Sheet Music

for



Featuring:

- A Lead sheets (including melody and chords)
- Overhead masters
- ♪ Introductory notes

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INTERDUCTION

The Psalms are the paradigm for God's people in prayer. They express the full range of human emotion – joy, anger, sorrow, and fear – and engage God in praise, lament, confession, thanksgiving, adoration, and more. It's a remarkable thing to combine this variety with the particular ability of jazz music to express devotional thought and feeling with power and nuance. But it's a difficult thing to find good jazz music fitting for congregational use. This booklet is one small offering to help relieve that difficulty.

These pages, and the accompanying CD, contain 14 Psalms set to a jazz backdrop. They were originally prepared for Jazz Vespers at Calvin College, a multi-sensory prayer service that is led each week by Daniel Richardson and a team of students. (For more information about Jazz Vespers, see *Reformed Worship*, #70, pp. 42-43) Congregations and combos with even modest jazz chops should be able to use these pages to sing a new Psalm to the Lord.

MUSICAL, LITURGICAL, AND TECHNICAL NOTES:

- In standard jazz notation, G^7 indicates a G major chord with a dominant 7^{th} . G^{-7} indicates a minor chord with a dominant 7^{th} , and G^{a7} indicates a major chord with a major 7^{th} .
- The verses of the Psalms can be spoken over the chord changes, as on the CD. The words in **bold** indicate where the first beat of each bar might fall in order to speak the verses at the right pace to finish the words and music at the same time.
- Jazz is often syncopated. The sheet music here has tried to capture the proper rhythms, but listening to the CD is the best way to learn them.
- Many of the songs are offered in multiple keys the first is the original key on the CD, the second is one that might be in a better range for congregational use.
- Not every verse of every Psalm is printed here. Feel free to select different verses from the longer Psalms, or even use a different Psalm with a particular refrain. For instance, you might use "Praise the Name of the Lord" (#13) with Psalm 107, or 148, 113, or many others.
- The refrains are offered here in a melody-only format to be projected using an overhead machine or PowerPoint. They may also be copied and inserted into a bulletin.
- All copies should be accompanied by the copyright statement: © 2004 Daniel Richardson and Angel Napieralski. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
- If your congregation reports song use to CCLI, please fill in your own CCLI license number and report your use of these Psalms.
- Though the music is offered here, the refrains are memorable, and most congregations, if led well, should be able to sing them without any printed music.
- All the scripture used is taken from the NRSV, © National Council of Churches, 1989.
- Special thanks to the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship (www.calvin.edu/worship) for inspiration and support.

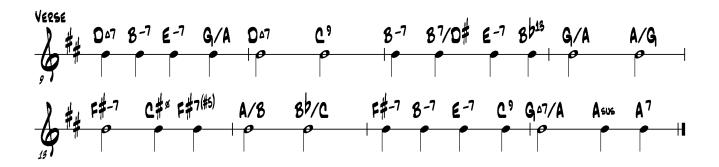
Rev. Ron Rienstra

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1. Psalm 100 - Make a Joyful Noise

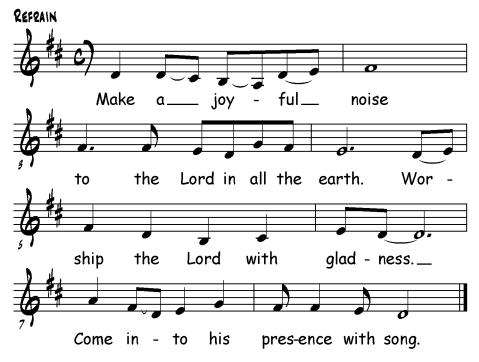
Genevan 134 (Old Hundredth) Louis Bourgeois (1551) Arr. Daniel Richardson





- 3 Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.
- 5 For the Lord is good; his **steadfast** love endures forever, and his **faithfulness** to all generations. *Refrain*.

(Psalm 100, continued)

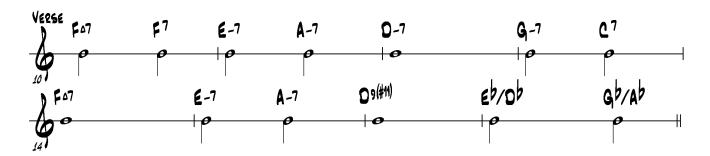


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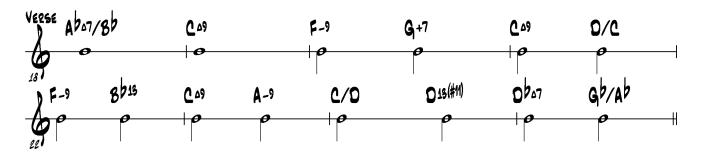
2a. Psalm 139 - You Created My Innermost Being



