

5Offer righteous sacrifices,

and trust in the LORD.

6Many are saying, “Who can show us any good?”

Shine the light of your face on us, O LORD.

 Refrain: My righteous God, answer me when I call.

7You have placed joy in my heart greater than the joy

 when grain and new wine are plentiful.

8In complete peace I will lie down, and I will sleep,

for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

 Refrain: My righteous God, answer me when I call.

**PSALM 5 With You the Wicked Cannot Dwell**

Morning Prayer, Persecution. Abbreviated. For morning praise without reference to persecution, some verses may be omitted. Parallelism is fairly regular.

Refrain: LORD, in the morning you hear my voice.

1Turn your ear to my words, O LORD.

Understand me when I sigh.

2Pay attention to my cry for help,

 my King and my God,

 for to you I pray.

3LORD, in the morning you hear my voice.

In the morning I lay out my requests in front of you,

and I watch for your answer.

 Refrain: LORD, in the morning you hear my voice.

4For you are not a God who takes pleasure in evil.

With you the wicked cannot dwell.

5The arrogant cannot stand before your eyes.

You hate all evildoers.

6You put to death those who speak lies.

The LORD is disgusted with bloodthirsty, deceitful men.

 Refrain: LORD, in the morning you hear my voice.

7But as for me, by your great mercy

 I will enter your house.

 I will bow down toward your holy temple

 with reverence for you.

8Lord, lead me in your righteousness.

Because of those who slander me,

make your way straight before me.

 Refrain: LORD, in the morning you hear my voice.

11But let all who take refuge in you be glad.

Let them sing for joy forever.

You cover them with protection,

 so those who love your name rejoice in you.

12Yes, LORD, you bless the righteous.

You surround them with your favor as a shield.

 Refrain: LORD, in the morning you hear my voice.

**PSALM 6 Do Not Rebuke Me in Your Anger**

This is the first of the seven psalms traditionally identified as penitential psalms (Psalms 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143). Abbreviated. Parallelism is quite regular by the half verse.

Refrain: LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger.

1LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger.

Do not discipline me in your wrath.

2Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am fading away.

Heal me, LORD, for my bones are trembling,

3and my soul is terrified.

But you, O LORD—how long?

4Turn, O LORD, and deliver my soul.

Save me because of your mercy.

 Refrain: LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger.

5For in death no one remembers you.

In the grave who praises you?

6I am worn out from my groaning.

I flood my bed all night long.

With my tears I drench my couch.

7My eyes are blurred by sorrow.

They are worn out because of all my foes.

 Refrain: LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger.

8Turn away from me, all you evildoers,

because the LORD has heard the sound of my weeping.

9The LORD has heard my cry for mercy.

The LORD accepts my prayer.

 Refrain: LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger.

**PSALM 8 Your Name Is Majestic**

Creation, The Messiah, Epiphany, Palm Sunday, Ascension

Refrain: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

1O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Set this glory of yours above the heavens.

2From the lips of little children and nursing babies

 you have established strength because of your foes,

 to put a stop to the enemy and the avenger.

 Refrain: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

3Whenever I look up at your heavens, the works of your fingers,

the moon and the stars, which you have set in place—

4what is man that you remember him,

the son of man that you pay attention to him!

5Nevertheless, you make him suffer need,

 apart from God for a while,

but you crown him with glory and honor.

6You make him the ruler over the works of your hands.

You put everything under his feet:

7all flocks and cattle, and even the wild animals,

8the birds of the sky, and the fish of the sea,

 which pass through the currents of the seas.

9O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

 Refrain: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

[May be omitted.]

**PSALM 11 Faith, Not Flight**

Reformation, Persecution, Immoral Times, End Times, the Word. Parallelism is mixed

 Refrain: Indeed, the LORD is righteous. He loves righteousness.

1In the LORD I take refuge.

How can you say to my soul:

“Flee to your mountain like a bird.

2Look! The wicked bend their bow.

They set their arrow against the string

 to shoot in the darkness at the upright in heart.

3When the foundations are being torn down,

 what can the righteous do?”

 Refrain: Indeed, the LORD is righteous. He loves righteousness.

4The LORD is in his holy temple.

The LORD is on his throne in heaven.

His eyes observe.

He focuses on the children of Adam.

5The LORD is righteous.

He examines the wicked.

He really hates those who love violence.

6On the wicked he will rain down fiery coals and sulfur.

A scorching wind will be the cup given to them.

7Indeed, the LORD is righteous. He loves righteousness.

The upright will view his face.

 Refrain: Indeed, the LORD is righteous. He loves righteousness.

**PSALM 12 Proud Word vs. Pure Words**

Reformation, Times of Persecution and False Doctrine, End Times

Refrain: Save us, LORD. The faithful have vanished from among mankind.

1Save us, LORD, for the merciful have disappeared.

The faithful have vanished from among mankind.

2Everyone speaks falsehoodto his neighbor.

Their flattering lips speak double-talk.

3May the LORD cut off all flattering lips.

May he cut off every tongue that speaks boastfully,

4which says, “With our tongues we will establish our power.

We say what we please. Who is lord over us?”

 Refrain: Save us, LORD. The faithful have vanished from among mankind.

5“Because of the destruction of the oppressed,

because of the groaning of the poor,

now I will rise up,” says the LORD.

“I will keep him safe from the one who puffs against him.”

 Refrain: Save us, LORD. The faithful have vanished from among mankind.

6The words of the LORD are pure words,

like silver refined in a furnace on the ground,

purified seven times.

7You, LORD, will keep them safe.

You will protect them from such people forever.

8The wicked strut around

when depravity is honored by the children of Adam.

 Refrain: Save us, LORD. The faithful have vanished from among mankind.

**PSALM 13 How Long, O LORD?**

This psalm teaches patience in waiting for relief from the LORD.

 Refrain: I trust in your mercy, LORD.

1How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

2How long must I experience worries in my soul,

sorrow in my heart every day?

How long will my enemy tower over me?

3Look at me. Answer me, O LORD my God.

Give light to my eyes

 so I do not sleep in death,

4 so my enemy does not say, “I have overcome him,”

 so my foes do not rejoice when I fall.

5But I trust in your mercy.

My heart rejoices in your salvation.

6I will sing to the LORD

 because he has accomplished his purpose for me.

 Refrain: I trust in your mercy, LORD.

**PSALM 14 The Fool**

Sin

 Refrain: Who will provide salvation for Israel from Zion?

1The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”

They are corrupt. They do disgusting things.

There is no one who does good.

2The LORD looks down from heaven on all the children of Adam

 to see if there is anyone who understands,

 anyone who seeks God.

3Every one has turned away.

Altogether they have become rotten.

There is no one who does good.

There is not even one.

 Refrain: Who will provide salvation for Israel from Zion?

4Don’t any of these evildoers understand,

those who devour my people as if they were eating bread?

They do not call on the LORD.

5There they are! They are terrified

 because God is present in the circle of the righteous.

6You try to put the plans of the poor to shame,

but the LORD is their refuge.

7Who will provide salvation for Israel from Zion?

When the LORD restores his people,

let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad!

 Refrain: Who will provide salvation for Israel from Zion?

**PSALM 15 Who May Dwell in Your Sanctuary?**

Sanctification, Christian Living. The psalm is a question and an answer.

Refrain: LORD, who may dwell in your sanctuary?

1LORD, who may be a guest in your tent?

Who may dwell on your holy mountain?

 Refrain: LORD, who may dwell in your sanctuary?

2One who walks with integrity,

who does what is righteous,

and who speaks the truth in his heart.

3He has no slander on his tongue.

He does not harm his friend,

and he does not defame his neighbor.

4He despises everyone whom God rejects,

but he honors those who fear the LORD.

When he promises something,

 he does not break his word

 even though it costs him a lot.

5He does not lend his money to get interest,

and he does not accept a bribe against the innocent.

One who does these things will never be toppled.

 Refrain: LORD, we will dwell in your sanctuary. [Notice change in refrain]

**PSALM 16 You Will Not Abandon Me to the Grave**

Easter, Funeral

 Refrain: You have made known to me the path of life.

1Guard me, O God, for I take refuge in you.

2I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord.

I have no good apart from you.”

3The holy ones who are in the land are glorious.

All my delight is in them.

4Those who chase after another god will increase their sorrows.

I will not pour out their drink offerings of blood.

I will not take up their names on my lips.

 Refrain: You have made known to me the path of life.

5LORD, you are the cup that has been given to me.

You have secured an allotment for me.

6The property lines chosen for me fall in pleasant places.

Yes, a delightful inheritance is mine.

7I will bless the LORD, who guides me.

Even at night my heart instructs me.

8I have set the LORD always before me.

Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

9Therefore my heart is glad,

and my whole being rejoices,

Even my flesh will dwell securely

10 because you will not abandon my life to the grave.

You will not let your favored onesee decay.

11You have made known to me the path of life,

 fullness of joy in your presence,

 pleasures at your right hand forever.

Refrain: You have made known to me the path of life.

**PSALM 17 My Righteous Plea**

Funeral, End of Life, Post-Easter, Morning. Abbreviated

Refrain: When I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness.

1Hear my righteous plea, O LORD.

Pay attention to my outcry.

2May a just verdict for me come from you.

May your eyes observe the things that are right.

3You have tested my heart.

You have visited me at night.

You have refined me;

you have found nothing wrong.

I resolved that my mouth will not overstep its bounds.

 Refrain: When I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness.

6Indeed, I call to you because you will answer me, O God.

Turn your ear toward me. Hear what I say.

7Perform wonders through your mercy.

By your right hand save those who seek refuge

 from those who rise up against them.

8Guard me like the pupil of your eye.

In the shadow of your wings hide me.

 Refrain: When I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness.

14You fill the stomach of those whom you treasure.

Their children are satisfied,

and they leave their wealth to their children.

15Indeed, in righteousness I will view your face.

When I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness.

 Refrain: When I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness.

**PSALM 18 Unfailing Kindness to David and to His Descendant Forever**

Messiah, Praise, Suffering. Abbreviated.

Refrain: I love you, O LORD, my strength.

2The LORD is my rocky cliff, my stronghold, and my deliverer.

My God is my rock. I take refuge in him.

He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my high fortress.

3I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise,

and I am saved from my enemies.

 Refrain: I love you, O LORD, my strength.

25To the merciful you reveal yourself as merciful.

To the blameless person you reveal yourself as blameless.

26To the pure you reveal yourself as pure,

but to the crooked you reveal yourself as crafty.

27For you save humble people,

but you bring low the eyes of the arrogant.

28Yes, you light my lamp, O LORD.

My God turns my darkness to light.

29For with you I can charge against a battalion,

and with my God I can jump over a wall.

 Refrain: I love you, O LORD, my strength.

46The LORD lives! Blessed be my Rock!

May the God who saves me be exalted!

50By providing great salvation for his King,

he shows mercy to his Anointed One,

to David and to his Descendantforever.

 Refrain: I love you, O LORD, my strength.

**PSALM 19A The Glory of God Is Revealed in Nature**

Creation, Nature, Natural Knowledge of God. The parallelism is very regular.

 Refrain: The heavens proclaim the glory of God.

1The heavens tell about the glory of God.

The expanse of the sky proclaims the work of his hands.

2Day after day they pour out speech.

Night after night they display knowledge.

3They do not speak. They say no words.

Their voice is not heard.

4Their voice goes out into all the earth,

and their word reaches the end of the world.

 Refrain: The heavens proclaim the glory of God.

God has pitched a tent for the sun in the heavens.

5It comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy.

It celebrates like a champion who has run his race.

6It sets out from one end of the heavens.

It runs until it reaches the other end.

There is nowhere to hide from its heat.

 Refrain: The heavens proclaim the glory of God.

**PSALM 19B The Glory of God Is Revealed in His Word**

The Word, Repentance, Confession. The parallelism is very regular.

 Refrain: The Wordof the LORD is perfect.

7The lawof the LORD is perfect.

It revives the soul.

The testimony of the LORD is trustworthy.

It gives wisdom to the inexperienced.

8The precepts of the LORD are right.

They give joy to the heart.

The commandment of the LORD is bright.

It gives light to the eyes.

9The fear of the LORDis pure.

It stands forever.

The just decrees of the LORD are truth.

They are altogether righteous.

10They are more desirable than gold,

even better than much pure gold.

They are sweeter than honey,

even honey dripping from the honeycomb.

 Refrain: The Wordof the LORD is perfect.

11Yes, by them your servant is warned.

In keeping them there is great reward.

12Who can recognize his own errors?

Declare me innocent of hidden sins.

13Restrain your servant also from deliberate sins.

Do not let them rule over me.

Then I will be blameless.

Then I will be innocent of great rebellion.

14May the speech from my mouth

and the thoughts in my heart be pleasing to you,

O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

 Refrain: The Wordof the LORD is perfect.

**PSALM 22A Why Have You Forsaken Me?**

Lent, Messiah. This description of Christ’s suffering may be shortened, but it is desirable to use the whole psalm during Lent. Different parts could be used different weeks.

 Refrain: O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

1My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

My groaning does nothing to save me.

2My God, I call out by day, but you do not answer.

I call out by night, but there is no relief for me.

 Refrain: O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

3Yet you are seated as the Holy One,praised by Israel.

4In you our fathers trusted.

They trusted and you delivered them.

5They cried out to you, and they were rescued.

They trusted in you, and they were not disappointed.

 Refrain: O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

6But I am a worm and not a man,

scorned by men and despised by the people.

7All who see me mock me. They sneer.

