

**BLESS THE KING WITH JUSTICE**

Responsorial Song from Psalm 72 for Advent 2A  
for Psalmist or Schola, Assembly & Descant with  
Keyboard, Trumpet I + II, Flute & Guitar

**TONY BARR**

- |  |       |  |
|--|-------|--|
| A Blessing for the King<br>(vv 1-7)                  | 1-2   | May he be a wise and just administrator of the Law (T. BARR) |
| A Blessing for the Kingdom<br>(vv 8-11)              | 3-7   | May he establish unending justice and universal peace        |
|  | 8     | May his rule cover the earth                                 |
|  | 9     | May the enemies acknowledge his greatness                    |
| A Blessing for the Poor of the Land<br>(vv 12-14)    | 10-11 | May all ruling Monarchs pay him tribute                      |
|  | 12    | May he rescue the poor                                       |
|  | 13    | May he champion the downtrodden                              |
|  | 14    | May he avenge the blood of the oppressed                     |
| A Blessing for the Length of his Reign<br>(vv 15-16) | 15    | Long life and prosperity to the King                         |
|  | 16    | And let the earth's resources be abundant                    |
| A Blessing for the God of Israel<br>(vv 18-19)       | 17    | May his Name be Great  |
|  | 18    | For God is all power on Israel's behalf                      |
|  | 19    | And God's glory fill the whole world.                        |

*When that day comes, justice shall flourish  
Justice and peace shall last for evermore*

Bless the King with justice, that he may rule the world  
give your wisdom for the task, and your judgment true.  
Justice, planted in the kingdom, brings the earth to bloom;  
golden harvest, rich and full as the unfailing moon.

Distant sea coasts honor you, your name is known  
heathen rulers bow to you, God of land and sea.  
Kings of Islands pay their tribute, gifts from Western lands,  
tribute too from Desert Lords, gifts from the Eastern Sands.

Captives, too, have been released, saved by your decree;  
may they always offer praise to you endlessly!  
You will bless the poor with goodness, your compassion strong;  
precious in your eyes the weak, none shall do them wrong!

Bless the name of God forever! Earth, resound with praise!  
We who are people named for God, worship all our days:  
For you have done such wonders, to your name we sing.  
The earth proclaims your glory, God honors you as King!"

<b>Full</b>	<b>2-5</b>
<b>Score.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Vocal</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Score.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Simple</b>	
<b>Score.....</b>	
<b>The</b>	
<b>Story.....</b>	

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Jabulani Music, 1520 E St Germain St, Apt 81, St Cloud, MN 56304  
phn 847-508-6576 email tbarrjabulani@gmail.com

# Bless The King With Justice

*Responsorial Song from Psalm 72 for Advent 2A*

INTRO/INTERLUDE Fanfare ♩ = ca. 77

Music & text from Ps. 72 Tony Barr

Flute on selected Verses

Trumpets

THE CALL TO WORSHIP Psalmist or Cantor *ad libitum*

When that day \_\_\_\_\_ comes, \_\_\_\_\_ us \_\_\_\_\_ tice shall \_\_\_\_\_ flour - ish!

F E $\flat$  Cm7 E $\flat$  F Gm B $\flat$  E $\flat$

SAMPLE

THE RESPONSE

Trumpets

to Bridge

Descant (ST/AB) on selected Reponses

Jus - tice and peace shall last for ev

All

Jus - tice and peace shall last for ev - er!

