

GIVE THANKS TO THE GOD BEYOND ALL GODS

Responsorial Song from Psalm 118 for Easter 2A
for Psdalmist (Cantor, Assembly & Descant
with Keyboard, Flute & Guitar

TONY BARR

*Give thanks! Give thanks for God is good,
whose love has no end!*

Give thanks to the God beyond all gods,
whose kindness and mercy are without end.
Let the People of Covenant
'God's kindness and mercy are without end!'

I had fallen, hardpressed, struck down,
but then God came to rescue me,
my strength, who came with courage.
Victorious songs from the tents of the just!

Worthless as a stone to the builders,
has become the cornerstone.
Great things we have done this day,
what marvels we have wrought for us!

Let us be glad and rejoice,
this day God has made for us!

Let us be glad and rejoice,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Taking my cue from the last line of this well-knownlectionary psalm, I have added a fourth verses as a doxology. Please note that I have presented the word *Alleluia*, and take care how you pronounce it. Against convention I have written it phonetically as it would be sung in its original guttural Hebrew rather than our Anglicized stress on *la*. Please respect the vowels to the 'l' consonants and sing it as *lel*. Since Hebrew has no vowels, only consonants followed by diacritical marks, I have played intentionally on the 'ls', to turn the word into a dance. As a word, *Alleluia* has much more meaning than the sounds of its construction; writing is simply a developed way of expressing concepts, and in more ancient languages such as Hebrew, there are fewer words to communicate an entire spectrum of meaning. We regard words as expressing concepts, Hebrew is expressive of reality itself. Psalm 150, the final psalm of the five books of the Psalms ends with the dramatic phrase, *Let every breath in my body be a song of praise, "Halleluya!"* I transferred this commitment into my added doxology, as befits any Sunday in Eastertide.

- Tony Barr

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Give Thanks To The God Beyond All Gods

Responsorial Song from Psalm 118 for Easter 2C

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INTRO ♩ = ca. 56

Psalm 118 (Cantor)
first time only

Musical score for the Intro section. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 6/8. The tempo is marked as 'ca. 56'. The piano part includes chords E, Bm7, E, D, and In. The vocal line begins with a whole note rest followed by a half note 'In'.

Musical score for the main body of the song. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 6/8. The piano part includes chords E, Bm7, Bm7, G, F#m, Bm, and E. The vocal line has the lyrics: 'joy we sing thanks - giv - ing God, whose love is end - less.'

SAMPLE

REFRAIN
Flute on selected Refrains

In joy - ful thanks - giv - ing to God whose love is

In joy we sing thanks - giv - ing to God, whose love is

end - less.

end - less.

1-3.

E Bm7 E Bm7 G Bm

E Bm7 C Bm7

E Bm7 C Bm7 E

VERSES Psalmist (Cantor) *from the ambo*

1. Give thanks to the God be - yond all gods, whose kindness and mercy are with - out end
 2. I had fallen, hard - pressed, struck down, but then God came to rescue me.
 3. Worthless the stone to the builders, has become for us the cornerstone.
 4. Let us be glad and re - joice, this day God has done for us!

Bsus4 D Cmaj7sus4 D

1. Let the People of the earth say: 'God's kindness and mercy are
 2. my strength, who fills me with courage. His victorious songs from the tents of the
 3. Great things have hap - pened to me, which no one can marvel at. They lie there be -
 4. Let us be glad and re - joice. Hal - le - lu - yah! Hal - le - lu - yah!

E Bm7 Am Cmaj7sus4

1. endless!
 2. just!
 3. Give
 4. uya.

allegro *a tempo*

E E D/C Am Bb E

D.S.

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In joy - ful thanks - giv - to
In joy we sing thanks - giv - ing

God, whose love is end - less
God, whose love is end - less.

VERSES Psalmist (Cantor) *from the ambo*

1. Give thanks to the God be yond all gods,
2. I had fallen, and I was oppressed, struck down,
3. Worthless the strength of the builders,
4. Let us be glad and rejoice,

1. whose kindness and mercy are with - out end
2. but then God came to rescue me,
3. has become us the cornerstone!
4. this day made for us!

1. Let the People of Cov - en - ant say:
2. strength, who fills me with courage.
3. Great things have hap - pened this day,
4. Let us be glad and re - joice,

1. God's kindness and mer - cy are endless!
2. Victorious songs of the tents of the just! Give
3. what lie there be - fore us!
4. Hal - lel - u - yia! Hal - lel - uya!