They shake their heads.

They say, 8“Trust in the LORD.”

“Let the LORD deliver him.

Let him rescue him, if he delights in him.”

 Refrain: O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

12Many bulls surround me.

Strong bulls from Bashanencircle me.

13Enemies open their mouths wide against me,

like a lion that tears its prey and roars.

14Like water I am poured out.

All my bones are pulled apart.

My heart has become like wax.

It has melted in the middle of my chest.

15My strength is dried up like broken pottery,

and my tongue is stuck to the roof of my mouth.

You lay me in the dust of death.

16For dogs have surrounded me.

A band of evil men has encircled me.

They have pierced my hands and my feet.

17I can count all my bones.

They stare and gloat over me.

18They divide my garments among them.

For my clothing they cast lots.

 Refrain: O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

19But you, O LORD, do not be distant.

O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

20Deliver my life from the sword,

my only life from the power of the dog.

21Save me from the mouth of the lion.

From the horns of the wild oxen you have answered me.

 Refrain: O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

**PSALM 22B Why Have You Forsaken Me?**

Jesus’ Exaltation, Easter Season, Ascension, Missions, Messiah.

Refrain: The LORD has exalted his Servant.

22I will declare your name to my brothers.

In the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

23You who fear the LORD, praise him!

All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!

Stand in awe of him, all you descendants of Israel!

24For he has not despised nor detested the affliction of the afflicted.

He has not hidden his face from him,

but when he cried out to him, he heard.

25You are the source of my praise in the great congregation.

I will fulfill my vows in the presence of those who fear him.

 Refrain: The LORD has exalted his Servant.

26The poor will eat and be satisfied.

Those who seek him will praise the LORD

—may he live in your hearts forever!

27All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD,

and all the families of the nations will bow down before you.

28For the kingdom belongs to the LORD,

and he rules over the nations.

29All the rich of the earth will eat and bow down.

All who go down to the dust will kneel before him

—those who cannot keep themselves alive.

30Descendants will serve him.

For generations people will be told about the Lord.

31They will come and proclaim his righteousness

 to a people yet to be born

 —because he has done it.

Refrain: The LORD has exalted his Servant.

**PSALM 23 The King of Love My Shepherd Is**

General, Funeral, Good Shepherd Sunday. The refrain is the central affirmation of the psalm.

*Refrain*: I will fear no evil, for you are with me.

1The LORD is my shepherd.

I lack nothing.

2He causes me to lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside quiet waters.

3He restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.

 *Refrain*: I will fear no evil, for you are with me.

4Even 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.

 *Refrain*: I will fear no evil, for you are with me.

5You set a table for me in the presence of my foes.

You drench my head with oil.

My cup is overflowing.

6Surely goodness and mercy will pursue me all the days of my life,

and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.

 *Refrain*: I will fear no evil, for you are with me.

**PSALM 24 The King of Glory**

Advent, Jesus’ Exaltation, End Times. *Interlude* marks spots that the psalmist marked for a musical interlude.

Refrain: Lift up your heads, you gates

and the King of Glory will come in.

1The earth is the LORD’s

and everything that fills it,

the world and all who live in it,

2because he founded it on the seas,

and he established it on the rivers.

Refrain: Lift up your heads, you gates

and the King of Glory will come in.

3Who may go up to the mountain of the LORD?

Who may stand in his holy place?

4He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

whose soul is not set on what is false,

who does not swear deceitfully.

5He will receive blessing from the LORD

and righteousness from the God who saves him.

6Such are the people of Jacob

who look for the LORD,

who seek your face.

Refrain: Lift up your heads, you gates

and the King of Glory will come in.

Interlude

7Lift up your heads, you gates.

Lift yourselves up, you ancient doors,

and the King of Glory will come in.

8Who is this King of Glory?

The LORD strong and mighty,

the LORD mighty in battle.

9Lift up your heads, you gates.

Lift up, you ancient doors,

and the King of Glory will come in.

10Who is he, this King of Glory?

The LORD of Armies—he is the King of Glory. Interlude

Refrain: Lift up your heads, you gates

and the King of Glory will come in.

**PSALM 25 Teach Me Your Ways**

General Prayer, Confession, the Word. In Hebrew this psalm is an alphabetic acrostic, which works its way through the letters of the Hebrew alphabet. So this psalm covers the priorities of prayer from A to Z. For that reason the psalm is left complete. Composers may wish to abbreviate it for some uses and reposition refrains.

Refrain: Make your ways known to me, O LORD.

1To you, O LORD, I will lift up my soul.

2In you I have trusted, O my God.

Do not let me be put to shame.

Do not let my enemies triumph over me.

3All who hope in you will never be put to shame,

but those who are treacherous for no reason will be put to shame.

Refrain: Make your ways known to me, O LORD.

4Make your ways known to me, O LORD.

Teach me your paths.

5Make me walk in your truth and teach me,

because you are the God who saves me.

In you I hope all day long.

6Remember, O LORD, your compassion and your mercy,

for they are from eternity.

7Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways.

According to your mercy remember me,

because of your goodness, O LORD.

Refrain: Make your ways known to me, O LORD.

8Good and upright is the LORD.

Therefore, he instructs sinners in the right way.

9He directs the humble to what is just,

and he teaches the humble his way.

10All the ways of the LORD are mercy and truth

 for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

11For the sake of your name, O LORD,

you forgive my guilt, although it is great.

 Refrain: Make your ways known to me, O LORD.

12Who, then, is the man who fears the LORD?

The LORD will instruct him in the way he chooses.

13That man will enjoy a good life,

and his descendants will possess the land.

14The guidance of the LORD is with those who fear him.

His covenant will give them knowledge.

 Refrain: Make your ways known to me, O LORD.

15My eyes are always on the LORD,

because he frees my feet from the net.

16Turn toward me and be gracious to me,

because I am lonely and afflicted.

17The distress of my heart increases.

Bring me out of my anguish.

18See my affliction and my trouble,

and take away all my sins.

19See my enemies

—how they have increased,

and how violently they hate me!

20Guard my life and rescue me.

Do not let me be put to shame,

for I have taken refuge in you.

21May integrity and uprightness protect me,

 because I wait for you.

22Redeem Israel, O God, from all its distress!

 Refrain: Make your ways known to me, O LORD.

**PSALM 27 The Stronghold of My Life**

Worship, Time of Suffering, War. Abbreviated.

Refrain: The LORD is the stronghold of my life

—of whom shall I be afraid?

1The LORD is my light and my salvation

—whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life

—of whom shall I be afraid?

3If an army lines up against me, my heart will not fear.

If war rises against me, even then I will keep trusting.

Refrain: The LORD is the stronghold of my life

—of whom shall I be afraid?

4One thing I ask from the LORD. This is what I seek:

that I live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,

 to gaze on the beauty of the LORD,

 and to seek him in his temple.

Refrain: The LORD is the stronghold of my life

—of whom shall I be afraid?

5Yes, he will hide me in his shelter on the day of trouble.

He will hide me in his tent.

He will set me high on a rock.

6Then my head will be lifted up above the enemies who surround me.

I will offer sacrifices at his tent with a joyful shout*.*

I will sing and make music to the LORD.

Refrain: The LORD is the stronghold of my life

—of whom shall I be afraid?

7Hear me, O LORD. With my voice I call.

Be merciful to me and answer me.

8When you say, “Seek my face,” my heart says to you,

“Your face, LORD, I will seek.”

9Do not hide your face from me.

Do not turn your servant away in anger.

You have been my help.

Do not reject me or forsake me, O God who saves me.

10If my father and my mother abandoned me,

 the LORD would take me in.

Refrain: The LORD is the stronghold of my life

—of whom shall I be afraid?

13Unless I was confident to see the goodness of the LORD

 in the land of the living—

14Wait for the LORD. Be strong and take heart,

and wait for the LORD!

Refrain: The LORD is the stronghold of my life

—of whom shall I be afraid?

**PSALM 29 The God of Glory Thunders**

Nature, Creation, Providence, Natural Knowledge of God. Parallelism is quite regular.

Refrain: The God of glory thunders.

 1Ascribe to the LORD, you sons of God,

Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

2Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name.

Bow down to the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

Refrain: The God of glory thunders.

3The voice of the LORD is heard over the waters.

The God of glory thunders.

The LORD thunders above the mighty waters.

4The voice of the LORD thunders in power.

The voice of the LORD thunders in majesty.

5The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars.

The LORD shatters the cedars of Lebanon.

6He makes Mount Lebanon skip like a calf.

Sirion skips like a young wild ox.

7The voice of the LORD slashes with flashes of fire.

8The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness.

The LORD shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh.

9The voice of the LORD destroys the oaks

and strips the forests bare.

So in his temple they all say, “Glory!”

10The LORD is seated over the flood.

The LORD is seated as King forever.

11The LORD gives strength to his people.

The LORD blesses his people with peace.

Refrain: The God of glory thunders.

**PSALM 31 Into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit**

Death, End of Life, Distress, Lent. Abbreviated—the full psalm has more about enemies. This selection is shaped toward end of life.

Refrain:My times are in your hand.

Alternate Refrain: Into your hands I commit my spirit.

1In you, LORD, I have taken refuge.

In your righteousness deliver me.

2Turn your ear toward me.

Hurry! Rescue me!

Be a rock where I take refuge,

a fortified place that saves me.

Refrain:My times are in your hand.

3Yes, you are my rocky cliff and my stronghold.

For the sake of your name you will lead me and guide me.

5Into your hand I commit my spirit.

You have redeemed me, O LORD, the God of truth.

Refrain:My times are in your hand.

7I will be glad and rejoice in your mercy,

because you saw my affliction.

You knew the distress of my soul.

Refrain:My times are in your hand.

9Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am in distress.

My eye grows weak with sorrow

—my soul and my body too.

10Yes, my life is consumed by grief,

and my years by groaning.

My strength fails because of my guilt,

and my bones grow weak.

12I have been forgotten like a dead man, gone from memory.

I have become like a broken pot.

14But I—I trust in you, O LORD.

I say, “You are my God.”

15My times are in your hand.

16Let your face shine on your servant.

Save me in your mercy.

Refrain:My times are in your hand.

24Love the LORD, all his favored ones!

The LORD preserves the faithful.

25Be strong, and let your heart be firm,

 all you who wait confidently for the LORD.

Refrain:My times are in your hand.

**PSALMS 32 How Blessed Is the Person Whose Rebellion Is Forgiven**

Sin, Repentance, Confession, Lent, Justification, Forgiveness. This psalm is the second of the traditional seven penitential psalms. *Interlude* marks a spot for a musical interlude. Verses 8-10 could be omitted.

Refrain: I will confess my guilt to the LORD.

1How blessed is the person

 whose rebellion is forgiven,

 whose sin is covered.

2How blessed is the person

 whose guilt the LORD does not charge against him,

 in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Refrain: I will confess my guilt to the LORD.

3When I kept silent,

my bones wasted away as I groaned all day long.

4For day and night your hand was heavy on me.

My moisture was dried up by the droughts of summer. Interlude

5I acknowledged my sin to you,

and I did not cover up my guilt.

I said, “I will confess my rebellion to the LORD,”

and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Interlude

6Because of this let everyone who receives favor

 pray to you at a time when you may be found.

Surely when the mighty waters overflow,

they will not reach him.

7You are my hiding place.

You will protect me from distress.

You will surround me with shouts of deliverance. Interlude

Refrain: I will confess my guilt to the LORD.

8I will make you wise.

I will instruct you in the way that you should go.

I will guide you, keeping my eye on you.

9Do not be like a horse or a mule, which has no understanding.

Its mouth must be controlled by a bit and bridle,

or else it will not come to you.

10Many are the sorrows of the wicked,

but mercy will surround those who trust in the LORD.

11Rejoice in the LORD and celebrate, all you righteous,

and shout joyfully, all you upright in heart.

Refrain: I will confess my guilt to the LORD.

**PSALM 33 God’s Love in Creation and Providence**

Praise, Music, Creation, Providence, History, National Holidays. This may be treated as three songs. A on music, B on creation, C on history.

A. Music

Refrain: Sin to the LORD a new song.

1Shout joyfully to the LORD, you righteous.

The praise of the upright is beautiful.

2Thank the LORD with a lyre.

Make music for him with the ten-stringed harp.

3Sing to him a new song.

Play skillfully and shout praises.

4Yes, the word of the LORD is right,

and everything he does is trustworthy.

5He loves righteousness and justice.

The mercy of the LORD fills the earth.

Refrain: Sin to the LORD a new song.

B. Creation

Refrain:By the word of the LORD the heavens were made.

6By the word of the LORD the heavens were made.

By the breath of his mouth he made the whole army of stars.

7He gathers the water of the sea into a heap.

He puts the depths into storehouses.

8Let all the earth fear the LORD.

Let all the inhabitants of the world revere him.

9For he said, “Let it be,” and it was!

He gave a command, and there it stood.

Refrain:By the word of the LORD the heavens were made.

C. History

Refrain: How blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD .10The LORD wrecks the plan of the nations.

He hinders the intentions of the peoples.

11The plan of the LORD stands forever.

The intentions of his heart stand through all generations.

12How blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,

the people he chose to be his possession.

Refrain: How blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD. 13From heaven the LORD observes.

He sees all the children of Adam.

14From his throne room he looks at all the inhabitants of earth.

15He is the one who shapes their hearts altogether.

He understands all their deeds.

16No king is saved by the great size of his army.

No hero is rescued by his great strength.

17You cannot rely on a horse to save you.

