

YOU ARE A PRIEST FOR EVER

Responsorial Song from Psalm 110 of Corpus Christi [C]
for Psalmis (Cantata) Assembled Descant
with Keyboard, Flute, French Horn, Bassoon & Guitar

TONY BARR

*You are a priest for ever,
as Melchizedek of old.*

I was called by the Living One,
"Sit here by my right hand,
while I reduce your enemies,
a stool to rest your feet."

God, for you, is a hero, you a priest like Melchizedek,
subduing all who threaten you, you shall be for ever.
the proud of heart humbled in the land, This promise I make to you,
beneath the rule of Zion. my words shall be trusted."

"Child of light, you are born to me, your power may you prosper,
on this holy mountain, you shall win the hearts of nations.
eternal youth is my gift, you shall have your fill
my right hand is your helper, and your streams shall you have your fill
and your streams shall you have your fill
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Psalm 110 may be the oldest psalm in the entire psalter. It is believed that its text has been severely compromised, corrupted beyond the point of restoration. The gist of the song suggests a psalm of enthronement of a king. As such, it would have formed part of the coronation ritual, when God was re-elected as King of Israel. It's origins could well have been the coronation of David, the ruler of the mountain kingdom of Zion. There appears to be a scripted dialogue within the psalm between David, the ruler, and Zadok the officiating priest. As a ritual official, the priest's role would have been that of a prophet, through whom God spoke to the Nation through the ruler of the nation. The reference to the ancient and obscure name of the priest Melchizedek is an empowerment of the king as priest too.

In the actual enthronement of a king is led up the steps to his throne, flanked by winged lions (cherubs), he assumes the identity of a deity in the surrounding Canaanite temples. This explains the entire opening verses of the psalm. The king speaks on behalf of YWH: sit on God's right side, place of honor. Through you, YWH will reign. YWH has sworn an oath: you shall be a king-priest for ever, as was Melchizedek'.

However, in the neighboring kingdom states, the king was not the God of the Nation. Only YWH could claim that he was supreme God and King of Israel. The nation's King, anointed in the name of YWH, wore the crown on God's behalf, and was expected with all of the qualities of wisdom and benign leadership as referred to in Psalm 72.

- Tony Barr

music & text of Ps 110 by Tony Barr, 2004, 2008, 2019
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JM 711

You Are A Priest For Ever

Responsorial Song from Psalm 110 for Corpus Christi [C]

Steadily and deliberately unhurried throughout

music & text from Tony Barr

INTRO ♩ = 68

REFRAIN instruments on selected Refrains

Flute



French Horn



Descant on selected Refrains



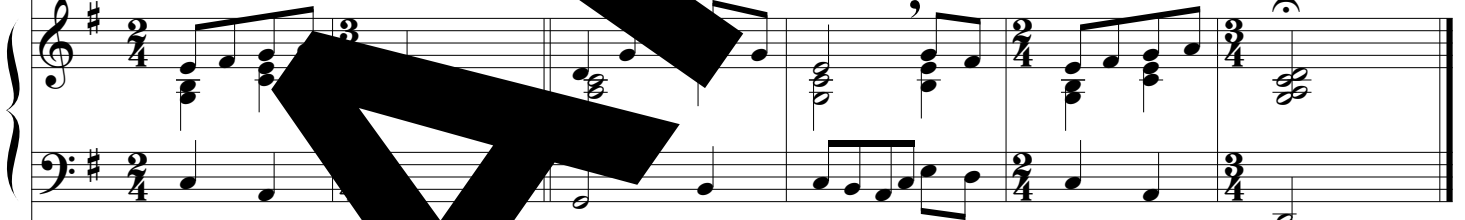
Y - es - us Mel - chi-ze-dek of old.

All



Y - es - us Mel - chi-ze-dek of old.

Cmaj7 Am7 Dsus G Cmaj7 Em Cmaj7 Am7 Dsus



Bass Guitar



VERSES Psalmist (Cantor) at the ambo

1. I was called by the Liv - ing One, ——— her by my
2. God, for you, is a he - ro, ——— sub - all y
3. "Child of light, you are born to me ——— on ho -
4. "Yes, a priest like Mel - chi - ze - dek, ——— you s
5. With this pow'r may you pros - per, ——— and win the of

Gsus Am/G Am7 Em7

1. right hand, ——— wh I re - duce your ———
2. threat - en you, ——— the loud of heart hum - bled
3. moun - tain, ——— - nal youth is my
4. ev - er. ——— This the prom - ise I
5. na - tions. ——— from des - ert streams shall you

Bm7 Em7 Am7 Bm7 Gmaj7

1. en - e - mies, a stool to rest your
2. in the dust be - neath the rule of
3. gift to you, my right hand is your streng
4. make to you, my word is to be trust -
5. have your fill and drink of sweet - est vic - t'ry.

Am7 Bm7 Am7 C+2 Dsus

14

The musical score consists of three systems. The first system is a vocal line with five numbered verses of lyrics. The second system shows the piano accompaniment for the vocal line, with a treble clef and a bass clef. The third system shows the piano accompaniment for the bass line, with a bass clef. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and bar lines. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The piece ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

SAMPLE

for Fr. Leo Tibesar, St. Frances Cabrini Church, Minneapolis, MN
on the occasion of his fortieth anniversary of ordination March 9, 2008
and to honor his retirement from accountable ministry

You Are A Priest For Ever

Responsorial Song from Psalm 110

music by Tony Barr

REFRAIN ♩ = 68 *steadily and deliberately unhurried throughout*

You are a priest for ev - er, as Mel - ze - dek of old

All

You are a priest for ev - er, as Mel - ze - dek of old.

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3. "Child of light, you shall sit on this ho - ly
4. "Yes, a priest like Mel - ze - dek, you shall be for
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2. the be - neath the rule of Zi - on.
3. gift to my right hand is your strength."
4. make you, my word is to be trust - ed."
5. fill and drink of sweet - est vic - t'ry.