

Reclaiming Scriptural Psalm Singing

Introduction: Have you sung the songs God wrote for you?

1. Understand the importance of psalm singing in the Christian life.

A. God inspired 150 Psalms to be sung.

1. The designation “to the music director” shows their intention to be sung.
2. The name “psalm” means a song to be sung.

B. The Psalms are at the core of the Bible

1. Often quoted in the New Testament (Lk. 24:44)

(Lk. 24:44 NASB) Jesus said, “all things which are written about Me in the ^bLaw of Moses and the Prophets and ^cthe Psalms must be fulfilled.”

2. A favorite book of many believers

C. Psalm singing is at the core of the Christian life in the New Testament.

1. Connected with Spirit-filling in Ephesians 5:18-19
2. Connected with a Word-filled life in Colossians 3:16-17

Ephesians 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, ^{19a}speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; ²⁰always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

Psalm singing grows out of the Spirit-filling

Psalm singing is just one type of singing

The command is to be filled with the Spirit

^{ESV} Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Psalm singing grows out of the Word-filled life

Psalm singing enables a RICH indwelling of the Word

Thoughts on How To Introduce Psalm Singing

1. Pray about when and how to introduce the singing of a psalm.
2. Prepare the congregation for the idea of psalm singing
For some the idea of singing “new” songs might feel undesirable.
Most people know what they like--they like what they know.
Scripture calls us to be so excited about God that we want to sing “new” songs to Him.
(Psa. 33:3, 40:3, 96:1, 98:1, etc.)
3. Choose psalm settings wisely.
 - A. The tune should be familiar, pleasant, and easy to sing.
 - B. The topic of the psalm should be edifying.
 - B. The text should be easily understood and be poetic.
 - C. The length should be short to moderate.
 - D. A familiar psalm (Psalm 23, 51) is commendable.
4. Familiarize the congregation ahead of time with the tune and/or setting.
 - A. The choir or a special music number can familiarize the congregation with the text and tune.
 - B. If the tune is less familiar, include it in a prelude.
(The keyboard intro could be the entire tune.)
 - C. The choir can heartily lead the congregation.
5. Emphasize the edifying power of singing God’s Word (John 17:17, Heb. 4:12)
 - A. Avoid the “I-know-there’s-a-stigma-but-we-have-to-do-this” syndrome.
 - B. Avoid over-defending the practice—Perhaps no defense is necessary—just do it.
 - C. Testimonials about specific psalms can be supportive.
 - D. Sing a specific setting in connection with a message on a psalm, for example.
6. It is legitimate, Biblical, and sometimes wise to sing only part of a psalm.
 - A. The psalms themselves and Chronicles “borrow” portions of psalms.
 - B. We cite portions of psalms in sermons.
 - C. The NT quotes portions of psalms.
 - D. Choruses such as Psalm 103:1 are an effective way to “sneak into” psalm singing.
7. Be sensitive to the feedback of your people.

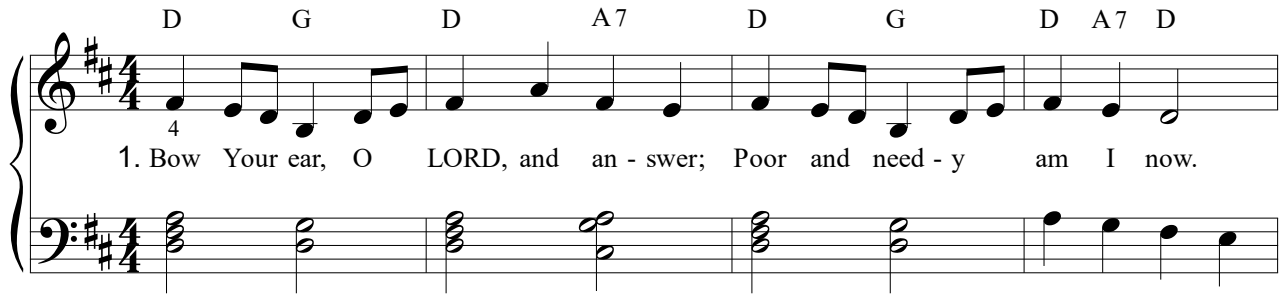
Should psalm singing be Christianized?