Its great strength will not deliver you.

18Look, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,

on those who wait for his mercy.

19He will deliver their souls from death.

He keeps them alive in famine.

20Our souls wait for the LORD.

He is our help and our shield.

Refrain: How blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD.

**PSALM 37 Do Not Fret Because of Evildoers**Dealing with Evil, the World

Refrain: Be still and wait patiently for the LORD.

1Do not fret because of evildoers.

Do not be envious of those who do wrong,

2for like grass they will wither quickly.

Like green plants they will wilt*.*

 Refrain: Be still and wait patiently for the LORD.

3Trust in the LORD, and do good.

Dwell in the land and feed on faithfulness*.*

4Take pleasure in the LORD,

and he will grant your heart’s desires.

5Commit your way to the LORD.

Trust in him, and he will act.

6He will make your righteousness shine like light,

your justice like noon.

7Be silent before the LORD. Wait patiently for him.

Do not fret when an evil man succeeds in his ways,

when he carries out his wicked schemes.

 Refrain: Be still and wait patiently for the LORD.

8Let go of anger and abandon rage, 9since evildoers will be cut off.

But those who hope in the LORD will inherit the earth.

29The righteous will inherit the earth.

They will dwell on it forever.

34Wait for the LORD and keep to his way.

He will raise you up to take possession of the earth.

When the wicked are cut off, you will see it.

Yes, there is a future for the man of peace,

The future of the wicked will be cut off.

39The salvation of the righteous comes from the LORD.

He is their stronghold in times of stress.

Refrain: Be still and wait patiently for the LORD.

**PSALM 40 My God, I take pleasure in doing your will.**

The Messiah, Lent, Obedience, Praise. Abbreviated. It can be further abbreviated. This psalm is especially about Christ’s willing sacrifice for sin.

Refrain: My God, I take pleasure in doing your will.

1I waited and waited for the LORD.

Then he turned to me and heard my cry.

2Then he pulled me up from the deadly quicksand,

from the mud and muck.

He made my feet stand on a rock to keep my steps from slipping.

3Then he put a new song in my mouth,

a hymn of praise to our God.

Refrain: My God, I take pleasure in doing your will.

5Many are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God.

No one can explain to you all your thoughts for us.

If I try to speak and tell about them,

they are too many to count.

Refrain: My God, I take pleasure in doing your will.

6Sacrifice and offering you did not desire.

Ears you have opened for me.

You did not ask for burnt offerings and sin offerings.

7Then I said, “Here I am, I have come.

The book written on a scroll tells about me.

8My God, I take pleasure in doing your will.

Your law is in my heart.”

Refrain: My God, I take pleasure in doing your will.

9I preach righteousness in the great assembly.

Indeed, I do not hold back my lips, O LORD, as you know.

10I do not conceal your righteousness deep in my heart.

I speak of your faithfulness and salvation.

I do not hide your mercy and your truth from the great assembly.

Refrain: My God, I take pleasure in doing your will.

14Let all who seek to end my life be frustrated and completely confused.

Let everyone who desires my ruin be turned back and disgraced.

16But let all those who seek you rejoice and be glad in you.

Let those who love your salvation always say,

“The LORD is great!”

You are my help and my deliverer.

O my God, do not delay.

Refrain: My God, I take pleasure in doing your will.

**PSALM 41 Even My Friend Betrays Me**

Lent, Betrayal, Judas, Messiah

Refrain: you set me up in your presence forever.

1How blessed is the person who understands the plight of the weak!

May the LORD deliver him in the day of trouble.

2May the LORD guard him and keep him alive.

May he be blessed in the land.

May you not surrender him to the desire of his enemies.

Refrain: you set me up in your presence forever.

5My enemies speak evil about me and say:

“When will he die and his name perish?”

6If one comes to see me, he speaks falsely.

In his heart he collects malicious plans.

He goes out. He speaks about them in the street.

7All who hate me whisper together against me.

9Even a man who was at peace with me,

a man whom I trusted, who ate my bread,

 has raised up his heel to step on me.

Refrain: you set me up in your presence forever.

11From this I know that you are pleased with me:

My enemy does not triumph over me.

12As for me—in my integrity you uphold me,

and you set me up in your presence forever.

10But you, LORD, have mercy on me.

Raise me up, so that I can repay them. [Can be omitted]

**PSALMS 42 & 43 An Exile’s Prayer: Why Are You So Depressed?**

Time of Trouble, Exile, Separation. Here the refrain is the refrain of the psalm itself. It is added at the beginning. There is slight variation in the refrain. Otherwise it is in the psalm itself. Individual parts may be used independently.

*Refrain*

Why are you so depressed, O my soul?

Why so disturbed within me?

Hope in God, for I will again praise him

 for salvation from his presence.

1As a doe pants for streams of water,

so my soul pants for you, O God.

2My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

When can I go and appear before God?

3My tears have been food for me day and night,

while people are saying to me all day,

“Where is your God?”

4I am overcome by my emotions

whenever I remember these things:

 how I used to arrive with the crowd,

 as I led the procession to the house of God,

 with loud shouts of thanksgiving,

 with the crowd celebrating the festival.

*Refrain*

5Why are you so depressed, O my soul?

Why so disturbed within me?

Hope in God, for I will again praise him

 for salvation from his presence.

6My God, my soul is depressed within me.

Therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan,

from the heights of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.

7Deep calls to deep in the roar of your rapids.

All your breakers and your waves have swept over me.

8By day the LORD commands his mercy,

and at night his song is with me—a prayer to the God of my life.

9I say to God my Rock, “Why have you forgotten me?

Why must I go around mourning because of oppression by the enemy?”

10It is like breaking my boneswhen my foes taunt me.

All day long they say to me, “Where is your God?”

*Refrain*

11Why are you so depressed, O my soul?

Why so disturbed within me?

Hope in God, for I will again praise him

 for my salvation from the face of my God.

Psalm 43

1Judge me justly, O God,

and plead my case against an ungodly nation.

Rescue me from the deceitful, wicked man.

2I know you are God, my stronghold.

Why have you rejected me?

Why must I go around mourning

 because of oppression by the enemy?

3Send out your light and your truth.

Let them guide me.

Let them bring me to your holy mountain,

to your dwelling.

4Then I will go to the altar of God,

to God, my joy and gladness.

Then I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God.

*Refrain*

5Why are you so depressed, O my soul?

Why so disturbed within me?

Hope in God, for I will again praise him

 for my salvation from the face of God.

**PSALM 45 The Wedding of the Victorious King**

The Messiah, Christ’s Exaltation, Christ and the Church, Epiphany, Advent, Palm Sunday, End Times. Abbreviated. Verses between 8 and 15 may be omitted to shorten the song (8. 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15). Verses 1 and 17 are treated as introduction and conclusion

Refrain: I will remember you through all generations.

1My heart is bubbling over with a beautiful theme.

I am reciting my works for the King.

My tongue is the pen of a rapid writer.

Refrain: I will remember you through all generations.

2You are the most beautiful of the sons of Adam.

Grace is poured out on your lips.

Therefore God has blessed you forever.

Refrain: I will remember you through all generations.

3Strap your sword on your thigh, you mighty warrior,

 in your splendor and your majesty.

4In your majesty advance successfully.

Ride forward in the cause of truth, humility, and righteousness.

Let your right hand teach you awesome deeds.

5Your arrows are sharpened.

Let peoples fall beneath you.

Your arrows are in the heart of the king’s enemies.

Refrain: I will remember you through all generations.

6Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.

The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of justice.

7You love righteousness and hate wickedness.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy

 more than any of your companions.

Refrain: I will remember you through all generations.

8Myrrh, aloes, and cassia perfume all your garments.

From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad.

9Daughters of kings are among your honored attendants.

The royal wife stands at your right hand in gold from Ophir.

10Hear, O daughter, look and listen.Forget your people and your father’s house,11because the king desires your beauty.

Because he is your lord, bow down to him.

12Then the daughter of Tyre will come with a gift.

The richest people will seek your favor.

13The princess, who waits inside, is all glorious.

Her dress is interwoven with gold.

14In embroidered garments she is led to the king.

Virgins who follow her as attendants are brought to you.

15They are brought with joyful celebration.

They enter the palace of the king.

16Your sons will take the place of your fathers.You will make them princes in all the land.

Refrain: I will remember you through all generations.

17I will preserve the memory of your name through all generations.

Therefore peoples will praise you forever and ever.

**PSALM 46 The King’s Reign**

Reformation, End Times, Judgment Day. The term *interlude* is a spot the psalmist marked for a musical interlude.

Refrain: God is our refuge and strength,

a helper who can always be found in times of trouble.

1God is our refuge and strength,

a helper who can always be found in times of trouble.

2That is why we will not fear when the earth dissolves

and when the mountains tumble into the heart of the sea.

3Its waters roar and foam.

The mountains quake when it rises. Interlude

Refrain: God is our refuge and strength,

a helper who can always be found in times of trouble.

4There is a river—its streams bring joy to the city of God,

to the holy dwelling of the Most High.

5God is in her. She will not fall.

God will help her at daybreak*.*

6Nations are in turmoil. Kingdoms fall.

God raises his voice. The earth melts.

7The LORD of Armies is with us.

The God of Jacob is a fortress for us. Interlude

Refrain: God is our refuge and strength,

a helper who can always be found in times of trouble.

8Come, look at the works of the LORD.

What a wasteland he has made of the earth!

9He makes wars cease to the end of the earth.

He shatters the bow. He cuts up the spear.

He burns the carts with fire.

10“Be still, and know that I am God.

I will be exalted among the nations.

I will be exalted on the earth.”

11The LORD of Armies is with us.

The God of Jacob is a fortress for us. Interlude

Refrain: God is our refuge and strength,

a helper who can always be found in times of trouble.

**PSALM 47 The King’s Empire**

Ascension, Missions. *Interlude* is a spot the psalmist marked for musical interlude.

Refrain: Praise the Great King of all the earth!

1All you peoples, clap your hands!

Shout to God! Sing a loud song!

Refrain: Praise the Great King of All the Earth!

2Yes, the LORD Most High is awesome.

He is the great King over all the earth!

3He subduespeoples under us

and nations under our feet.

4He chooses our inheritance for us.

It is the pride of Jacob, whom he loves. Interlude

5God has ascended with a joyful shout.

The LORD goes up with the sound of the ram’s horn.

Refrain: Praise the Great King of all the earth!

6Make music for God! Make music!

Make music for our King! Make music!

7For God is the King of all the earth.

Make music for him with a wise song.

8God reigns as king over the nations.

God is seated on his holy throne.

9The nobles of the peoples come together

 as the people of the God of Abraham.

Yes, the shields of the earth belong to God.

He is greatly exalted*.*

Refrain: Praise the Great King of All the Earth!

**PSALM 48 The Security of the King’s Holy City**

Missions, the Church, End Times, Eternal Life. Verses 4 to 7 could be omitted. *Interlude* is a spot marked by the psalmist for a musical interlude.

Refrain: Praise the Great King of all the earth!

1The LORD is great. He deserves to be praised

 in the city of our God, on his holy mountain.

2His mountain is lofty and beautiful, the joy of the whole earth.

Mount Zion, the northern mountain, is the city of the Great King.

3God is in her citadels.

He is famous as her fortress.

Refrain: Praise the Great King of all the earth!

4Look! See! The kings came together.

They advanced together.

5They saw. Yes, they were amazed.

They were terrified. They were put to flight.

6Trembling seized them there,

pain like a woman giving birth.

7You shattered them with an east wind, like ships of Tarshish.

Refrain: Praise the Great King of all the earth!

8What we have heard, we now have also seen:

 In the city of the LORD of Armies,

 in the city of our God,

 God establishes her forever. Interlude

Refrain: Praise the Great King of all the earth!

9Inside your temple, O God, we meditate on your mercy.

10Your praise, O God, reaches to the ends of the earth,

just as your fame does.

Righteousness fills your right hand.

11Mount Zion rejoices.

The daughters of Judah celebrate because of your judgments.

12Go around Zion. Yes, go all the way around her.

Count her towers. 13Consider her rampart.

View her citadels,

 so that you may tell the next generation about them.

14For this God is our God forever and ever.

He will guide us beyond death*.*

Refrain: Praise the Great King of all the earth!

**PSALM 51A Cleanse Me From My Sin**

Sin, Confession, Justification

Refrain:Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

1Be gracious to me, God,

 according to your mercy.

Erase my acts of rebellion

 according to the greatness of your compassion.

2Scrub me clean from my guilt.

Purify me from my sin.

Refrain:Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

3For I admit my rebellious acts.

My sin is always in front of me.

4Against you, you only, have I sinned,

and I have done this evil in your eyes.

So you are justified when you sentence me.

You are blameless when you judge.

5Certainly, I was guilty when I was born.

I was sinful when my mother conceived me.

6Since you desire truth on the inside,

in my hidden heart you teach me wisdom.

Refrain:Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

7Remove my sin with hyssop, and I will be clean.

Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

8Let me hear joy and gladness.

Let the bones you have crushed celebrate.

9Hide your face from my sins.

Erase all my guilty deeds.

Refrain:Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

**PSALM 51B Create in me a pure heart, O God.**

Sanctification, Christian Worship.

Refrain:Create in me a pure heart, O God.

10Create in me a pure heart, O God.

Renew an unwavering spirit within me.

11Do not cast me from your presence.

Do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

12Restore to me the joy of your salvation.

Sustain me with a willing spirit.

Refrain:Create in me a pure heart, O God.