F Eb Cm7 Eb F Gm Cm

Bridge

to Verses or Final

F Eb Cm7 Eb Cm7 Gm Bb Cm

Final

Fine

Eb Cm Bb+2

VERSES

Flute on selected Verses

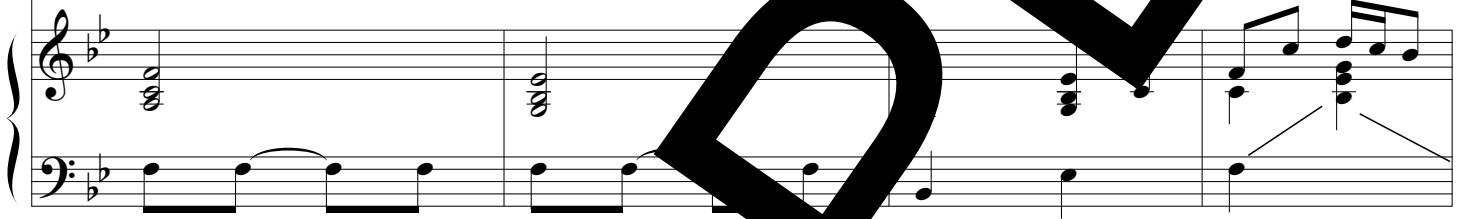


ODD VERSES Psalmist (Cantor) 1 from the ambo (or Male Voices)



1. Bless the King with jus - tice, that he \_\_\_\_\_ may rule like you
3. Dis - tant sea coasts hon - or you, tell \_\_\_\_\_ your ma - jes - ty;
5. Cap - tives, too, have been re - leased, saved \_\_\_\_\_ by your de - crees;
7. Bless the name of God our King! Earth, \_\_\_\_\_ re - sound with praise!

F E♭/F B♭ E♭ F E♭

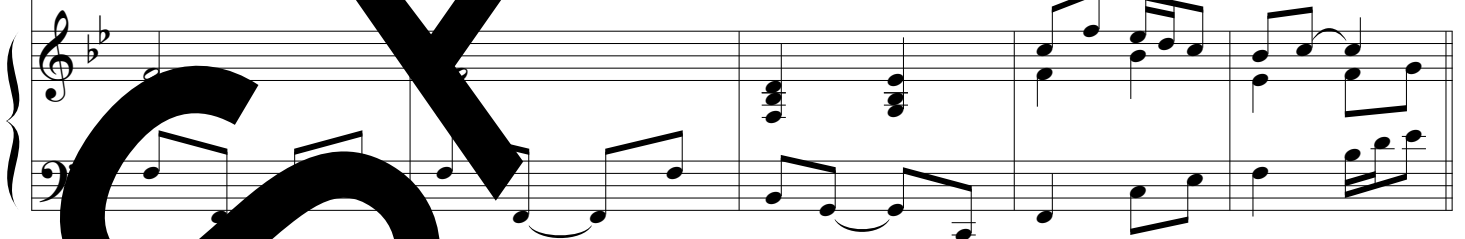


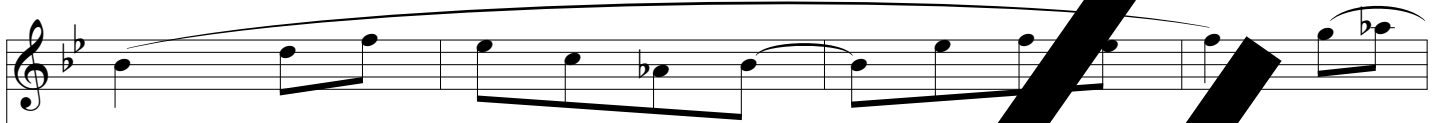
to even Verses



1. give your wis - dom for the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ your judge - ment true.
3. heath - en \_\_\_\_\_ bow to you, \_\_\_\_\_ of land and sea.
5. may they \_\_\_\_\_ way \_\_\_\_\_ for prayer, bless \_\_\_\_\_ you end - less - ly!
7. We, the peo - ple \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ wor - ship all our days:

F E♭/F B♭ Cm7 F Cm7 F E♭

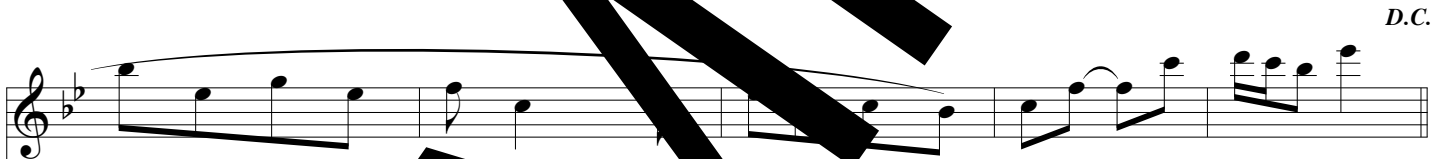




**EVEN VERSES Psalmist 2 from the ambo (or Female Voices)**



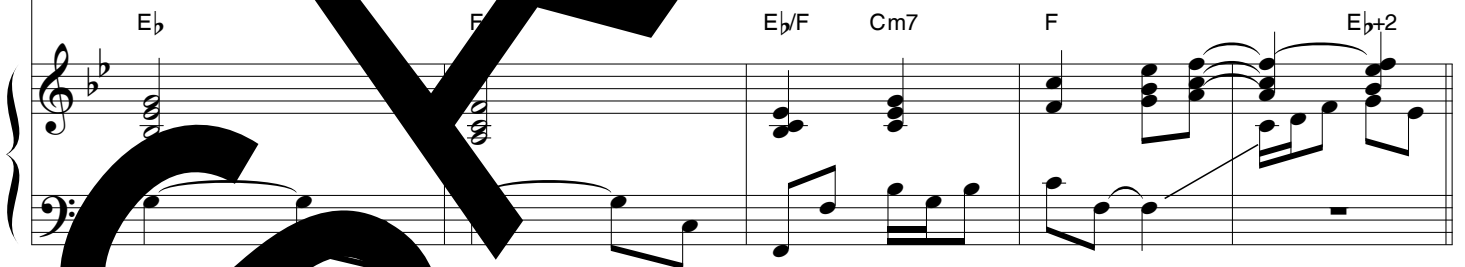
2. Jus - tice, plant - ed in the king - dom, brings the earth to  
 4. Kings of Is - lands pay their trib - ute, gifts from West - ern lands,  
 6. You will bless the poor with good things, com - pas - sion strong;  
 8. 'You a - lone have done such won - ders, to your name we



*D.C.*



2. gold - en har - vest rich and as un - fail - ing moon.  
 4. trib - ute too from Des - ert Lofts from South - ern Sands.  
 6. pre - cious eyes the weak, shall do them wrong!  
 8. Earth pro - cla - your God, hon - ors you as King!




**SAMPLE**

# Bless The King With Justice

*Responsorial Song from Psalm 72 for Advent 2A*

THE CALL TO WORSHIP ♩ = ca. 77

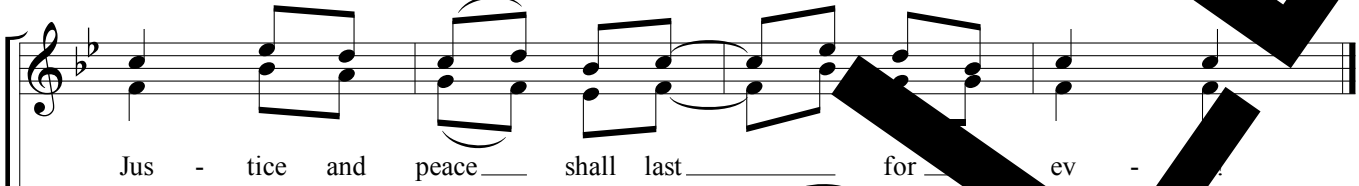
music & text from Psalm 72 Tony Barr



When that day \_\_\_\_\_ comes, \_\_\_\_\_ jus - tice shall \_\_\_\_\_ ish!


THE RESPONSE

SA/TB Descant on selected Responses




Jus - tice and peace \_\_\_\_\_ shall last \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ ev -

All




Jus - tice and peace \_\_\_\_\_ shall last \_\_\_\_\_ ev - er!