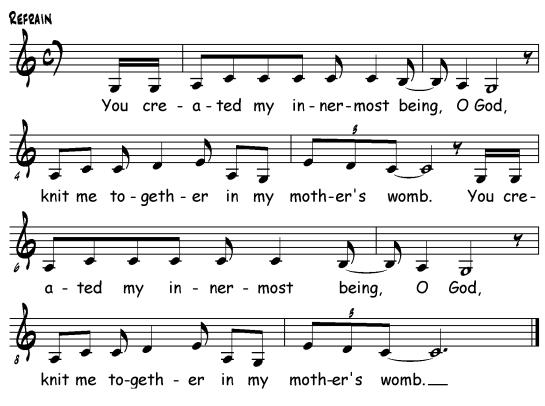


- 10 Lord, you have searched me and known me.
- 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.
- 3 You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 4 Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. Refrain.
- 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
 - if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
- 9 If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, 10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. Refrain.

(Psalm 139, continued)



- 13 For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
 Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.
- 15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Refrain.



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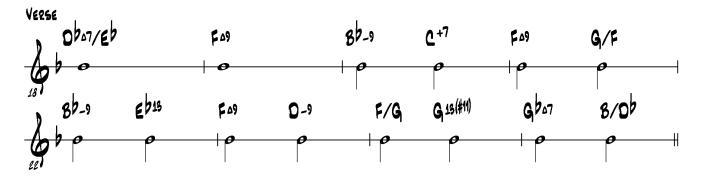
2b. Psalm 139 - You Created My Innermost Being

(in a higher key)

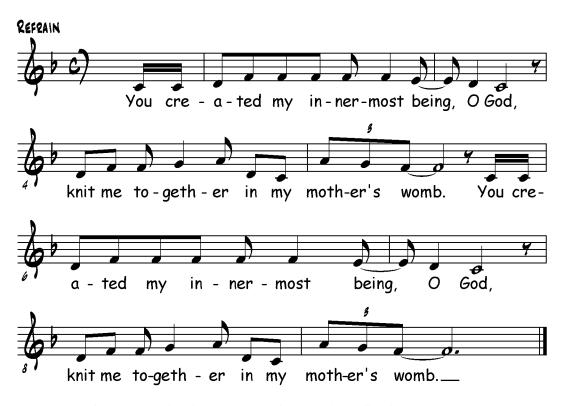


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(Psalm 139, continued)



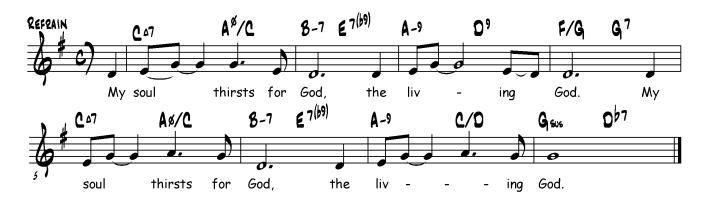
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- 15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Refrain.

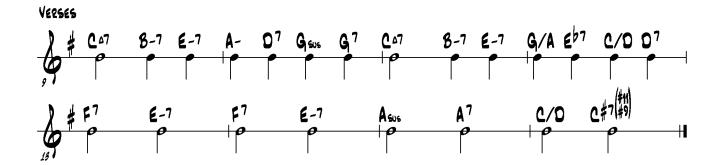


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3. Psalm 63 - My Soul Thirsts for God

Daniel Richardson and Angel Napieralski





10 God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

2 So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

3 Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. Refrain.

I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

5 My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

6 when I think of you on my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

7 for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. Refrain.

450 I will bless you as long as I live;

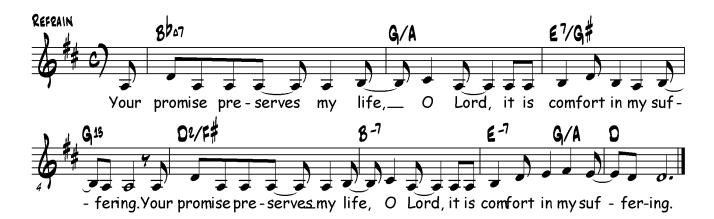
(Psalm 63, continued)

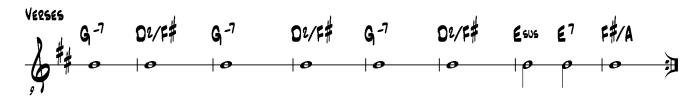


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4a. Psalm 119 - Your Promise Preserves My Life