13I will teach rebels your ways,

and sinners will turn to you.

14Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,

 the God who saves me.

My tongue will shout for joy about your righteousness.

15Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare your praise.

16For you do not delight in sacrifice,

or I would give it.

You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

17The sacrifices God wants are a broken spirit.

A broken and crushed heart, O God, you will not despise.

Refrain:Create in me a pure heart, O God.

18As it pleases you, do good for Zion.

Build up the walls of Jerusalem.

19Then you will be pleased with righteous sacrifices,

 burnt offerings and whole offerings.

Then bulls will be offered up on your altar.

Refrain:Create in me a pure heart, O God.

**PSALM 62 My Soul Rests in God Alone**

Trust, Comfort

Refrain: My souls finds rest in God alone.

1My soul rests quietly in God alone.

My salvation is from him.

2He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress.

I will not be disturbed.

[3How long will you threaten a man?

Do all of you want to murder him,

 like a leaning wall, like a fence to be pushed down?

[4Yes, they plan to pushhim down from his lofty place.

They are delighted with deceit.

With their mouths they bless,

but inside they curse. Interlude

Refrain: My souls finds rest in God alone.

5My soul, rests quietly in God alone,

for my hope comes from him.

6He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress.

I will not be disturbed.

7My salvation and my honor depend on God, my strong rock.

My refuge is in God.

8Trust in him at all times, you people.

Pour out your hearts before him.

God is a refuge for us. Interlude

Refrain: My souls finds rest in God alone.

9Yes, the sons of Adam are only a breath.

The sons of man are a delusion.

On a scale they weigh nothing.

They are nothing but air.

10Do not trust in extortion.

Do not put empty confidence in stolen goods.

If your wealth grows, do not set your heart on it.

11One thing God has spoken,

two things that I have heard:

 that God has strength

12 and that you, Lord, have mercy.

Surely you will repay each person

 according to what he has done.

Refrain: My souls finds rest in God alone.

**PSALM 63 My Soul Thirsts for You**

Night, Comfort, Trust, Praise

Refrain: God, you are my God. My soul thirsts for you.

1God, you are my God. Eagerly I seek you.

My soul thirsts for you. My flesh longs for you,

 in a dry and dreary land without water.

2Yes, in the sanctuary I have watched you

 to see your power and your glory.

Refrain: God, you are my God. My soul thirsts for you.

3Because your mercy is better than life,

 my lips will worship you.

4Yes, I will bless you as long as I live.

In your name I will lift up my hands.

5My soul will be satisfied with rich food*.*

My mouth will praise you with lips filled with songs.

6WheneverI remember you on my bed,

throughout the watches of the night I meditate on you.

7Because you are a help for me,

I sing for joy under the shade of your wings.

8My soul clings to you.

Your right hand upholds me.

Refrain: God, you are my God. My soul thirsts for you.

**PSALM 65 A Thanksgiving Psalm: You Crown the Year with Goodness**Thanksgiving. Harvest. The Nation, New Years. Abbreviated. Verses 5-8 have more of a national tone, which can be part of Thanksgiving.

Refrain: You crown the year with your goodness.

1Praise waits for you, O God, in Zion.

To you vows will be fulfilled.

2You who hear prayer, to you all mortals will come.

3The record of my guilt overpowered me.You atone for our rebellious acts.4How blessed is the one you choose and bring near!

He will dwell in your courtyards.

We will be satisfied by the goodness of your house,

by the holiness of your temple.

Refrain: You crown the year with your goodness.

5In righteousness you answer us with awesome deeds,

 O God who saves us.

He is trusted by all the farthest ends of the earth and the sea.

6He establishes the mountainsby his power.

He has wrapped himself with strength.

7He stills the roaring of the seas,

the roaring of their waves,

and the turmoil of the peoples*.*

8Those living at the ends of the earth fear your signs*.*

From sunrise to sunset you let them shout for joy.

Refrain: You crown the year with your goodness.

9You visit the earth and water it.

You make it very rich.

God’s stream is filled with water.

You provide grain for them, just as you planned.

10You drench the land’s furrows. You flatten its plowed ground.

You soften it with showers. You bless its crops.

11You crown the year with your goodness.

The tracks made by your carts overflow with riches.

12The pastures of the wilderness drip.

The hills are wrapped with joy.

13The meadows are clothed with flocks.

The valleys are dressed with grain.

They shout for joy. Yes! They sing.

Refrain: You crown the year with your goodness.

**PSALM 66 How Awesome Are Your Deeds!**

Providence, Praise. Israel’s History. The Nations. *Interlude* marks a spot the psalmist designated for a musical interlude. Abbreviated. It may be abbreviated to fit the occasion by omitting a section. Verses 5-12 are a history section. Verses 13-20 are a festival section

Refrain: How awesome are your deeds, O LORD.

1Shout praise to God, all the earth!

2Make music to the glory of his name!

Make his praise glorious!

3Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!”

Because of your great power your enemies must cower before you.

4All the earth bows down to you.

They make music to you.

They make music to your name.

Refrain: How awesome are your deeds, O LORD. Interlude

Refrain: How awesome are your deeds, O LORD.

5Come and see the works of God.

How awesome are his deeds for all people!

6He turned the sea into dry land.

They crossed through the river on foot.

Let us rejoice in him there.

7He rules by his power forever.

His eyes watch the nations.

Do not let the rebellious rise up against him. Interlude

8Bless our God, you peoples.

Let the sound of his praise be heard.

9He is the one who has preserved our lives.

He did not let our feet slip.

10Indeed, you tested us, God.

You refined us as silver is refined.

11You led us into a trap.

You laid a burden on our backs.

12You let men ride over our heads.

We went through fire and through water,

but you brought us out to a well-watered place*.*

Refrain: How awesome are your deeds, O LORD.

13I will come to your house with whole burnt offerings.

I will fulfill my vows to you,

14 which my lips uttered,

 which my mouth spoke during my trouble.

15I will offer fat animals to you as whole burnt offerings,

 along with the smoke from rams.

I will offer cattle with goats. Interlude

16Come, listen, all you who fear God,

and let me tell what he has done to save my life.

17To him I cried out with my mouth.

High praise was on my tongue.

18If I had contemplated evil in my heart,

the Lord would not have listened,

19but God has surely listened.

He has paid attention to the sound of my prayer.

20Blessed be God, who has not turned aside my prayer,

or turned aside his mercy from me!

Refrain: How awesome are your deeds, O LORD.

**PSALM 67 Your Kingdom Come**

Missions, Pentecost, Epiphany. *Interlude* is a spot marked for a musical interlude by the psalmist.

Refrain: Let all the peoples praise you, God. [can be doubled]

 Let all the peoples praise you.

1May God be gracious to us and bless us.May his face shine on us— Interlude

2so that your way may be known on earth,

your salvation among all nations.

Refrain: Let all the peoples praise you, God.

3May the peoples praise you, O God.

May the peoples praise you—all of them.

4May the countries be glad and sing for joy,

because you rule the peoples with fairness,

and you guide the countries of the earth. Interlude

5May the peoples praise you, O God.

May the peoples praise you—all of them.

6The earth will yield its harvest.

God, our God, will bless us.

7God will bless us,

and all the ends of the earth will fear him.

Refrain: Let all the peoples praise you, God.

**PSALM 68 The Procession of God**

Ascension, End Times, Distress, Thanksgiving, Israel’s History. Abbreviated. This most difficult psalm is very challenging. Taken as a whole, it is a historical celebration of the journey of the Ark of the Covenant from Sinai to Jerusalem. For congregational use, some of the more generic parts and verses 17 and 18 have been used for Ascension Day. The theme of parts below are tagged in red. Deciding what to do here would be a challenge for a composer. This psalm also offers opportunities for musical interludes.

Refrain:Bless the LORD! Day by day he bears our burdens.

1May God arise. May his enemiesscatter.May those who hate him flee from his presence.

2As smoke is blown away, may you blow them away.

As wax melts before the fire, may the wicked perish before God.

Refrain:Bless the LORD! Day by day he bears our burdens. Israel’s History

3The righteous rejoice and celebratein the presence of God.They will be happy and joyful.4Sing to God, make music to his name.Lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts.

His name is the LORD*.* Celebrate before him.

Refrain:Bless the LORD! Day by day he bears our burdens. Generic

5In his holy dwelling, God is a father for the fatherless

and a judge who defends widows.

6God causes the lonely to dwell together as a household.

He leads out the prisoners with music,

but the rebellious dwell in a scorched land.

Refrain:Bless the LORD! Day by day he bears our burdens.

7God, when you went out in front of your people, *History*

when you marched through the wasteland, Interlude

8the earth shook.

Yes, the heavens poured down rain,

 before God, this one from Sinai,

 before God, the God of Israel.

9You dispersedplentiful showers, O God.

You strengthened your inheritance when it was weary.

10Yourpeoplesettled in it.

Indeed, the LORD will dwell there forever.

Refrain:Bless the LORD! Day by day he bears our burdens. Ascension History.

17The chariots of God are twice ten thousand,

thousands upon thousands.

Among them the Lord has come from Sinai into his sanctuary.

18You ascended on high. You led captivity captive.

You received gifts among men,

so that even among the rebellious the LORD God might dwell.

19Blessed be the Lord.

Day by day he bears our burdens.

He is the God who saves us. Interlude

Refrain:Bless the LORD! Day by day he bears our burdens. At Jerusalem

20Our God is a God who saves.From God the LORD comes escape from death.

24They see your processions, O God,the processions of my God, my King, into the sanctuary.25The singers lead the way.After them come the musicians.

In the middle are virgins playing hand drums.

26In the assemblies bless God, the LORD,

 who is the Fountain of Israel*.*

27There is little Benjamin, leading them.

The officers of Judah are their noisy crowd.

There are the officers of Zebulun and the officers of Naphtali.

28Your God commands your strength*.*Show strength, O God, as you have done for us before.

Refrain:Bless the LORD! Day by day he bears our burdens. The church comes

29Because of your temple at Jerusalem kings will bring tribute to you.

31Envoys will come from Egypt.

Cush will run to stretch out its hands to God.

32Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth.

Make music to the Lord, Interlude

33to him who rides in the highest heavens,

 in the ancient heavens.

Yes, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice*.*

34Proclaim God’s strength.

His majesty is over Israel,

and his power is in the skies.

35You are awesome, O God, from your sanctuary.The God of Israel, he is the one

 who gives power and strength to the people.

Refrain:Bless the LORD! Day by day he bears our burdens.

**PSALM 69 Prayer of an Innocent Sufferer (the Messiah)**

Messiah. Lent, Suffering. The abridgement focuses on verses attributed to Christ in the New Testament. There could be an interlude or transition between each statement of Christ. Good for male soloist during Lent. No refrain.

1Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.2I sink into the deep mud*,* where there is no place to stand.I have entered deep waters, and the rapids rush over me.

3I am worn out from my crying. My throat is sore.

My eyes are blurry, as I wait for my God.

4Those who hate me without reason outnumber the hairs on my head.

Those who want to destroy me, my lying enemies, are strong.

8I have become a stranger to my brothers,

a foreigner to my mother’s sons.

9Yes, zeal for your house consumes me.

The scorn of those who scorn you falls on me.

20Disgrace has broken my heart, and I am helpless.

I waited for sympathy, but there was none.

I waited for comforters, but I did not find any.

21Instead they put bitter poison in my food.

For my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.

13But I direct my prayer to you, O LORD, for a time of favor.

God, in the greatness of your mercy,

 answer me with the certainty of salvation from you.

**PSALM 72 The Rule of the Righteous King**

Messiah, Christ the King, Missions, Epiphany. For a shorter presentation some of the verses in brown may be omitted, but a performance of the whole psalm would be good.

Refrain:Bless his glorious name forever.

May the whole earth be filled with his glory.

1God, give your authority to judge to the King.

Give your righteousness to the Son of the King.

2He will judge your people with righteousness.

He will judge your afflicted ones with justice.

3The mountains will deliver peace to the people.

The hills will produce righteousness.

4He will obtain justice for the afflicted among the people.

He will save the children of the poor,

but he will crush the oppressor.

Refrain:Bless his glorious name forever.

May the whole earth be filled with his glory.

5They will fear you as long as the sun remains,

and as long as the moon endures, through all generations.

6He will come down like rain on a mown field,

like showers, like a downpour on the earth.

7In his days the righteous will flourish,

and peace will be plentiful till the moon is no more.

Refrain:Bless his glorious name forever.

May the whole earth be filled with his glory.

8He will rule from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

9Those who dwell in the desert will bow before him,

and his enemies will lick the dust.

10The kings of Tarshish and of the sea coasts will bring tribute.

The kings of Sheba and Seba will offer him gifts.

11All kings will bow down to him.

All nations will serve him.

Refrain:Bless his glorious name forever.

May the whole earth be filled with his glory.

12He will certainly deliver the poor person who cries out,

as well as the afflicted, and the one who has no helper.

13He will take pity on the weak and the poor.

He will save the lives of the poor.

14From oppression and violence he will redeem their lives,

because their blood is precious in his sight.

Refrain:Bless his glorious name forever.

May the whole earth be filled with his glory.

15May the King live!

May gold from Sheba be offered to him.

May people always pray for him.

May they bless him all day long.

16Let there be an abundance of grain in the land.

Let it wave on the top of the mountains.

Let its fruit trees be like the cedars of Lebanon.

Let people from the city flourish like the grass of the land.

17May his name endure forever.

May his name flourish as long as the sun.

All nations will be blessed through him.

They will call him blessed.

