Our Help Is from the Lord *Ps. 121*

Lead Sheet

Gene Klosner Light the Fire! Music www.LTFMusic.com

Thank you for choosing Cher & Gene Klosner's psalm series!

All of our psalms are written in comfortable "congregational keys" and are available in SATB, but have been written so that all music ministry groups can use them, from soloist to duo, to contemporary praise teams (SAT), to full choirs.

This particular version is our "Full Song" version, which is verbatim refrain, but paraphrased verses.

You can use this song for Preparation of Gifts or Communion/Meditation any time the readings reflect themes of comfort or help from God. (See Assembly page for an expanded list of themes.)

If you have used songs such as Haugen's "Shepherd Me, O God," Foley's "The Cry of the Poor," or Manion's "I Lift Up My Soul" as your responsorial psalm when those respective psalms are the psalm of the day, then you can use this full song in the same manner when Ps. 121 is the psalm of the day (see the Assembly page for a full list of liturgical uses). A P/G/V version of this full song will also be available soon. An Lead Sheet w/SATB octavo version is available.

Also available soon in our standard "refrain and chant verse" (verbatim verses) version in full score SATB format and Soloist/Small Group format.

This PDF contains the following versions:

- Full song melody + chords (for director, guitar accompanist, piano "chorders" similar to fake books) (includes chords for piano/no capo, capo 3, and capo 5)
- Refrain Assembly (for director, worship aid makers)

Format:

- Solo cantor refrain melody
- Choir and congregation respond in unison (melody) refrain
- Solo cantor or unison men or women verse (persented in treble clef, so men sing verses an octave lower than written)
- Choir and congregation refrain with harmonies
- [Continue thru multiple verses and harmonized refrains]
- End with repeat of harmonized refrain (optional)

This music has a double refrain after the last verse to "close out" the song, so we use the 1st ending (m. 56 - "Yes, our help...") for repeating the refrain, then the tag ending (m. 57) at the very end.

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Other tips for "Our Help Is from the Lord":

Sing this softly, a la John Denver/Dan Fogelberg, in a style that feels like comfort, since that is what this text is about. When singing **melody**, don't let "who made" get drowned out, since it's a low part there.

For accompanists:

Either piano or guitar can emphasize the "Travis picking pattern" (similar rhythm to "Dust in the Wind," "Landslide," "Puff, the Magic Dragon," etc.). If one instrument carries that pattern, the other instrument can play simpler supportive chording.

Note when there's an asterisk in the chords, let the chord ring with a single hit/strum.

We strongly recommend listening to the recordings of this psalm.

Musically yours,

Cher & Gene

DIFFICULTY LEVEL		
(easy/medium/advanced)		
melody	harmony	accompaniment
e	e	m

Our Help Is from the Lord



who nei-therslum-bers nor____

fromthe Guard-i-an

of

Is - ra - el,___





Our Help Is from the Lord

Ps. 121



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Use for:

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time C (ord29C)

Monday of the 10th week in Ordinary Time (II) (ord10MoII)

Ritual Masses: Reception of Baptized Christians into Full Communion of the Church*

Various Needs: For Refugees and Exiles

Funerals Graduations

*technically, the refrain for this ritual Mass is simply "Our help is from the Lord."

Themes/keywords:

Shelter/Light/Pathway/Journey/Comfort/God our Help/Lent/Ps. 121

Use with full song version or with Psalm Tone 5 or 4 in F

Text version:

Our Help Is from the Lord (Gene Klosner)

Our help is from the Lord, from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. [1st time, repeat chorus]

I lift up my eyes to the mountains
When will help come to me
From the guardian of Israel
Who neither slumbers nor sleeps?
He guards my comin' and my goin'
He alone lights my way
So that my feet will not stumble
Nor will my heart stray, 'cause our help...[thru Chorus]

I know that the Lord is my guardian
He is my light and my shade
The moon by night will not harm me
Nor will the sun by day
He will guard me from all evil
He will guard my life
He is beside me at my right hand
Forever in my sight, 'cause our help...[thru Chorus]

[Repeat Chorus]
Heaven and earth, heaven and earth

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This psalm rendition is USCCB-approved and uses Verbatim Text on refrain. Full song version has paraphrased verses; Psalm Tone verses use USCCB-approved Verbatim Text.

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