ODD VERSES Psalmist 1 from the ambo (or Male Voices)




1. Bless the King with jus - \_\_\_\_\_ what he \_\_\_\_\_ may rule like you;  
 3. Dis - tant sea coasts hon - \_\_\_\_\_ tell \_\_\_\_\_ your ma - jes - ty;  
 5. Cap - tives, too, have been re - leased, \_\_\_\_\_ by your de - cree;  
 7. Bless the name of God our \_\_\_\_\_ sing! Ea - \_\_\_\_\_ re - sound with praise!

to even Verses




1. give your wis - dom for \_\_\_\_\_ task and \_\_\_\_\_ judge - ment true.  
 3. heath - en ru - lers bow to \_\_\_\_\_ God \_\_\_\_\_ of land and sea.  
 5. may they al - ways of - fer praye \_\_\_\_\_ you end - less - ly!  
 7. We, the peo - ple named for God, \_\_\_\_\_ ship all our days:

EVEN VERSES Psalmist 2 from the ambo (or Male Voices)



2. Jus - tice, plant - \_\_\_\_\_ in the king - dom, brings the earth to bloom;  
 4. King of Is - lant pay their trib - ute, gifts from West - ern lands,  
 6. \_\_\_\_\_ will bless the poor with good things, in com - pas - sion strong;  
 8. You a - lone have \_\_\_\_\_ such won - ders, to your name we sing.

D.C.



2. \_\_\_\_\_ en har - ves rich and full, as \_\_\_\_\_ un - fail - ing moon.  
 4. trib - ute too \_\_\_\_\_ Des - ert Lords, gifts \_\_\_\_\_ from South - ern Sands.  
 6. pre - cio \_\_\_\_\_ our eyes the weak, none \_\_\_\_\_ shall do them wrong!  
 8. Earth pro - claims your glor - y, God, hon - ors you as King!

# Bless The King With Justice

Responsorial Song from Psalm 72 for Advent 2A - Simple Accompaniment

INTRO/INTERLUDE Fanfare ♩ = ca. 77

Music & text from Psalm 72 Tony Barr

F Eb Cm7 Eb F Gm Bb Eb

THE CALL TO WORSHIP Psalmist or Cantor *at the ambo*

When that day comes, justice shall flourish!

F Eb Cm7 Eb F Gm Eb

THE RESPONSE

Descant (ST/AB) on selected Responses

to Bridge

Jus - tice and shall last for ev - er!

All Jus - tice and peace shall last for ev - er!

F Eb Cm7 Eb F Gm F Cm

Bridge

to Verses or Final

Final

Fine

F Eb Eb Cm7 Gm Bb Cm Eb Cm7 Bb+2

ODD VERSES Psalmist 1 *from the ambo* (or Male Voices)

1. Bless the King with jus - tice, that he \_\_\_\_\_ may \_\_\_\_\_ like \_\_\_\_\_ ou;  
3. Dis - tant sea coasts hon - or you, tell \_\_\_\_\_ your ma \_\_\_\_\_ ty;  
5. Cap - tives, too, have been re - leased, saved \_\_\_\_\_ by your de \_\_\_\_\_ ee;  
7. Bless the name of God our King! Earth, \_\_\_\_\_ re - sound with \_\_\_\_\_

F E $\flat$ /F B $\flat$  E $\flat$  F E $\flat$

1. give your wis - dom for the task \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ your judge - ment true.  
3. heath - en ru - lers bow to you, \_\_\_\_\_ of land and sea.  
5. may they al - ways of - fer prayer, ble \_\_\_\_\_ y \_\_\_\_\_ and - less - ly!  
7. We, the peo - ple named for God, wor \_\_\_\_\_ ship all our days:

F Cm7 F Cm7 F E $\flat$

SAMPLE



EVEN VERSES Psalmist 2 from the ambo (or Female Voices)

2. Jus - tice, plant - ed in the king - dom, brings the ear - th to gloom;  
 4. Kings of Is - lands pay their trib - ute, gifts from West - ern lands,  
 6. You will bless the poor with good things, in com - pas - sion strong;  
 8. 'You a - lone have done such won - ders, to your name we

B $\flat$  A $\flat$ /B $\flat$  Cm7 Fm7 B $\flat$  A $\flat$ /B $\flat$

2. gold - en har - vest rich and full, as the sun - fail - ing moon.  
 4. trib - ute too from Des - ert Lords, gifts from South - ern Sands.  
 6. pre - cious in your eyes the weak, now shall I show them wrong!  
 8. Earth pro - claims your name, O God, hon - ors you as King!

E $\flat$  Cm7 F E $\flat$ +2

D.C.

SAMPLE

## An Enthronement Hymn for the King The Story

Israel's Temple and Court Scribes followed neighboring customs, lavishly praising the King. Each act of national importance generated new hymns to honor the Ruler, whose wisdom resulted in great benefits for the Nation. On the day of Coronation, songs were composed for a successful reign. At the annual Year Feast, Enthronement, re-elect the King, no flattery was too great, no exaggeration too small. Every victory in battle, its own songs, yet Israel differed from her contemporaries. The Canaanite Kings were honored as king-gods, devoted to deity. Israel knew only One God, who was God-King. The earthly ruler was God's envoy on earth, responsible for extending the kingdom of peace and justice. He was highly regarded as a symbol of God's presence, a messenger of the promised messianic king, whose peace and justice would outlast even sun and moon, and who would reign longer than any other king on earth!

Psalm 72 is a collection of blessing songs to honor the King. It may have been written during the prosperous years of David and Solomon (BC 1000). The Nation prayed for God to protect the King. 'May he be the great one, heralding the messianic era! May he champion the poor, the oppressed and the afflicted!. May his judgement radiate God's justice! May he shepherd the people into an era of peace and prosperity! May his wise stewardship secure all boundaries, annex kingdoms, produce abundant harvest, and fill the treasury! May he be the one to restoration Israel, thus undoing the effects of the Flood. May he fulfill the dreams of 2 Sam 7, restoring justice to Israel and to all kingdoms of earth!'

This is a Palace Hymn and it is questionable whether it could have been used in the Temple in such a florid form. It is so ancient that any liturgical form has been compromised, it is no longer possible to determine whether it is a hymn of praise, an intercessory prayer, a blessing, or even some other liturgical-literary form. Would it have been used during an actual enthronement, or an anniversary of an enthronement? It appears to be a rite of anointing within a liturgy of enthronement, sealing the King as God's Chosen One to lead the Nation, the whole world, to an age of unending peace and justice. Songs and prayers would accompany the handing over of the written law to the new incumbent: 'May God endow the King with wisdom and justice, to carry out the divine judgements, statutes and ordinances' (see Dt. 17:18, 1 Sam 10:25). Other liturgical actions may have occurred: prisoners of war brought in to kneel before him, rulers of neighboring lands offering tribute, representatives of the Nation bearing produce. He may have been led around the Temple in procession, taking possession of his newly-acquired kingdom.

The psalm has been further compromised in the post-Exilic period when it was adapted, yet again, now as a Doxology to end the Second Book of Psalms (42-72). The concept of five books of psalms is an editorial device to parallel the five Books of the Law. As such, the division into liturgical function; it was probably rearranged for the diaspora communities for reflective, non-cultic Synagogue use.

Psalm 72 continued to be important in Judaism and in the early days of Judeo-Christianity, to celebrate the messianic hopes of a people born of Promise. It has long been associated with Advent through to Epiphany, to honor the appearance of God's Son on earth. This period of forty days developed as a second baptismal season in the Eastern Church; the neophyte's rebirth is the return of the Risen Lord to the community each time the waters of baptism are poured. The baptized are empowered to build a new social order of justice and peace. Epiphany is a water festival in the Orthodox calendar.

The song may begin with a **fanfare**, which leads to a **call to worship**, followed by a **response (refrain)**, leading to a **bridge** to each of six verses. This refrain is always sung twice, first by a psalmist (cantor) at the ambo or by unison soloist (choir) voice before being repeated by the assembly, with optional choir descants. An effective way to sing the Verse is antiphonally, with the first two lines sung by a psalmist or group A (e.g. the men) and the remaining two lines by a second psalmist or group B (e.g. the women). The song may also be sung without intervening Call and Response/refrain, in which case, the fanfare may serve as a single introduction to the piece and as an optional interlude between the verses. The bridge figure may be used as a concluding Coda.

It is written for keyboard, guitars, and solo instruments in C, with a fanfare transposed for B $\flat$  instruments.

- Tony Barr