Refrain:Bless his glorious name forever.

May the whole earth be filled with his glory.

**PSALM 73 Why Do the Wicked Prosper?**Suffering, Evil in the World, Envy of the Wicked. The brown verses may be omitted, though abridgement is difficult.

Refrain: Surely God is good to Israel, to the pure in heart.

1Surely God is good to Israel, to the pure in heart.

2But as for me, my feet almost slipped out from under me.

I almost lost my footing.

3I even envied the arrogant when I observed the peace of the wicked.

4For there are no struggles at their death.

Their bodies are stout.

5They do not have the trouble common to people.

They are not plagued along with the rest of mankind.

6Therefore pride is their necklace.

They wear violence like clothing.

7Their eyes bulge out of their fat.

The schemes of their hearts step over boundaries.

8They mock. They speak maliciously.

From a high perch they threaten oppression.

9They set their mouths against the heavens.

Their tongues strut around on earth.

10Therefore God’s people turn to them,

and they drink it all in.

11They say, “How can God know?

Does the Most High have knowledge?”

12See, this is what the wicked are like—

secure forever, they increase in strength.

Refrain: Surely God is good to Israel, to the pure in heart.

13Have I really kept my heart pure for nothing?

Have I kept my hands clean in vain?

14I have been plagued all day.

My punishment comes every morning.

15If I had said, “I will speak like this,”

I would certainly have betrayed the circle of your children.

16When I tried to understand this, it was very troubling to me,

17until I went to the sanctuary of God.

Then I understood their end.

Refrain: Surely God is good to Israel, to the pure in heart.

18Surely you place them on slippery places.

You cause them to fall into destruction.

19How quickly they come to ruin,

completely destroyed by terrors!

20They are like a dream when someone wakes up.

So when you arise, O Lord,

you will despise them like an illusion.

21Yes, my heart was bitter,

and I was torn up inside.

22I was unthinking and ignorant.

I was a dumb animalbefore you.

23Yet I am always with you.

You hold me by my right hand.

24With your guidance you lead me,

and afterward, you will take me to glory.

Refrain: Surely God is good to Israel, to the pure in heart.

25Who else is there for me in heaven?

And besides you I desire no one else on earth.

26My flesh and my heart fail,

but God is the rock of my heart and my portion forever.

27No doubt about it!

Those who are far from you will perish.

You destroy all who commit adultery against you.

28As for me, God’s nearness is good for me.

I have made the LORD God my refuge,

so that I can tell about all your works.

**PSALM 84 How I Love Your Dwelling Place**

Worship in God’s House. Brown verses may be omitted. Places for musical interludes are marked.

Refrain:How I love your dwelling place, O LORD of Armies.

2My soul grows weak and even wastes away,

as I long for the courtyards of the LORD.

My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

3Even the sparrow has found a home,

and the swallow has found a nest for herself,

where she may place her young near your altars*,*

O LORD of Armies, my King and my God.

Refrain:How I love your dwelling place, O LORD of Armies.

4How blessed are those who live in your house.

They are always praising you. Interlude

5How blessed is everyone whose strength is found in you.

The highways to Jerusalem are in their hearts*.*

6As they pass through the Valley of Baca,

 it becomes full of springs.

The autumn rain also covers it with pools.

7They go from strength to strength.

Each one will appear before God in Zion.

Refrain:How I love your dwelling place, O LORD of Armies.

8O LORD, God of Armies, hear my prayer.

Give ear, O God of Jacob. Interlude

9Look upon our Shield, O God.

Look with favor on the face of your Anointed One.

Refrain:How I love your dwelling place, O LORD of Armies.

10Yes, one day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather wait at the doorway of the house of my God

 than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

Refrain:How I love your dwelling place, O LORD of Armies.

11For the LORD is a sun and shield.

God gives grace and glory.

The LORD does not withhold any good thing

 from those who walk with integrity*.*

12O LORD of Armies, how blessed is everyone who trusts in you.

**PSALM 90 Teach Us to Number Our Days**

Death, Funeral, New Years, Anniversary

Refrain:Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

1Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

2Before the mountains were born,

before you gave birth to the earth and the world,

from eternity to eternity you are God.

Refrain:Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

3You grind people to dust,

and you say, “Return, children of Adam.”

4For a thousand years in your sight are like a day,

like yesterday that has gone by,

or like a watch in the night.

5You sweep them away like a flood.

They are like sleep in the morning,

like grass which changes quickly.

6In the morning it sprouts and grows.

By evening it is cut down, and it withers.

Refrain:Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

7Surely, we are consumed by your anger,

and by your wrath we are terrified.

8You have laid out our guilty deeds in front of you.

Our hidden sins are revealed in the light of your face.

9For all our days pass away under your fury.

We finish our years like a sigh.

10The days of our lives add up to seventy years,

or eighty years if we are strong.

Yet the best of them are trouble and sorrow,

for they disappear quickly, and we fly away.

11Who can understand the power of your anger?

But your fury is consistent with the fear that is owed to you.

12Teach us to number our days in such a way,

 that we bring a heart of wisdom.

Refrain:Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

13Turn, O LORD! How long!

Change your mind toward your servants.

14Satisfy us in the morning with your mercy,

so that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

15Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,

for as many years as we have seen trouble.

16Let your deeds be seen by your servants

and your majesty by their children.

17May the kindness of the Lord our God rest upon us.

Establish the work of our hands for us.

Yes, establish the work of our hands.

Refrain:Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

**PSALM 91 The Shadow of Your Wings**

Protection, St Michaels, Angels. The composition can be split after verse 9—the first half is generic, the second about angels.

A

Refrain: One who lives in the shelter of the Most High

 will stay in the shadow of the Almighty.

2I will say to the LORD,

“My refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust.”

Refrain: One who lives in the shelter of the Most High

 will stay in the shadow of the Almighty.

3Surely he will rescue you from the fowler’s trap,

from the destructive plague.

4With his feathers he will cover you,

and under his wings you will find refuge.

His truth will be your shield and armor.

5You will not fear the terror of night,

nor the arrow that flies by day,

6nor the plague that prowls in the darkness,

nor the pestilence that destroys at noon.

7A thousand may fall at your side,

ten thousand at your right hand,

but it will not come near you.

8You will only observe it with your eyes.

You will see the punishment of the wicked.

Refrain: One who lives in the shelter of the Most High

 will stay in the shadow of the Almighty.

9Yes, you LORD are my refuge!

Refrain: One who lives in the shelter of the Most High

 will stay in the shadow of the Almighty.

B If you make the Most High your shelter,

10evil will not overtake you.

Disaster will not come near your tent.

11Because he will give a command to his angels concerning you,

 to guard you in all your ways.

12They will lift you up in their hands,

so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

13You will tread on the lion and the cobra.

You will trample the young lion and the serpent.

Refrain: One who lives in the shelter of the Most High

 will stay in the shadow of the Almighty.

14The LORD says,

Because he clings to me, I will rescue him.

I will protect him, because he acknowledges my name.

15He will call on me, and I will answer him.

I will be with him in distress.

I will deliver him and I will honor him.

16With long life I will satisfy him,

and I will let him see my salvation.

**PSALM 95 The Venite**

Worship

1Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD.

Let us give a loud shout to the Rock who saves us.

2Let us approach his presence with thanksgiving.

With music we will shout to him.

3For the LORD is the great God

and the great King above all gods.

4He holds the unexplored places of the earth in his hand,

and the peaks of the mountains belong to him.

5The sea belongs to him, for he made it,

and his hands formed the dry land.

6Come, let us bow down. Let us revere him.

Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker,

7for he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture

and the flock in his hand.

**PSALM 96 Sing to the LORD a New Song**

Praise, Worship, Nature, Christmas, End Times. Brown suggestions for shortening. Psalm 98 has a parallel theme. These Psalms are the basis of the hymn “Joy to the World.”

Refrain:Sing to the LORD a new song.

Sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Alternate Refrain: Great is the LORD and worthy of great praise.

1Sing to the LORD a new song.

Sing to the LORD, all the earth.

2Sing to the LORD. Praise his name.

Proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

3Tell about his glory among the nations,

about his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

Refrain:Sing to the LORD a new song.

Sing to the LORD, all the earth.

4For great is the LORD and worthy of great praise.

He is to be feared above all gods.

5For all the gods of the peoples are “nothings,”

but the LORD made the heavens.

6Splendor and majesty are before him.

Power and beauty are in his sanctuary.

7Ascribe to the LORD, families of peoples,

Ascribe to the LORD glory and power.

8Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name.

Bring a gift and come into his courtyards.

9Bow down to the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.

Look away from his face, all the earth.

Refrain:Sing to the LORD a new song.

Sing to the LORD, all the earth.

10Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns.”

The world is firmly established.

It will not be moved.

He will judge the peoples with fairness.

Refrain:Sing to the LORD a new song.

Sing to the LORD, all the earth.

11Let the heavens rejoice.

Let the earth celebrate.

Let the sea roar,

and all that fills it.

12Let the fields be overjoyed,

and everything that is in them.

Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy

13 before the LORD, for he comes,

 for he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness

and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Refrain:Sing to the LORD a new song.

Sing to the LORD, all the earth.

1Sing to the LORD a new song,

for he has done marvelous things.

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

**PSALM 100 The LORD Shepherds His People**

Worship, Praise, Good Shepherd Sunday

Refrain: Yes, the LORD is good. His mercy endures forever.

1Shout to the LORD with joy, all the earth.

2Serve the LORD with gladness.

Come before him with joyful songs.

3Know that the LORD is God.

He made us, and we are his. Hebrew variant: and not we ourselves

We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

4Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

his courtyards with praise.

Give thanks to him and bless his name.

5For the LORD is good. His mercy endures forever.

His faithfulness continues through all generations.

Refrain: Yes, the LORD is good. His mercy endures forever.

**PSALM 103 A&B Bless the LORD, Who Forgives All Your Sins**

Praise, Sickness, Death, Forgiveness. A and B may be used separately. Sections may be omitted to shape the psalm to the occasion.

Refrain:Bless the LORD, O my soul.

All that is within me, bless his holy name.

2Bless the LORD, O my soul,

and do not forget all his benefits—

3who pardons all your guilt,

who heals all your diseases,

4who redeems your life from the pit,

who crowns you with mercy and compassion,

5who satisfies your life with goodness,

so that your youth is renewed like the eagle.

Refrain:Bless the LORD, O my soul.

All that is within me, bless his holy name.

6The LORD performs righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

7He made known his ways to Moses,

his deeds to the people of Israel.

8The LORD is compassionate and gracious,

slow to anger, abounding in mercy.

9He will not always accuse.

He will not keep his anger forever.

10He does not treat us as our sins deserve.

He does not repay us according to our guilty deeds.

11Yes, as high as the heavens are above the earth,

 so powerful is his mercy toward those who fear him.

12As distant as the east is from the west,

 so far has he removed our rebellious acts from us.

Refrain:Bless the LORD, O my soul.

All that is within me, bless his holy name.

**B**  13As a father has compassion on his children,

 so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.

14For he knows how we were formed.

He remembers that we are dust.

15As for man, his days are like grass.

Like a wild flower he blossoms.

16Then the wind blows over it, and it is gone,

and its place recognizes it no more.

Refrain:Bless the LORD, O my soul.

All that is within me, bless his holy name.

17But the LORD’s mercy is from eternity to eternity

 over those who fear him,

and his righteousness is with their children’s children,

18 with those who keep his covenant,

 with those who remember his precepts in order to obey them.

Refrain:Bless the LORD, O my soul.

All that is within me, bless his holy name.

19The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,

and his royal power rules over all.

20Bless the LORD, you his angels,

you strong warriors who obey his word

 by listening to what he says.

21Bless the LORD, all his armies,

you who minister to him,

you who do whatever pleases him.

22Bless the LORD, everything he has made

 in all places where he rules.

Refrain:Bless the LORD, O my soul.

All that is within me, bless his holy name.

**PSALM104 Bless the LORD, Who Creates Wonders**

Creation, Providence. Nothing of this psalm may be omitted without loss since it covers the seven days of creation, but some verses are marked in brown. The refrain marks the breaks between the days. Verse 10-18, 27-30 could form its own song on providence.

Refrain:Bless the LORD, O my soul.

All that is within me, bless his holy name.

O LORD my God, you are very great.

You are clothed with splendor and majesty.

Refrain:Bless the LORD, O my soul.

All that is within me, bless his holy name.

2He wears light like a robe.

Refrain:Bless the LORD, O my soul.

All that is within me, bless his holy name.

He stretches out the heavens like a canopy.

3He lays beams on the waters to support his upper chambers.

He makes clouds his chariot.

He travels on the wings of the wind.

4He makes his messengers winds.

His ministers are blazing fire.

Refrain:Bless the LORD, O my soul.

All that is within me, bless his holy name.

5He placed the earth firmly on its foundations.

It cannot be moved forever and ever.

6You covered it with the deep as a garment.

The waters stood above the mountains.

7At your rebuke they fled.

At the sound of your thunder they hurried away.

8The waters surged up the mountains.

They went down into the valleys,

to the place that you prepared for them.

9You set a boundary that they cannot cross.

They will not return to cover the earth.

10He makes springs flow into streams

 that run between the mountains.

11They give water to every wild animal.

The wild donkeys quench their thirst.

12The birds of the sky live by the streams.

From among the branches they send out their song.

13He waters the mountains from his upper chambers.

The earth is filled with the fruit he produces.

14He makes grass grow for the cattle,

and plants that people use to produce food from the earth.