- 41 Let your steadfast love come to me, O Lord, your salvation according to your promise.
- 42 Then I shall have an answer for those who taunt me, for I trust in your word.
- 43 Do not take the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for my hope is in your ordinances.
- 44 I will keep your law continually, forever and ever.
- 45 I shall walk at liberty, for I have sought your precepts.
- 46 I will also speak of your decrees before kings, and shall not be put to shame; Refrain.
- 58 I implore your favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise.
- 59 When I think of your ways, I turn my feet to your decrees;
- $60\,\mathrm{I}$ hurry and do not delay to keep your commandments.
- $\emph{61}$ Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me, I do not forget your law.
- 62 At midnight I rise to praise you, because of your righteous ordinances.
- 63 I am a companion of all who fear you, of those who keep your precepts.
- 64 The earth, O Lord, is full of your steadfast love; Refrain.

(Psalm 119, continued)

89 The Lord exists forever; your word is firmly fixed in heaven.

90 Your faithfulness endures to all generations;

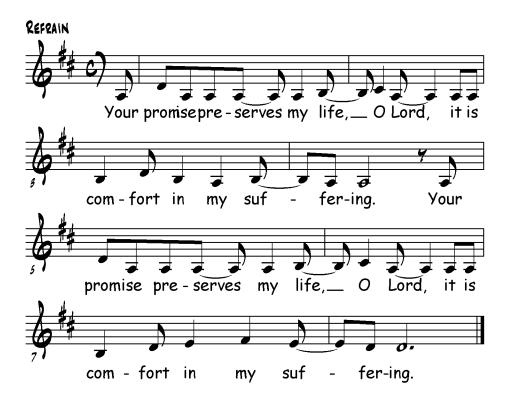
you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

91 By your appointment they stand today, for all things are your servants.

92 If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my misery.

93 I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life.

94 I am yours; save me, for I have sought your precepts. Refrain.

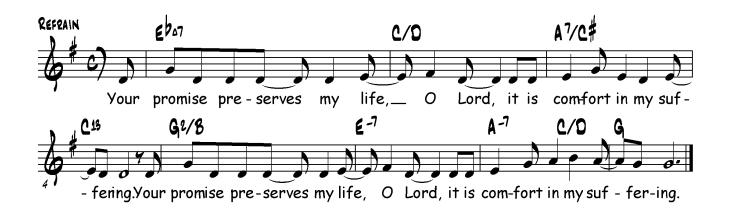


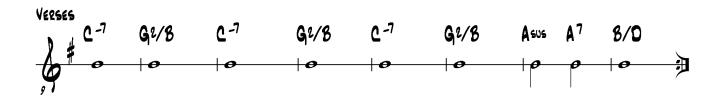
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4b. Psalm 119 - Your Promise Preserves My Life

(in a higher key)





- 41 Let your steadfast love come to me, O Lord, your salvation according to your promise.
- 42 Then I shall have an answer for those who taunt me, for I trust in your word.
- 43 Do not take the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for my hope is in your ordinances.
- 44 I will keep your law continually, forever and ever.
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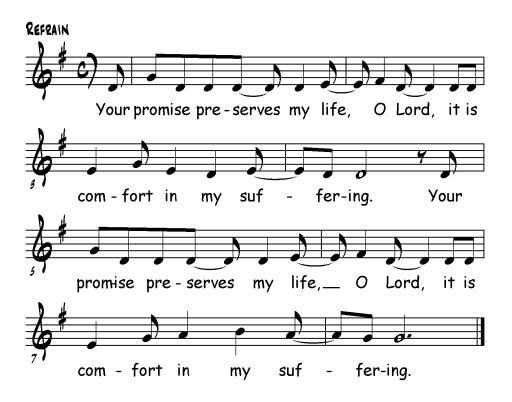
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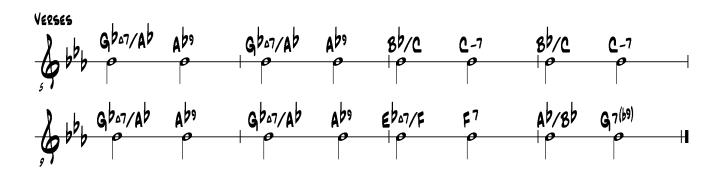
94 I am yours; save me, for I have sought your precepts. Refrain.



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5. Psalm 79 - Help Us, O God, Our Savior





- 10 God, the nations have come into your inheritance;
 - they have defiled your holy temple;
 - they have laid Jerusalem in ruins.
- 2 They have given the bodies of your servants to the birds of the air for food, the flesh of your faithful to the wild animals of the earth.
- 3 They have poured out their blood like water all around Jerusalem, and there was no one to bury them. Refrain.

