

My soul, give thanks to the God who saves me.

Whose name fills my heart with joy,
who looked on me and my lowly stature,
on me whom nations regard as blessed.
My soul give thanks to the God who saves me.

Who has done great things on my behalf,
whose name is holy, whose love is endless,
and who is faithful to every promise.
My soul give thanks to the God who saves me.

Whose mighty hand has raised up the poor,
whose powerful arm struck the proud and haughty,
and every good thing comes to the lowly.
My soul give thanks to the God who saves me.

Who feeds the hungry, discards the rich,
who comes to rescue the loving faithful
who day by day live in truth and justice.
My soul give thanks to the God who saves me.

This text, the Magnificat, is part of an ancient collection of Judeo-Christian hymns which Luke drew on when compiling his Gospel. He based his Infancy Narratives around this collection of Canticles to draw on the Old Testament Messianic themes in the light of current expectations about the coming of the Messiah. This hymnal may well have been the liturgical songbook of a community of Essenes or similar group of ascetics. They lived together in austerity, in the hope of hastening the day of the return of the Lord, the Shepherd-King, to reclaim Israel, who would restore justice and reunify the scattered Tribes of Israel. Other hymns of this collection include the Song of the Annunciation (Ave Maria), Zachary's Canticle (Benedictus), The Song of the Angels (Gloria) and the Canticle of Simeon (Nunc Dimittis). When the Messianic Age eventually dawned, this world would be turned upside down, with the powerful stripped of rank and prestige and the poor elevated to great status.

The text of the Magnificat is based on fragments of Hannah's Song in 1 Sam 2:1-10. God comes to the help of the poor and the simple, to fulfil a promise made to Abraham, that Israel would indeed be great. Hannah's experience may likewise be found in the earlier texts of Gen 17:15-23, where God works similar miracles for Sarah (no longer Sarai), the wife of Abraham; but Genesis does not put a song on her lips. Whereas both names mean princess, Sarah has the additional meaning of Mother (bearer) of Kings.

In this music setting, the refrain is integrated into the verse text, with the assembly taking over from the psalmist, who then resumes again as though unaware of the interruption! There is no break in the continuous flow between psalmist and assembly, according to Gelineau's classification of an *uninterrupted pulsed seeing*. This setting also works well with children.

music & text from Luke 2:46-54 © 2004, 2020 Tony Barr
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My Soul Give Thanks

Responsorial Song from Luke 1:46-54 for Advent 3

INTRO ♩ = ca. 76 with a gentle flow
1st time only Psalmist (Cantor) at the ambo

My soul give thanks to the God who saves me.

REFRAIN

Final

Verses

Flute on selected Refrains

Oboe (Clarinet transposed)

Descant on selected Refrains

thanks to the God who saves me. saves me.

All

My soul give thanks the God who saves me. saves me.

Psalmist (Cantor) at the ambo

1. Whose name ___
2. Who has done
3. Whose might
4. Who feeds the

F Gm Bb Csus Dm7 Csus Dm7

Oboe (Clarinet transposed)

Musical staff for Oboe (Clarinet transposed) in B-flat major, 4/4 time. The staff contains a melodic line with a long note on the first measure and a phrase of eighth notes.

Psalmist (Cantor) *at the ambo*

Musical staff for Psalmist (Cantor) at the ambo in B-flat major, 4/4 time. The staff contains a melodic line with a long note on the first measure and a phrase of eighth notes.

1. fills my heart with joy, who looked on me and my lowly
 2. great things on my behalf, whose name is holy, whose love is
 3. hand has raised up the poor, whose power and arm struck the proud and
 4. hungry, discards the rich, who comes to rescue the loving

Piano accompaniment for the first system in B-flat major, 4/4 time. The right hand plays chords and the left hand plays a simple bass line. Chords are labeled: Fmaj7, Gm, Bb, Am7, Bbmaj7, Dm, Bb, Gm.

Musical staff for Oboe (Clarinet transposed) in B-flat major, 4/4 time. The staff contains a melodic line with a long note on the first measure and a phrase of eighth notes.

Musical staff for Psalmist (Cantor) at the ambo in B-flat major, 4/4 time. The staff contains a melodic line with a long note on the first measure and a phrase of eighth notes.

1. stature, on me whom nations regard as blessed.
 2. end and who is faithful to every promise.
 3. haughty, every good thing comes to the lowly.
 4. faith who day after day live in truth and justice.

Piano accompaniment for the second system in B-flat major, 4/4 time. The right hand plays chords and the left hand plays a simple bass line. Chords are labeled: Bb, Gm, F, Gm, Bb, Csus, C.

SAMPLE

REFRAIN

Repeat on selected Refrains

D.S.

My soul give
All My soul give

Psalmist (Cantor)

1-4. My soul give thanks to God who saves me.

B \flat F Gm Csus

SAMPLE

My Soul Give Thanks

Responsorial Song from Luke 1:46-54 for Advent 3B

INTRO ♩ = ca. 76 with a gentle flow

Psalmist (Cantor) at the ambo

My soul give thanks to the God who saves me.

REFRAIN

Descant on slected Refrains

Final

to Verses

thanks to the God who saves me. saves me.

All

My soul give thanks to the God who saves me. saves me.

Psalmist (Cantor) at the ambo

1. Whose name fills my joy, who looked on me and my low - ly
2. Who has done great things on my behalf, whose name is ho - ly, whose love is
3. Whose migh - ty hand has raised up the lowly, whose pow'r - ful arm struck the proud and
4. Who feeds the hung - ry, dis - cards the rich, who comes to res - cue the lov - ing

1. stat - ure, on me and my na - tions re - gard as bles - sed.
2. end - less, and who is faith - ful to ev - 'ry prom - ise.
3. haugh - ty and ev - 'ry thing comes to the low - ly.
4. faith - ful, who live in truth and jus - tice.

Descant on slected Refrains

My soul give

All

My soul give

Psalmist (Cantor)

1-4. My soul give thanks to the God who saves me.