15Also wine that makes people’s hearts glad,

olive oil to make their face shine,

and bread that sustains their lives.

16The trees of the LORD have everything they need.

He planted the cedars of Lebanon,

17 where birds make their nests.

The stork has its home in the fir trees.

18The high mountains are for the wild goats.

The crags are a refuge for the rock badgers.

Refrain:Bless the LORD, O my soul.

All that is within me, bless his holy name.

19The moon marks off the months and seasons.

The sun knows when to go down.

20You bring darkness, and it becomes night.

During it all the animals in the forest move about.

21The young lions roar for their prey.

They are seeking their food from God.

22The sun rises, and they gather together*.*

They return to their dens and lie down.

23Man goes out to his work.

He continues his labor until evening.

Refrain:Bless the LORD, O my soul.

All that is within me, bless his holy name.

24How many are your works, O LORD!

In wisdom you made them all.

The earth is full of your creatures.

25Here is the sea, great and very wide.

In it creatures swarm beyond number

—living things, the small with the large.

26There the ships go back and forth,

and the leviathan that you formed to play in it.

27All of themwait hopefully for you to give them their food in its time.

28You give it to them. They gather it up.

You open your hand. They are satisfied with good things.

29You hide your face. They are terrified.

You take away their breath.

They breathe their last and return to their dust.

30You send your Spirit—they are created.

You renew the face of the earth.

Refrain:Bless the LORD, O my soul.

All that is within me, bless his holy name.

31May the glory of the LORD endure forever.

May the LORD rejoice in his works.

32He looks at the earth and it trembles.

He touches the mountains and they smoke.

33I will sing to the LORD throughout my life.

I will make music to my God as long as I last.

34May my meditation be pleasingto him.

I will rejoice in the LORD.

35May sinners come to an end on the earth,

and the wicked—may they be no more.

Bless the LORD, O my soul.

Praise the LORD!

**PSALM 110 The LORD’s Decree to My Lord**

Messiah, Post-Easter, Ascension, End Times. The psalm is two oracles. It does not need a refrain, but the New Testament interpretation is used as the refrain.

Refrain: David’s Son is David’s Lord!

1The decree of the LORD to my lord:

“Sit at my right handuntil I make your enemies

 a footstool under your feet.”

2The LORD will stretch out your strong scepter from Zion.

Rule in the midst of your enemies.

3Your people will be willing on the day of your power.

In majesty of holiness, from the womb of the dawn,

 the dew of your youth will be yours.

Refrain: David’s Son is David’s Lord!

4The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind:

“You are a priest forever, in the manner of Melchizedek.”

5The Lord is at your right hand.

He will crush kings on the day of his wrath.

6He will judge the nations.

He will fill valleys with corpses.

He will crush heads over the wide world.

7He will drink from a stream beside the way;

therefore he will lift up his head.

Refrain: David’s Son is David’s Lord!

**PSALM 111 God’s Works and God’s Word**

Praise, Providence, The Word. Either half can be used by itself.

Refrain:Praise the LORD. Or Hallelujah

I will thank the LORD with all my heart

 in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.

Refrain:Praise the LORD.

2Great are the deeds of the LORD.

They are studied by all who delight in them.

3Glorious and majestic is his work,

and his righteousness stands forever.

4He has set up a memorial to his wonders.

Gracious and compassionate is the LORD.

5He gives food to those who fear him.

He remembers his covenant forever.

6He has declared the power of his deeds to his people,

 to give them the nations as their possession.

7The works of his hands are truth and justice.

Refrain:Praise the LORD.

All his precepts are trustworthy,

8steadfast forever and ever,

done in truth and uprightness.

9He sent redemption for his people.

He commanded his covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is his name.

10The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.

All who do his precepts have good understanding.

His praise stands forever.

Refrain:Praise the LORD.

**PSALM 115 Not to Us**

Anniversary, Dedication. A section on the futility of idols is omitted.

Refrain: Not to us, O LORD, not to us,

but to your name give glory.

1Not to us, O LORD, not to us,

but to your name give glory,

because of your mercy,

because of your truth.

Refrain: Not to us, O LORD, not to us,

but to your name give glory.

9Israel, trust in the LORD

—he is their help and their shield.

10House of Aaron, trust in the LORD

—he is their help and their shield.

11You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD

—he is their help and their shield.

12The LORD remembers us. He will bless.

He will bless the house of Israel.

He will bless the house of Aaron.

13He will bless those who fear the LORD

—the small with the great.

14May the LORD add blessings to you,

to you and to your children.

15May you be blessed by the LORD,

the Maker of heaven and earth.

16The heavens are heavens for the LORD,

but the earth he gave to the children of Adam.

18 We are the ones who bless the LORD,

 from now to eternity.

Refrain: Not to us, O LORD, not to us,

but to your name give glory.

Praise the LORD.

**PSALM 116 Deliverance From Death**

Distress, Death, Funeral. Abbreviated

Refrain: Precious in the eyes of the LORD is the death of his saints.

1I love the LORD, because he hears my voice.

He hears my cry for mercy.

2Because he turned his ear to me,

I will call to him all my days.

3The ropes of death entangled me.

The walls of the grave hemmed me in.

4Then I called on the name of the LORD:

“Ah, LORD, please save my life!”

5The LORD is gracious and righteous,

and our God is compassionate.

Refrain: Precious in the eyes of the LORD is the death of his saints.

7Return, my soul, to your rest,

for the LORD has accomplished his purpose for you.

8Indeed, you have delivered my soul from death,

my eye from weeping, my foot from stumbling,

9so that I may walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

Refrain: Precious in the eyes of the LORD is the death of his saints.

12How can I repay the LORD for all his benefits to me?

13I will lift up the cup of salvation,

and I will call onthe name of the LORD.

14I will fulfill my vows to the LORD,

now in the presence of all his people.

15Precious in the eyes of the LORD is the death of his favored ones.

17To you I will sacrifice a thank offering,

and I will call on the name of the LORD.

18I will fulfill my vows to the LORD

 herein the presence of all his people.

Refrain: Precious in the eyes of the LORD is the death of his saints.

Praise the LORD.

**PSALM 117 Praise the LORD**

Praise, Missions

Praise the LORD. Or Hallelujah

1Praise the LORD, all you nations.

Worshiphim, every race of people.

2For his mercy overwhelms us,

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Praise the LORD.

**PSALM 118 The Cornerstone**

Messiah, Holy Week, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter. The parts can be used independently. Some of the sections are marked below.

The introduction can go with any part

1Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever.

2Let Israel say now: Yes, his mercy endures forever.

3Let the house of Aaron say now: Yes, his mercy endures forever.

4Let those who fear the LORD say now: Yes, his mercy endures forever.

This part is Christ’s Suffering. Good Friday, Lent

Refrain: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,

for his mercy endures forever.

5Under pressure I cried to the LORD.

The LORD answered me.

He set me in a wide-open space.

6The LORD is with me.

I will not be afraid.

What can people do to me?

7The LORD, who is with me, is my helper,

so I will look in triumph on my enemies.

8It is better to take refuge in the LORD

 than to trust in people.

9It is better to take refuge in the LORD

 than to trust in human benefactors.

10All the nations surrounded me,

but in the name of the LORD I cut them off.

11They surrounded me, yes they surrounded me,

but in the name of the LORD I cut them off.

12They surrounded me like bees,

but they were extinguished as quickly as a fire of thorns.

In the name of the LORD I cut them off.

13You pushed me hard to make me fall,

but the LORD helped me.

Refrain: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,

for his mercy endures forever.

This part is Easter

Refrain: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,

for his mercy endures forever.

14My strength and song is the LORD,

and he has become salvation for me.

15Loud shouts of victory are heard in the tents of the righteous:

“The right hand of the LORD has done a mighty deed!

16The right hand of the LORD is lifted high!

The right hand of the LORD has done a mighty deed!”

17I will not die. No, I will live,

and I will proclaim the works of the LORD.

18The LORD has chastened me severely,

but he has not handed me over to death.

19Open for me the gates of righteousness.

I will enter them. I will give thanks to the LORD.

20This is the gate to the LORD.

The righteous enter it.

21I will give you thanks,

because you answered me,

and you have become salvation for me.

Refrain: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,

for his mercy endures forever.

Palm Sunday, Holy Week

Refrain: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,

for his mercy endures forever.

22The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

23This is from the LORD.

It is marvelous in our eyes.

24This is the day the LORD has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

25O LORD, please save us now.

O LORD, grant us success.

26Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

27The LORD is God,

and he makes light shine on us.

Bind the festival with branches as far as the horns of the altar.

28You are my God, and I will give you thanks.

You are my God, and I will exalt you.

Refrain: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,

for his mercy endures forever.

*Conclusion*

29Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,

for his mercy endures forever.

**Psalm 119 Bet**

Confirmation, the Word

Refrain: Your word is a light for my path.

9How can young people keep their path pure? adapted

By guarding it with your words.

10With all my heart I seek you.

Do not let me stray from your commands.

11I have hidden your sayings in my heart,

 so that I may not sin against you.

12Blessed are you, O LORD!

Teach me your statutes.

13With my lips I tell about all the judgments

 that come from your mouth.

14I rejoice in the way that is taught by your testimonies

 as much as I delight in all riches*.*

15I will meditate on your precepts,

and I will consider your paths.

16In your statutes I delight.

I will not forget your words.

Refrain: Your word is a light for my path.

**Psalm 119 Lamed: Your Commands Have No Limits**

The Word, Suffering

Refrain: Your Word, O LORD, is eternal.

89To eternity, O LORD, your word is fixed firmly in the heavens.

90For generation after generation, your faithfulness remains.

You established the earth, and it stands.

91As for your judgments, they stand to this day,

because all things are your servants.

Refrain: Your Word, O LORD, is eternal.

92Unless your law had been my delight,

I would have perished in my affliction.

93To eternity I will not forget your precepts,

because by them you have given me life.

94I am yours. Save me,

because I have sought your precepts.

95The wicked are lying in wait for me to kill me,

but I will ponder your testimonies.

96I see a limit to all perfection,

but your commandment has no limits.

Refrain: Your Word, O LORD, is eternal.

**Psalm 119 Mem: Your Word IS Sweeter Than Honey**

The Word

Refrain: Your Word is sweeter than honey.

97How I love your laws!

I meditate on them all day long.

98Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,

because it is always with me.

99I have more wisdom than all my teachers,

because your testimonies are my meditation.

100I have more understanding than the elders,

because I guard your precepts.

Refrain: Your Word is sweeter than honey.

101I have kept my feet off every evil path

 in order to keep your words.

102I have not turned from your judgments,

because you yourself have instructed me.

103How sweet are your sayings to my taste,

sweeter than honey to my mouth!

104From your precepts I gain understanding,

therefore I hate every false road.

Refrain: Your Word is sweeter than honey.

**Psalm 119 *Nun: Your Word Is a Lamp for My Feet***

The Word, Sanctification, Affliction

Refrain: Your words are a lamp for my feet

and a light for my path.

106I have sworn and affirmed

 that I will keep your righteous judgments.

107I have suffered much.

LORD, give me life according to your words.

108LORD, please accept the willing praise from my mouth,

and teach me your judgments.

109I take my life in my hands constantly,

but I will not forget your law.

110The wicked have set a snare for me,

but I have not wandered from your precepts.

111I have inheritedyour testimonies forever.

Yes, they are the joy of my heart.

112I turn my heart to do your statutes,

 forever, right to the end*.*

Refrain: Your words are a lamp for my feet

and a light for my path.

**PSALM 121 Help From the LORD**

Protection, Security. It is better not to break it with a refrain, because it has an ascending pattern.

Refrain: My help is in the name of the LORD.

1I lift up my eyes to the mountains.

Where does my help come from?

2My help comes from the LORD,

 the Maker of heaven and earth.

3He will not let your foot stumble.

He who watches over you will not slumber.

4Yes, he who watches over Israel will not slumber.

He will not sleep.

5The LORD watches over you.

The LORD is your shade at your right hand.

6The sun will not strike you by day,

nor the moon by night.

7The LORD will watch to keep you from all harm.

He will watch over your life.

8The LORD will watch over your going and your coming

 from now to eternity.

Refrain: My help is in the name of the LORD.

**PSALM 127 The LORD Builds the House**

Dedication, Family, Nation. Parts of Psalms 127 and 128 can be combined into one family psalm.

Refrain: May the blessing of the LORD be upon you.

1If the LORD does not build the house,

 it is useless for the builders to work hard over it.

If the LORD does not watch over the city,

 it is useless for the watchman to stand guard.

2It is useless foryou to get up early and to work late,

worrying about bread to eat*,*

because God grants sleep to the one he loves.

Refrain: May the blessing of the LORD be upon you.

3Indeed, children are a heritage from the LORD.

The fruit of the womb is a reward from him.

4Sons born during one’s youth are like arrows

 in the hand of a warrior.

5How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

They will not be put to shame

 when they dispute with enemies at the city gate.

Refrain: May the blessing of the LORD be upon you.

**PSALM 128 A Blessed Family**

Refrain: May the blessing of the LORD be upon you.

1How blessed is everyone who fears the LORD,

everyone who is walking in his ways.

 2Yes, you will eat the food you worked for.

How blessed you are! It will go well for you!

3Your wife will be like a fruitful vine in the inner rooms of your house.

Your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

4Look! This is how blessed the man is who fears the LORD!

Refrain: May the blessing of the LORD be upon you.

[Insert 127:3-5]

5May the LORD bless you from Zion

so that you see the prosperity of Jerusalem, all the days of your life,

6and you see your children’s children.