Praise Glorious has 50 psalm settings

ChurchWorksMedia.com also has some good psalm settings

Bow Your Ear, O Lord, And Answer PSALM 86:1-4

D G D A7 D G D A7 D



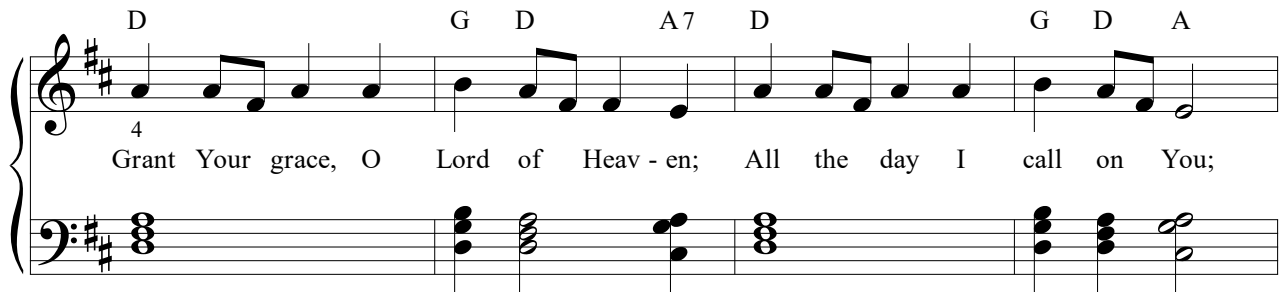
1. Bow Your ear, O LORD, and an - swer; Poor and need - y am I now.

G D A7 D G D A7 D



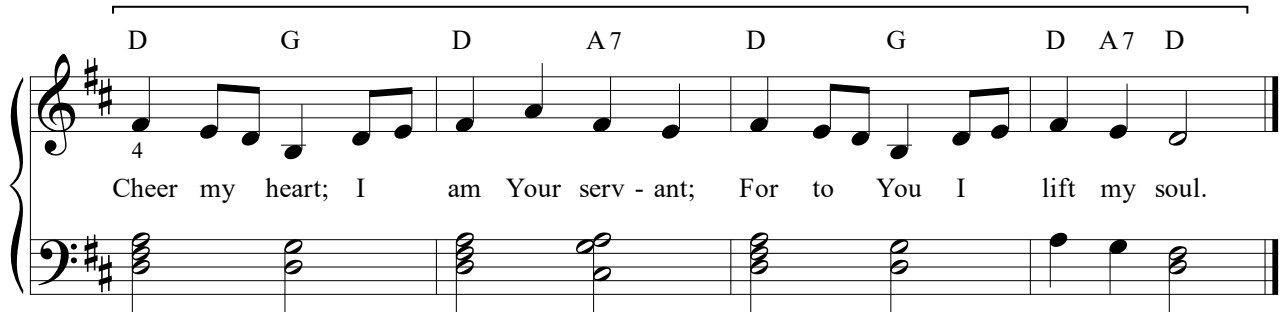
Keep my soul, for I am faith - ful; Save the one who trusts in You.

D G D A7 D G D A



Grant Your grace, O Lord of Heav - en; All the day I call on You;

D G D A7 D G D A7 D



Cheer my heart; I am Your serv - ant; For to You I lift my soul.

All Nations, Praise Jehovah's Name PSALM 117

Praise the LORD, all nations; Laud Him, all peoples!

For His lovingkindness is great toward us,

And the truth of the LORD is everlasting.