(Psalm 79, continued)

- 8 Do not remember against us the iniquities of our ancestors; let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low.

 9 Help us 0 God of our salvation for the clara of your name:
- 9 Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and forgive our sins, for your name's sake. Refrain.
- 11 Let the groans of the prisoners come before you; according to your great power preserve those doomed to die.
- 12 Return sevenfold into the **bosom** of our neighbors the taunts with which they taunted you, O **Lord!**
- 13 Then we your people, the flock of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever; from generation to generation we will recount your praise. Refrain.

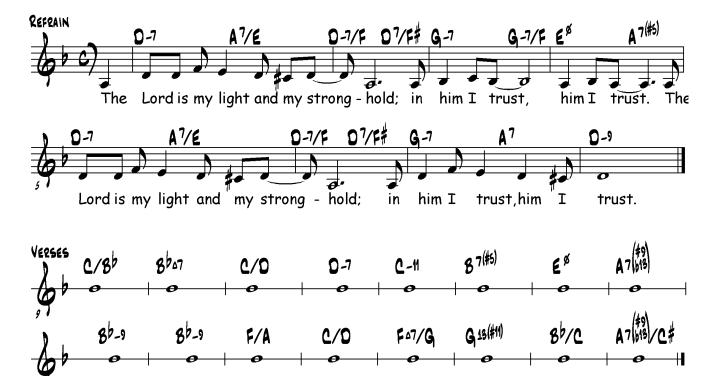
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6. Psalm 27 - The Lord is My Light and My Stronghold



- 1. The 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?
- 2. When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh my adversaries and foes they shall stumble and fall.
- 3. Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

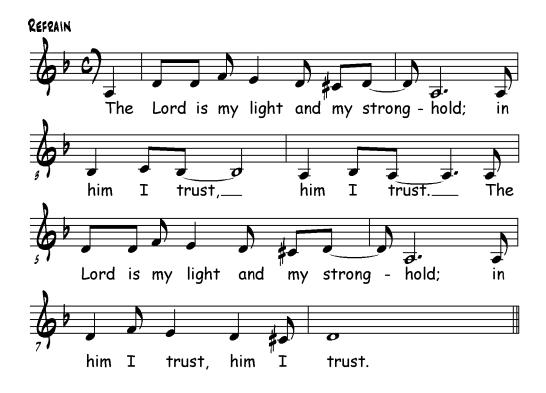
 The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Refrain.
- 4. One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:
- to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
- to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.
- 5. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.
- 6. Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord. Refrain.

(Psalm 27, continued)

- 11. Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.
- 12. Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,

for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.

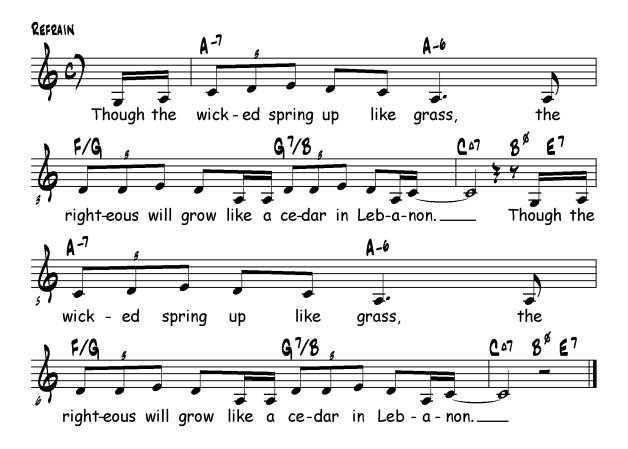
- 13. I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
- 14. Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord! Refrain.

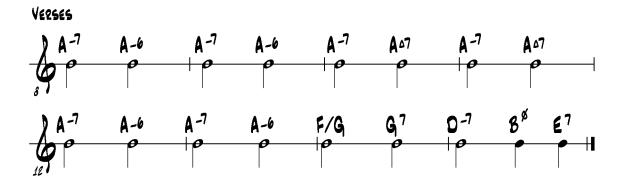


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7a. Psalm 92 - Though the Wicked Spring Up Like Grass





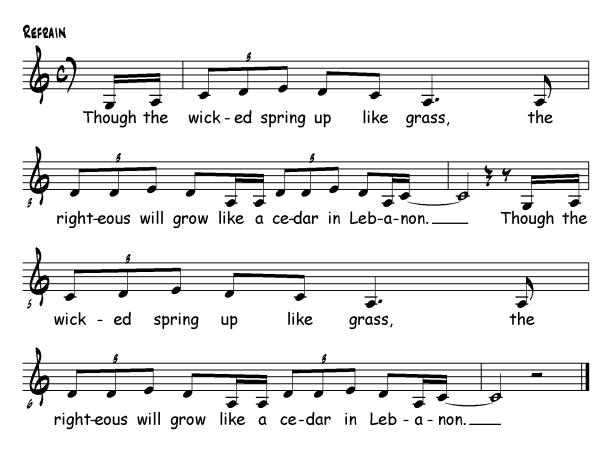
- 1 It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name,
- O **Most** High; 2 to declare your steadfast love in the **morning**, and your faithfulness by night, 3 to the **music** of the lute and the harp, to the **melody** of the lyre.
- 4 For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy. Refrain.

(Psalm 92, continued)

- 5 How great are your works, O Lord! Your thoughts are very deep!
- 6 The dullard cannot know, the stupid cannot understand this:
- 7though the wicked sprout like grass and all evildoers flourish, they are doomed to destruction forever,
- 8 but you, O Lord, are on high forever.
 - 9 For your enemies, O Lord, for your enemies shall perish; Refrain.
- 12 The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
- 13 They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God.
- 14 In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap,
- 15 showing that the Lord is upright;

he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him. Refrain.

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7b. Psalm 92 - Though the Wicked Spring Up Like Grass

(in a higher key)



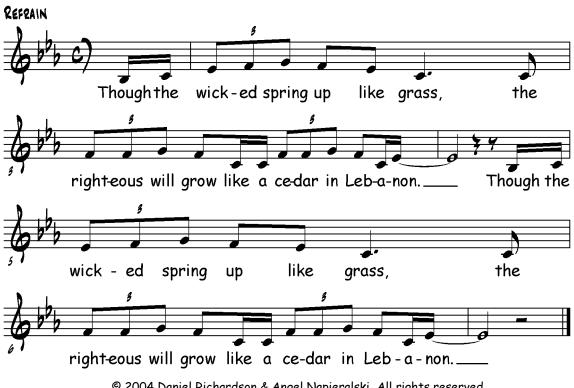
- 1 It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name,
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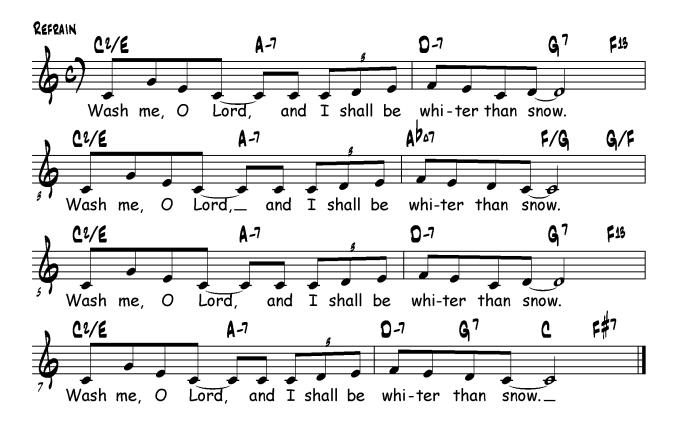
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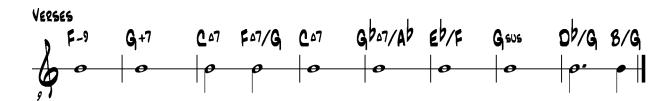
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8. Psalm 51 - Wash Me, O God

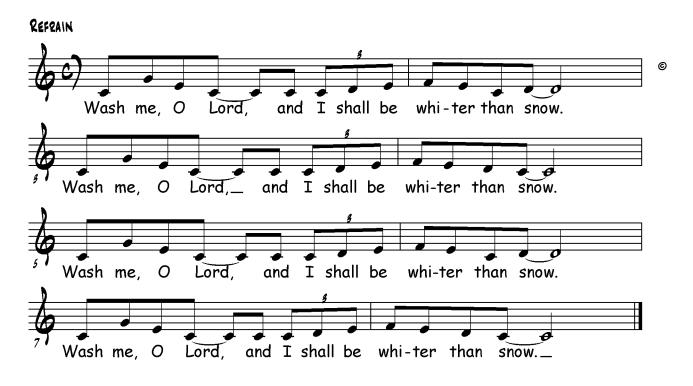




- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
- ${\it 3}$ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight. Refrain.
- 6 You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
- 9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Refrain.

(Psalm 51, continued)

- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.
- 11 Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.
- 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. Refrain.

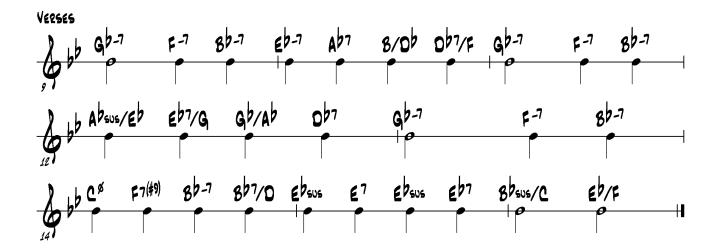


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9a. Psalm 85 - He Promises Peace to His People





- 1 Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- 2 You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.
- 3 You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.
- 4 Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us. Refrain.

(Psalm 85, continued)

- 75how us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.
- **8 Let** me hear what God the Lord will speak, for **he** will speak peace to his people, to **his** faithful, to those who turn to **him** in their hearts.
- 9 Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Refrain.
- 10 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
- righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
- 11 Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.
- 12 The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps. Refrain.

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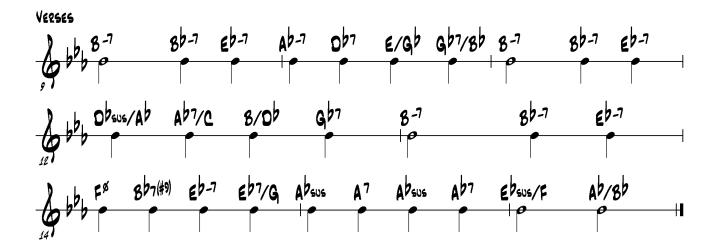
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9b. Psalm 85 - He Promises Peace to His People

(in a higher key)



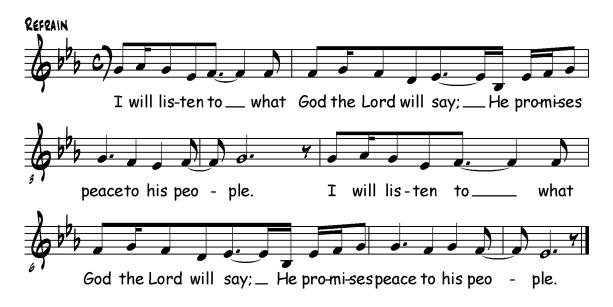


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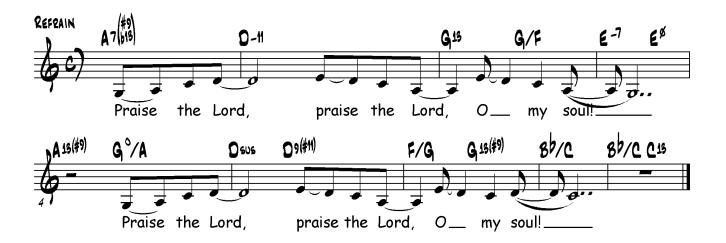
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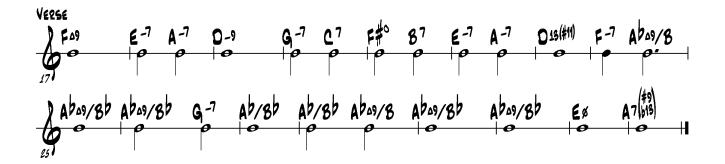
10a. Psalm 146 - Praise the Lord O My Soul





- 1 Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
- 2 I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.
- ${\it 3\,Do}$ not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.
- 4 When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish. Refrain.

(Psalm 146, continued)



5 Happy are those whose **help** is the God of Jacob, whose **hope** is in the Lord their God, 6 who **made** heaven and earth, the sea, and **all** that is in them; who keeps faith **forever**; 7 who executes justice for the **oppressed**; who gives food to the **hungry**.

The Lord sets the prisoners free; $\boldsymbol{8}$ the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

9 The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

10 The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Refrain.

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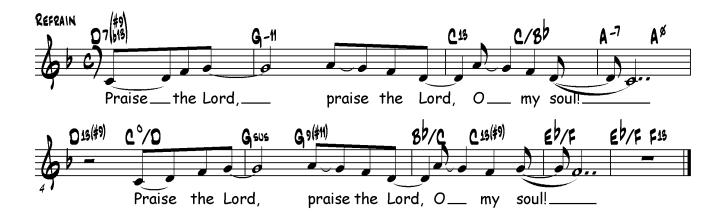


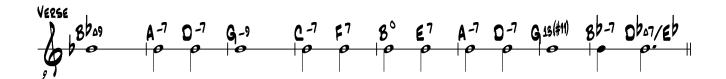
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10b. Psalm 146 - Praise the Lord O My Soul

(In a higher key)





- 1 Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
- 2 I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.
- 3 Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.
- 4 When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish. Refrain.

(Psalm 146, continued)



5 Happy are those whose **help** is the God of Jacob, whose **hope** is in the Lord their God, 6 who **made** heaven and earth, the sea, and **all** that is in them; who keeps faith **forever**; 7 who executes justice for the **oppressed**; who gives food to the **hungry**.

The Lord sets the prisoners free; 8 the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

- 9 The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
- 10 The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Refrain.

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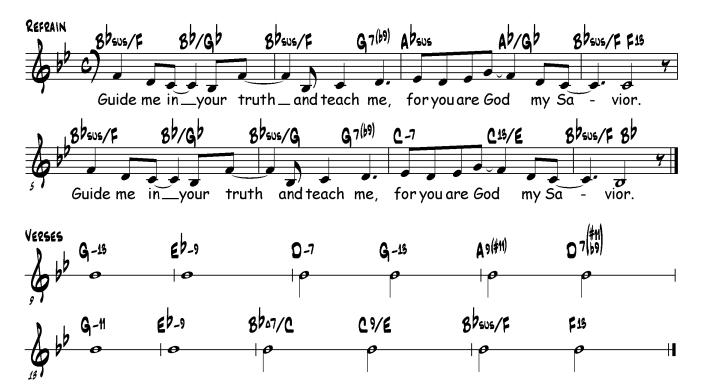


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11. Psalm 25 - Guide Me in Your Truth and Teach Me

Daniel Richardson and Angel Napieralski



8 Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

9 He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

10 All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

11 For your name's sake, O Lord, pardon my guilt, for it is great. Refrain.

- 14 The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him, and he makes his covenant known to them.
- 15 My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for he will pluck my feet out of the net.
- 16 Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.
- 17 Relieve the troubles of my heart, and bring me out of my distress. Refrain
- 4 Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.
- 5 Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;

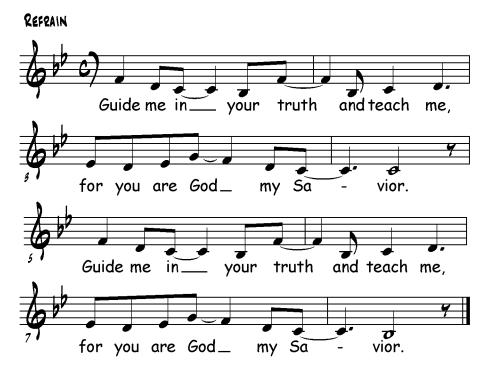
for you I wait all day long. 6 Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord,

and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

7Do **not** remember the sins of my youth! Refrain.

(Psalm 25, continued)

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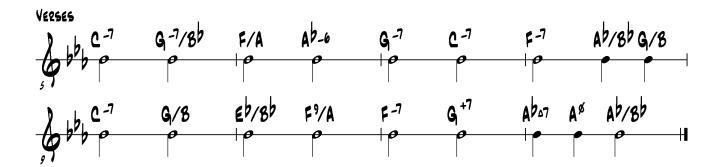
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12. Psalm 19 - There Is No Speech or Language

Daniel Richardson and Angel Napieralski





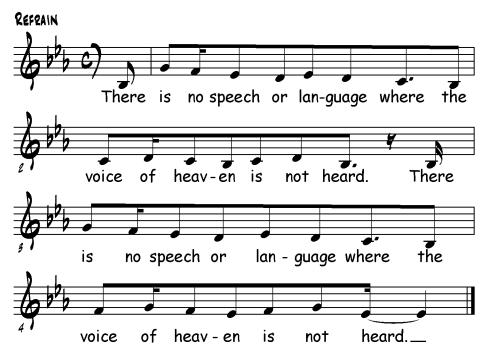
7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; 8 the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; 9 the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold... Refrain.

- 4b In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
- 5 which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
- 6 Its rising is from the end of the **heavens**, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is **hid** from its heat.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Refrain.

(Psalm 19, continued)

- 1 The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
- 2 Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.
- 3 There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;
- 4 yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. Refrain.

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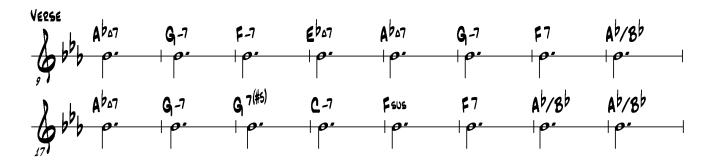
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13. Psalm 107 - Praise the Name of the Lord

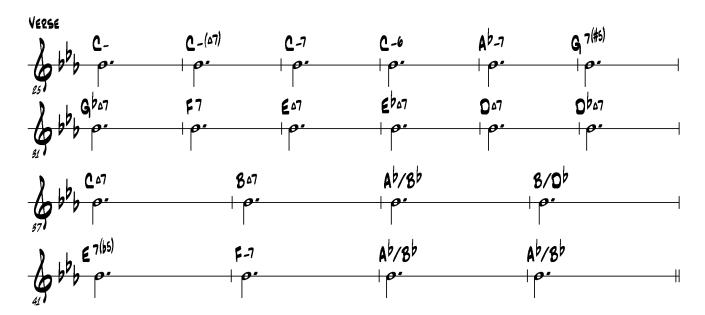
Hal Hopson/Arr. Daniel Richardson



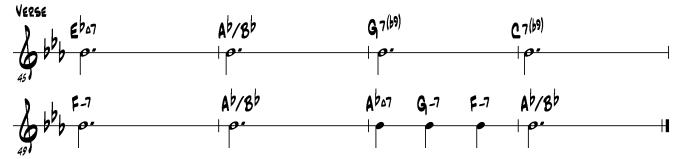


- 1. O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. 2. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble
- 3. and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. Refrain.
- 23. Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the mighty waters;
- 24. they saw the deeds of the Lord, his wondrous works in the deep.
- 25. For he commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea. Refrain.

(Psalm 107, continued)



- 26. They mounted up to heaven, they went down to the depths; their courage melted away in their calamity;
- 27. they **reeled** and **staggered** like drunkards **and** were at their wits' **end**.
- 28. Then they **cried** to the Lord in their **trouble**, and he **brought** them out from their **distress**;
- 29. he made the storm be **still**, and the **waves** of the sea were hushed.
- 30. Then they were **glad** because they had **quiet**, and he **brought** them to their desired **haven**. *Refrain*.



- 31. Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
- for his wonderful works to humankind.
- 32. Let them **extol** him in the **congregation** of the people, and **praise** him in the **assembly** of the **elders**. *Refrain*.

(Psalm 107, continued)

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REFRAIN



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14a. Psalm 98 - Sing, Sing a New Song to the LORD God

Genevan 98 (1551), Arr. Daniel Richardson

Text: Ps. 98 versified by Dewey Westra, 1931, © Psalter Hymnal 1987



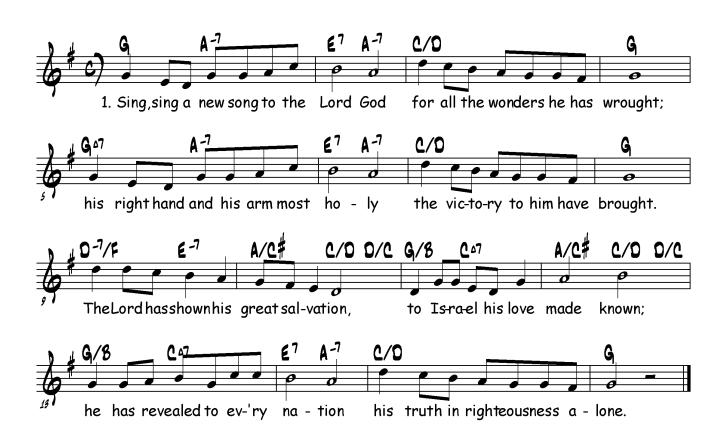
- 2. Shout, make a joyful noise before him, O all the earth his praises sing; with harp and trumpet sound adore him, make music to the Lord, the King. Let oceans roar with all their fullness the world and all who dwell therein, proclaim the power of God with boldness, exalt him ever and again.
- 3. Let all the streams in joyous union now clap their hands and praise accord, let mountains sing in glad communion, and skip for joy before the Lord. He comes, he comes to judge the people, arrayed in truth and equity; he shall redeem the world from evil, and righteous shall his judgment be.

14b. Psalm 98 - Sing, Sing a New Song to the Lord God

(in a higher key)

Genevan 98 (1551), Arr. Daniel Richardson

Text: Ps. 98 versified by Dewey Westra, 1931, © Psalter Hymnal 1987



- 2. Shout, make a joyful noise before him, O all the earth his praises sing; with harp and trumpet sound adore him, make music to the Lord, the King. Let oceans roar with all their fullness the world and all who dwell therein, proclaim the power of God with boldness, exalt him ever and again.
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