Refrain: May the blessing of the LORD be upon you.

Peace be on Israel.

**PSALM 130 Out of the Depths**

Confession, Repentance. Redemption. Psalm 130 is classified as one of the seven penitential psalms (Psalms 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143).

Refrain: My soul waits for the LORD.

1Out of the depths I have called to you, O LORD.

2Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive to the sound of my cry for mercy.

3If you, LORD, kept a record of guilt,

O Lord, who could stand?

4But with you there is pardon,

so you are feared.

Refrain: My soul waits for the LORD.

5I wait for the LORD. My soul waits,

and in his word I have put my hope.

6My soul waits for the Lord

more than watchmen wait for the morning,

more than watchmen wait for the morning.

7Israel, wait confidently for the LORD,

because with the LORD there is mercy.

With him there is abundant redemption.

8So he himself will redeem Israel from all its guilt.

Refrain: My soul waits for the LORD.

**PSALM 133 and 134 Pleasant Unity**

Unity, Fellowship, Blessing, Benediction

Refrain: May the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth, bless you.

1Look, how good and how pleasant it is

 when brothers live together in unity!

2It is like the precious oil poured on the head,

 running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron,

 running down on the collar of his robes.

3It is like the dew from Hermon

 running down on the mountains of Zion.

For there the LORD commands this blessing: life to eternity.

Refrain: May the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth, bless you.

1Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD,

 who stand in the house of the LORD at night.

2Lift up your hands toward the sanctuary

and bless the LORD.

Refrain: May the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth, bless you.

**PSALM 136** **His Mercy Endures Forever**

Praise and Thanks. This psalm has its own built-in refrain. The parts may be used separately.

*Introduction*

1Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

 For his mercy endures forever.

2Give thanks to the God of Gods.

 For his mercy endures forever.

3Give thanks to the Lord of Lords.

 For his mercy endures forever.

*His Creating Love*

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

4To him who alone does great wonders—

 For his mercy endures forever.

5To him who by his understanding made the heavens—

 For his mercy endures forever.

6To him who spread out the earth on the waters—

 For his mercy endures forever.

7To him who made the great lights,

 For his mercy endures forever.

8the sun to rule by day, For his mercy endures forever.

9the moon and stars to rule by night—

 For his mercy endures forever.

*His Redeeming Love in Israel’s History*

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

10To him who struck Egypt by killing their firstborn,

 For his mercy endures forever.

11and brought Israel out from their midst,

 For his mercy endures forever.

12with a mighty hand and outstretched arm—

 For his mercy endures forever.

13To him who cut the Red Sea in two,

 For his mercy endures forever.

14and brought Israel through the middle of it,

 For his mercy endures forever.

15but brushed offPharaoh and his army into the Red Sea—

 For his mercy endures forever.

16To him who made his people travel through the wilderness—

 For his mercy endures forever.

17To him who struck down great kings,

 For his mercy endures forever.

18and killed mighty kings,

 For his mercy endures forever.

19Sihon king of the Amorites,

 For his mercy endures forever.

20and Og king of Bashan,

 For his mercy endures forever.

21and gave their land as a possession,

 For his mercy endures forever.

22a possession to his servant Israel.

 For his mercy endures forever.

*His Continuing Love*

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

23Heremembered us in our low condition,

 For his mercy endures forever.

24and tore us out of the hands of our oppressors.

 For his mercy endures forever.25He gives food to all living creatures.

 For his mercy endures forever.26Give thanks to the God of the heavens.

 For his mercy endures forever.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

**PSALM 139 God’s Attributes—Too Wonderful for Me!**

Comfort, Providence, God’s Attributes. The sections on the four attributes may be used separately or in combination.

Refrain: O LORD, you know me.

1LORD, you have investigated me,

and you know.

2You know when I sit down and when I get up.

You understand my thoughts from far off.

3You keep track of when I travel and when I stay,

and you are familiar with all my ways.

4Before there is a word on my tongue

 you, LORD, already know it completely.

5You put a fence behind me and in front of me,

and you have placed your hand on me.

6Such knowledge is too wonderful for me.

It is too high—I cannot grasp it.

Refrain: O LORD, you know me.

Refrain: O LORD, you know me.

7Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your Presence?

8If I go up to heaven, you are there.

If I make my bed in hell—there you are!

9I rise on the wings of dawn.

I settle on the far side of the sea.

10Even there your hand guides me,

and your right hand holds on to me.

11And if I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me

and the light will become night around me,”

12then even the darkness will not be too dark for you.

The night will be as light as the day.

Darkness and light are the same to you.

Refrain: O LORD, you know me.

Refrain: O LORD, you know me.

13You created my inner organs.

You wove me together in my mother’s womb.

14I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Your works are wonderful,

and my soul knows that very well.

15My bones were not hidden from you

when I was made in the secret place,

when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

16Your eyes saw my unfinished body.

In your book all of them were written.

Days were determined, before any of them existed.

17Your thoughts to me are so precious, O God!

How great is the sum of them!

18If I would count them,

 they would outnumber the grains of sand.

I awake, and I am still with you.

Refrain: O LORD, you know me.

Refrain: O LORD, you know me.

19If only you would slay the wicked, O God,

so that bloody men would depart from me,

20men who speak against you maliciously.

Your adversaries misuse your name.

21Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD,

and detest those who rise up against you?

22I absolutely hate them. To me they are enemies.

23Investigate me, God, and know my heart.

Test me and know my troubled thoughts.

24See if there is any way in me that causes pain,

and lead me in the way everlasting.

Refrain: O LORD, you know me.

**PSALM 145 The LORD Is Worthy of Praise**

Praise. Psalm 145 can be split into two songs at verse 13.

Refrain: Great is the LORD and worthy of great praise.

There are no limits to his greatness. [Or just first line]

1I will exalt you, my God, the King,

and I will bless your name forever and ever.

2Every day I will bless you,

and I will praise your name forever and ever.

3Great is the LORD and worthy of great praise,

and there are no limits to the extent of his greatness.

4One generation will praise your deeds to another,

and they will declare your mighty acts.

5I will contemplate the glorious splendor of your majesty

and the accounts of your wonderful works.

6Then they will speak about the power of your awesome works,

and I will tell about your great deeds.

7They will pour forth the memory of your abundant goodness

and sing loudly about your righteousness.

Refrain: Great is the LORD and worthy of great praise.

There are no limits to his greatness.

Refrain: Great is the LORD and worthy of great praise.

There are no limits to his greatness

8The LORD is gracious and compassionate,

slow to anger and great in mercy.

9The LORD is good to all.

His compassion extends over all he has made.

10Everyone you have made will thank you, O LORD,

and the ones you favor will bless you.

11They will tell about the glory of your kingdom,

and they will speak about your might,

12to make known his might to the children of Adam,

to make known the glorious splendor of his kingdom.

Refrain: Great is the LORD and worthy of great praise.

There are no limits to his greatness.

Refrain: Great is the LORD and worthy of great praise.

There are no limits to his greatness.

13Your kingdom is a kingdom for all ages,

and your dominion endures through all generations.

The LORD is faithful to all his words

and merciful toward all he has mad

14The LORD lifts up all who fall,

and he supports all who are bowed down.

15The eyes of all look eagerly to you,

and you give them their food at the proper time.

16He opens his hand,

and he satisfies the desire of every living thing.

17The LORD is righteous in all his ways

and merciful toward all that he has made.

18The LORD is near to all who call on him,

to all who call on him in truth.

19He grants the desire of those who fear him.

He hears their cry and saves them.

20The LORD watches over all who love him,

but he will destroy all the wicked.

Refrain: Great is the LORD and worthy of great praise.

There are no limits to his greatness.

21My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD.

Let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

Refrain: Great is the LORD and worthy of great praise.

There are no limits to his greatness.

**PSALM 148 Praise Him, All Creation**

Praise Him, All Creation

Praise the LORD. OR Hallelujah

Praise the LORD from the heavens.

Praise him in the heights.

2Praise him, all his angels.

Praise him, all his armies.

3Praise him, sun and moon.

Praise him, all you bright stars.

4Praise him, you highest heavens

and you waters which are above the heavens.

5Let them praise the name of the LORD,

because he commanded, and they were created.

6He caused them to stand forever and ever.

He gave a decree, and it will not pass away.

Praise the LORD. OR Hallelujah

7Praise the LORD from the earth,

great sea creatures and all the depths,

8fire and hail, snow and fog,

storm winds that obey his word,

9mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars,

10wild animals and all cattle,

crawling creatures and flying birds,

kings of the earth and all peoples,

officials and all judges on earth,

11young men and also young women,

old people with young people.

13Let them praise the name of the LORD,

for his name alone is exalted.

His splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

Praise the LORD. OR Hallelujah

14He has raised up a horn for his people—

the praise of all his favored ones—

for the children of Israel, the people close to him.

Praise the LORD. OR Hallelujah

**Isaiah 9 Unto Us a Child is Given**

Christmas

Refrain: His name will be called Jesus

*Narrative spoken introduction*

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for the land that was in anguish. In former times, he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will cause it to be glorious, along the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles.

Refrain: His name will be called Jesus

*The poem*

Refrain: His name will be called Jesus

2The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned.

3You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy.

They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time,

like the celebration when people divide the plunder.

4For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them.

You have broken the bar on their shoulders and the rod of their oppressor,

as you did in the day of Midian.

5Every boot that marched in battle

and the garments rolled in blood will be burned.

They will be fuel for the fire.

6For to us a child is born.

To us a son is given.

The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders.

Refrain: His name will be called Jesus

He will be named:

Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God,

Everlasting Father,

Prince of Peace.

7There will be no limit to his authority

and no end to the peace he brings.

He will rule on David’s throne and over his kingdom,

to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness

from now on, into eternity.

The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.

Refrain: His name will be called Jesus

**Isaiah 11 The Branch of Jesse**

Advent, Christmas, Epiphany Season (1-4), End Times (4-10)

Refrain: A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse.

 A Branchfrom his roots will bear fruit.

1A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse,

and a Branchfrom his roots will bear fruit.

2The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him:

the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the Spirit of counsel and might,

the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

3He will be delighted with the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,

nor will he render decisions based on what he hears with his ears,

4but with righteousness he will judge the poor,

and he will render fair decisions in favor of the oppressed on the earth.

Refrain: A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse.

 A Branchfrom his roots will bear fruit.

Refrain: A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse.

 A Branchfrom his roots will bear fruit.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath from his lips he will put the wicked to death.

5Righteousness will be the belt around his waist,

and faithfulness the belt around his hips.

Refrain: A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse.

 A Branchfrom his roots will bear fruit.

6The wolf will dwell with the lamb,

and the leopard will lie down with the young goat,

the calf, the young lion, and the fattened calf together,

and a little child will lead them.

7The cow and the bear will graze together,

and their young ones will lie down together.

The lion will eat straw like the cattle.

8The nursing child will play near a cobra’s hole,

and the weaned child will put his hand into a viper’s den.

9They will not hurt or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain,

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD,

as the waters cover the sea.

Refrain: A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse.

 A Branchfrom his roots will bear fruit.

10This is what will take place on that day.

The peoples will seek the Root of Jesse

 who will be standing like a banner for the peoples,

and his resting place will be glorious.

Refrain: A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse.

 A Branchfrom his roots will bear fruit.

**Isaiah 40 Comfort my people**

V 1-2 can be used with both parts. V 3-8 Advent and John the Baptist. V 9-11 Post-Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday.

Refrain: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

1Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

2Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her.

Her warfare really is over.

Her guilt is fully paid for.

Yes, she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.

Refrain: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

3A voice is calling out:

In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD.

In the wasteland make a level highway for our God.

4Every valley will be raised up,

and every mountain and hill will be made low.

The rugged ground will become level,

and the rough places will become a plain.

5Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,

and all flesh together will see it.

Yes, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Refrain: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

6A voice was saying, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry out?”

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like a wildflower in the countryside.

7Grass withers, flowers fade,

when the breath of the LORD blows on them.

Yes, the people are grass.

8Grass withers, flowers fade,

but the Word of our God endures forever.

Refrain: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

9Get up on a high mountain,

O Zion, you herald of good news.

Lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, you herald of good news.

Lift it up! Do not be afraid!

Say to the cities of Judah,

“Here is your God!”

10Look, God the LORD will come with strength,

and his arm is ruling for him.

Look, his reward is with him.

The result of his work is in front of him.

11Like a shepherd he will care for his flock.

With his arm he will gather the lambs.

He will lift them up on his lap.

He will gently lead the nursing mothers.

Refrain: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

**Isaiah 42: Here is my servant**

Epiphany Season

Refrain: Here is my servant, whom I uphold,

my chosen one in whom I delight.

1Here is my servant, whom I uphold,

my chosen one in whom I delight.

I am placing my Spirit on him.

He will announce a just verdictfor the nations.

2He will not cry out.

He will not raise his voice.

He will not make his voice heard in the street.

3A bent reed he will not break,

and a dimly burning wick he will not snuff out.

He will faithfully bring forth a just verdict.

4He will not burn out, and he will not be broken

until he establishes justice on the earth.

The coastlands will wait for his law.

Refrain: Here is my servant, whom I uphold,

my chosen one in whom I delight.

6I am the LORD.

I have called you in righteousness.

I will hold on to your hand,

and I will guard you.

I will appoint you to be a covenant for the people,

to be a light for the nations,

7to open the eyes of the blind,

to bring the prisoners out from the dungeon,

and to bring those who sit in darkness out of prison.