Praise the LORD! Psalm 117 (NASB)

1. All na - tions, praise Je - ho - vah's name; All peo - ples,
2. E - ter - nal are Your mer - cies, LORD; E - ter - nal
3. The grace of God shall nev - er fail; The cross of

mag - ni - fy His fame! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
truth is all Your Word; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Christ shall e'er pre - vail; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

His lov - ing - kind - ness let us sing, 'Tis might - y o'er us in all things;
Your law, O God, is ev - er sure; Your tes - ti - mo - nies shall en - dure!
Go, take His truth to all the world; Pro - claim His name till all have heard;

REFRAIN

O praise Him, all peo - ples; Ex -

tol Him, all na - tions; Al - le - lu - ia!

Words metricized by Peter Davis from Psalm 117. The tune is public domain.

This arrangement © 2022 by Gloria Deo Music.org.

Free to use for non-commercial purposes. All other rights reserved.

All Nations, Praise Jehovah's Name PSALM 117

D Dsus4 A7 D

1. All na - tions, praise Je - ho - vah's name; All peo - ples,

Dsus4 A7 D G D E A D

come, ex - tol His fame! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! His

D A D

lov - ing - kind - ness let us sing, 'Tis might - y o'er us in all

A D G A D

things; O praise Him, O praise Him, Al - le -

G D E A Em Em7 A7 D

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

2. Eternal are Your mercies, LORD;
Eternal truth is all Your word;
Alleluia, alleluia!
Your law, O God, is ever sure;
Your testimonies will endure!
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3. His lovingkindness cannot fail,
His grace shall over all prevail;
Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and glory in His love,
Forever worship Him above!
O come ye, all nations,
O sing ye, all peoples, alleluia!

Come, Praise the LORD, Jehovah God PSALM 113

1. Come praise the LORD, Je - ho - vah God; Come all His

ser - vants, praise His name; From dawn to dusk, from shore to

shore; For ev - er - more His praise pro - claim.

*2. Exalted is the LORD our God;
O'er all the earth He reigns on high;
O who is like the Lord our God?
His glory shines from sky to sky!*

*3. He condescends to view the heav'ns;
And how much more, the earth to see!
He lifts the needy from the dust;
O praise His name, He lifted me!*

*4. He makes the humble sit on high,
And gives them vict'ry o'er the world;
He makes the barren to rejoice;
Come, all His servants, praise the Lord!*

I Love You, Lord PSALM 118

1. I love You, Lord, my strength, my rock, My shield, my

Chords: G, C, G

ref - uge in my need. When death con - fronts me with its

Chords: Em, Am, D, G

snares, I cry to You, and I am freed.

Chords: Em, C, G, C, G

2. As for our God, His way is right;
His every deed is good and just;
His every word is tried and true;
He is our only hope and trust.

3. No other God, no other Rock;
You make me run like nimble deer;
You train my arms to bend a bow;
Your gentle hand is always near.

4. I gained the vict'ry by Your might;
You placed me high above my foes.
Blest be my Rock who rescued me,
And lovingkindness ever shows.

All Nations, Praise Jehovah's Name PSALM 117

Joy in the Lord, O earth; Sing the hon - or of His name;

Praise Him with joy and mirth; With your glo - ry Him pro - claim!

Come, tell His works of awe; To Him all foes will bow;

Bring Him your hom - age now; Come, all peo - ple, praise His name!

2. *Come, see the works of God,
Fearful to the sons of men;
Turns seas into dry land;
There let us rejoice in Him!
He rules us by His might;
All nations keeps in sight;
Rebels, forsake your pride;
Come, all people, praise His name!*

3. *You test us, O our God;
Bring us through the flood and flame,
Purge us as precious gold,
May we never come to shame.
Foes you brought o'er our heads;
Brought us into the net,
Yet led us out to rest;
Come all people, praise His name.*

4. *Off'rings I bring You, Lord;
Pay my vows unto Your name;
Gratefully keep my word;
Thankfully Your praise proclaim.
All who Jehovah fear;
Now to His house draw near;
His goodness come and hear;
Come all peoples, praise His name.*

5. *If evil I regard,
God will not to me give ear;
But surely He has heard,
Has attended to my prayer.
He sets His love on me;
Glory to Him shall be
Through all eternity;
Come, all people, praise His name!*