Refrain: Here is my servant, whom I uphold,

my chosen one in whom I delight.

**Isaiah 52 and 53 The Suffering Servant**

Lent. The five individual parts may be used separately in different weeks of Lent.

1

Refrain: The LORD has charged all our guilt to him.

13Look, my servant will succeed.

He will rise. He will be lifted up. He will be highly exalted.

14Just as many were appalled at him—

his appearance was so disfigured that he did not look like a man,

and his form was disfigured more than any other person—

15so he will sprinklemany nations,

and kings will shut their mouths because of him,

because they will see something they had never been told before,

and they will understand something they had never heard before.

2

Refrain: The LORD has charged all our guilt to him.

Who has believed our report,

and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

2He grew up before him like a tender shoot

and like a root from dry ground.

He had no attractiveness and no majesty.

When we saw him, nothing about his appearance made us desire him.

3He was despised and rejected by men,

a man who knew grief,

who was well acquainted with suffering.

Like someone whom people cannot bear to look at,

he was despised,

and we thought nothing of him.

3

Refrain: The LORD has charged all our guilt to him.

4Surely he was taking up our weaknesses,

and he was carrying our sufferings.

We thought it was because of God

that he was stricken, smitten, and afflicted,

5but it was because of our rebellion that he was pierced.

He was crushed for the guilt our sins deserved.

The punishment that brought us peace was upon him,

and by his wounds we are healed.

6We all have gone astray like sheep.

Each of us has turned to his own way,

but the LORD has charged all our guilt to him.

4

Refrain: The LORD has charged all our guilt to him.

7He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,

yet he did not open his mouth.

Like a lamb he was led to the slaughter,

and like a sheep that is silent in front of its shearers,

he did not open his mouth.

8He was taken away without a fair trial and without justice,

and of his generation, who even cared?

So, he was cut off from the land of the living.

He was struck because of the rebellion of my people.

9They would have assigned him a grave with the wicked,

but he was given a grave with the rich in his death,

because he had done no violence,

and no deceit was in his mouth.

5

Refrain: The LORD has charged all our guilt to him.

10Yet it was the LORD’s will to crush him and to allow him to suffer.

Because you made his life a guilt offering, he will see offspring.

He will prolong his days,

and the LORD’s gracious plan will succeed in his hand.

11After his soul experiences anguish, he will see the light of life.

He will provide satisfaction.

Through their knowledge of him, my just servant will justify the many,

for he himself carried their guilt.

12Therefore I will give him an allotment among the great,

and with the strong he will share plunder,

because he poured out his life to death,

and he let himself be counted with rebellious sinners.

He himself carried the sin of many,

and he intercedes for the rebels.

Refrain: The LORD has charged all our guilt to him.

**Isaiah 60 Arise, Shine**

Epiphany

Refrain: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you. [may be used, twice]

2Look, darkness covers the earth,

and deep darkness covers the peoples,

but the LORD will dawn upon you,

and his glory will be seen over you.

3Nations will walk to your light,

and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Refrain: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you.

4Look up. Look all around and see!

All of them have been gathered. They are coming to you.

Your sons will come from far away,

and people will carry your daughters on their side.

5Then you will look and be radiant.

Your heart will race with excitement and burst with joy.

For great riches from the sea will be delivered to you.

The wealth of the nations will come to you.

6Caravans of camels will cover your land,

young camels from Midian and Ephah.

All those from Sheba will come.

They will carry gold and incense,

and they will announce the good news of the praise of the LORD.

7All the flocks of Kedar will be gathered to you.

Rams from Nebaioth will serve as sacrifices for you.

They will be accepted as burnt offerings on my altar,

and I will beautify my splendid house.

Refrain: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you.

8Who are these who fly along like a cloud,

who fly like doves to their coops?

9Yes, the coastlands will wait for me with hope,

and the ships of Tarshish will be the first

to bring your children from far away.

They will have their silver and gold with them,

for the name of the LORD your God

and for the Holy One of Israel,

because he makes you beautiful.

Refrain: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you.

**Isaiah 60B**

End Times, Revelation 21-22

Refrain: The LORD will be your everlasting light.

11Then your gates will always remain open.

Day and night they will not be shut,

in order to bring you the wealth of the nations,

and their kings will be led in procession.

14All who despise you will fall down under the soles of your feet,

and they will call you the city of the LORD,

Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Refrain: The LORD will be your everlasting light.

17Instead of bronze I will bring gold.

Instead of iron I will bring silver,

instead of wood, copper,

and instead of stones, iron.

And I will make peace your overseer,

and righteousness your strong ruler.

18Violence will never again be heard in your land,

nor destruction and ruin in your boundaries.

Instead, you will call your walls Salvation

and your gates Praise.

Refrain: The LORD will be your everlasting light.

19The sun will never again be your light by day,

and the moon will not shine to provide brightness for you,

for the LORD will be your everlasting light,

and your God will be your splendor.

Refrain: The LORD will be your everlasting light.

**Isaiah 61 The Spirit of the LORD Is Upon Me**

Epiphany Season

The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me,

because the LORD has anointed me:

to preach good news to the afflicted,

to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim freedom for the captives,

and release for those who are bound,

2to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor,

and the day of vengeance for our God,

to comfort all who mourn,

3to provide for those who mourn in Zion,

to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,

the oil of joy instead of mourning,

a cloak of praise instead of a faint spirit,

so that they will be called oaks of righteousness,

a planting of the LORD to display his beauty.

The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me,

because the LORD has anointed me.

**Joel 2 and 3**

End Times, Pentecost

Refrain:Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.

28After this, I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.

Your sons and your daughters will prophesy.

Your old men will dream dreams.

Your young men will see visions.

29Even on the servants, both male and female,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

30I will show warning signs in the heavens and on the earth:

blood and fire and pillars of smoke.

31The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the great and terrifying day of the LORD.

Refrain:Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.

2I will gather all nations

and I will enter into judgment against them

for the sake of my possession, my people

Refrain:Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.

9Proclaim this among the nations:

Consecrate yourselves for war!

10Beat your plowshares into swords,

and your pruning knives into spears.

13Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe.

Come, trample the grapes,

for the winepress is full and the vats overflow,

because the nations’ wickedness is so great!

Refrain:Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.

14Multitudes, multitudes in the Valley of Decision!

For the Day of the LORD is near in the Valley of Decision.

15The sun and moon will be darkened,

and the stars will stop shining.

16The LORD will roar from Zion

and shout from Jerusalem.

The sky and the earth will tremble.

But the LORD will be a refuge for his people,

a stronghold for the people of Israel.

17Then you will know that I, the LORD your God, dwell in Zion,

my holy mountain.

Refrain:Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.

**Exodus 15 The Song of Moses**

Providence, History

Refrain: I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted.

I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted.

The horse and its rider he has thrown into the sea.

2The LORD is my strength and song.

He has become my salvation.

This is my God, and I will praise him;

my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

Refrain: I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted.

3The LORD is a warrior.

The LORD is his name.

4He has cast Pharaoh’s chariots and his army into the sea.

His elite officers are drowned in the Red Sea.

5The deep waters covered them.

They sank down to the depths like a stone.

6LORD, your right hand is glorious in power.

LORD, your right hand has shattered the enemy.

7In your great majesty you overthrew those who opposed you.

You sent out your burning anger.

It consumed them like stubble.

Refrain: I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted.

8At the blast from your nostrils the waters piled up.

The flowing waters stood up like a dam.

The deep waters became solid in the heart of the sea.

9The enemy said, “I will pursue.

I will overtake. I will divide the plunder.

I will do whatever I want with them.

I will draw my sword,

and my hand will destroy them.”

Refrain: I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted.

10But you blew with your breath,

and the sea covered them.

They sank like lead in the mighty waters.

11LORD, who is like you among the gods?

Who is like you, glorious in holiness,

awesome in praise, working wonders?

12You stretched out your right hand,

and the earth swallowed them.

13In your mercy you will lead the people

 that you have redeemed.

In your strength you will guide them

 to your holy pastureland.

Refrain: I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted.

14The nations will hear and tremble.

Anguish will grip the inhabitants of Philistia.

15Then the chiefs of Edom will be terrified.

Trembling will seize the leaders of Moab.

All the inhabitants of Canaan will melt away in despair.

16Terror and dread will fall upon them.

By the great power of your arm they will be as still as stone

 until your people pass by, O LORD,

 until the people whom you have purchased pass by.

17You will bring them in and plant them

 on the mountain that belongs to you,

 the place, O LORD, that you have made for your dwelling,

 the sanctuary, O LORD, that your hands have established.

18The LORD will reign forever and ever.

Refrain: I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted.

**Hannah’s Song (1 Samuel 1)**

Parts may be selected

Refrain: My heart rejoices in the LORD!

My heart rejoices in the LORD!

In the LORD, my horn is raised high.

My mouth is opened wide against my enemies,

because I find joy in your salvation.

2There is no one holy like the LORD.

Yes, there is no one but you,

and there is no rock like our God.

Refrain: My heart rejoices in the LORD!

3Do not talk so high and mighty.

Do not let proud words come out of your mouth,

because the LORD is a God who knows.

By him actions are weighed.

Refrain: My heart rejoices in the LORD!

4The bows of powerful warriors are broken.

Those who were staggering are now armed with strength.

5Those who once were full now hire themselves out for bread,

but those who were hungry are satisfied.

Yes, the childless woman has given birth to seven children,

but she who had many children is weak with sorrow.

Refrain: My heart rejoices in the LORD!

6The LORD puts to death, and he makes alive.

He brings down to the grave, and he raises up.

7The LORD makes some people poor, and he makes others wealthy.

He brings some low. He raises others up.

8He raises the poor out of the dust.

He lifts up the needy from the garbage pile.

He makes them sit with nobles.

He gives them a glorious throne as a possession.

Refrain: My heart rejoices in the LORD!

The pillars of the earth belong to the LORD.

He has set the world upon them.

9He will guard the feet of his favored ones,

but the wicked will be put to silence in darkness,

because a person does not prevail by his own strength.

10Those who oppose the LORD will be broken to pieces.

He will thunder against them in the heavens.

Refrain: My heart rejoices in the LORD!

The LORD will judge the ends of the earth.

He will give strength to his king.

He will raise up the horn of his anointed one.

**Mary’s Song Luke 1**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

47and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,

48because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed,

49because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

50His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

51He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

52He has brought down rulers from their thrones.

He has lifted up the lowly.

53He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent away empty.

54He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy,

55as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring forever.

**Isaiah’s Song of Salvation Isaiah 12**

Verse 2a could be a refrain

In that day you will say:

I will give thanks to you, LORD,

for though you were angry with me,

your anger has turned away,

and you comfort me.

2Surely God is my salvation.

I will trust him and will not be afraid,

because the LORD, yes the LORD, is my strength and song,

and he has become my salvation.

3Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

4In that day you will say:

Give thanks to the LORD! Proclaim his name.

Declare among the peoples what he has done.

Proclaim that his name is exalted!

5Sing to the LORD, for he has done amazing things!

Let this be known in all the earth!

6Shout aloud and sing for joy, daughter of Zion,

for the Holy One of Israel is great among you!

**Songs of Celebration from Revelation**

**4**

Holy, holy, holy,

Lord God Almighty,

who was and who is and who is coming.

11Worthy are you, our Lord and God,

to receive the glory and the honor and the power,

for you have created all things.

Because of your will they existed and were created.

**5**

You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals,

because you were slain,

and you bought us for God with your blood

out of every tribe and language and people and nation.

10You made them to be a kingdom and priests for our God,

and they will reign on the earth.

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive

power and riches and

wisdom and strength and

honor and glory and blessing.

To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb

be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever.

**7**

Amen. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and might belong to our God forever and ever. Amen.

These are the ones who are coming out of the great tribulation.

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15Because of this they are in front of the throne of God,

and they serve him day and night in his temple.

He who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.

16They will never be hungry or thirsty ever again.

The sun will never beat upon them, nor will any scorching heat,

17for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd.

He will lead them to springs of living water,

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

**11**

The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ,

and he will reign forever and ever.

We thank you, Lord God Almighty, who is, and who was,

because you have taken your great power and reigned.

18The nations were angry, and your anger has come.

And the time has come

when the dead are to be judged, and

when you will give the reward to your servants the prophets and to your saints,

namely, to those who fear your name, the small and the great, and

when you will destroy those who destroy the earth.

**12**

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God

and the authority of his Christ,

because the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down,

the one who accuses them before our God day and night.

11They conquered him

because of the blood of the Lamb and

because of the word of their testimony.

They did not love their lives in the face of death.

12For this reason, rejoice, you heavens and those who dwell in them.

Woe to the earth and the sea, for the Devil has gone down to you.

He is full of rage, because he knows that his time is short.

**15**

Great and marvelous are your works, Lord God Almighty.

Just and true are your ways, King of the Nations.

4Who will not fear you, Lord,

and who will not praise your name?

You alone are holy!

All the nations will come and will bow down before you,

because your righteous verdicts have been revealed.

**19**

Alleluia!

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, 2for his judgments are true and just,

because he has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality,

and he has avenged his servants’ blood that was shed by her hand.

Alleluia! Her smoke goes up forever and ever.

Amen! Alleluia!

Praise our God, all you his servants and you who fear him, small and great.

Alleluia!

For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

7Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory,

because the wedding of the Lamb has come.

His bride has made herself ready,

8and she was given bright, clean, fine linen to wear.

The fine linen is the “not guilty” verdicts pronounced on the saints.)

Write: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb.