

SPEAK THE WORD WE LONG TO HEAR

Responsorial Song from Psalm 85 for Sunday 19A
for Psalmist (Cantor), Assembly & Descant
with Keyboard, Oboe & Guitar

TONY BARR

*Peace and justice have embraced,
let earth rejoice from sea to sea*

Speak the word we long to hear,
word of promised peace.
All who hope and long for You
now see the day of freedom dawn.

Truth and mercy, both embrace,
peace, through justice, grows.
Rightness spreads, takes root on earth:
rejoice throughout the land, in God!

Who shall make our crops to grow,
earth shall yield good fruit.
Harmony is here at last,
be happy for the Day is here!

Psalm 85 has been described as a National or Communal Lamentation. It is most likely post-Exilic in origin, as it appears to refer to deliverance from Babylon as a means of claiming God's continued protection. The psalm is rich in the expectation of restoration, a post-Exilic concept. On that Day, God would return as Shepherd-King to re-unite the scattered tribes of Israel as one people in a land of peace and harmony, with justice and good fortune the reward for those who had remained faithful to covenant.

The cultic occasion was a New year Harvest Festival, most likely the Feast of Tabernacles. The text falls into three main sections:

- 1-3 Deliverance (from Exile?)
- 4-7 Plea for deliverance from distress
- 8-13 Divine oracular answer

The third section recalls Psalm 126, another poem which may have commemorated God's leading Israel from Babylonian captivity and restoring the Nation to wholeness in its own land, owing no further fealty to any ruler other than God.

music & text from Psalm 85:11-13 © 2002, 2020 Tony Barr
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JM 656

Speak The Word We Long To Hear

Responsorial Song from Psalm 85 for Sunday 19th August

Music & text from Psalm 85 Tony Barr

INTRO ♩ = ca. 142

REFRAIN

Oboe (or Clarinet in D) on selected Refrains

Descant on selected Refrains

Peace and jus - tice have em - braced, let

All Peace and jus - tice have em - braced, let

Peace and jus - tice have em - braced, let

Peace and jus - tice have em - braced, let

Peace and jus - tice have em - braced, let

Peace and jus - tice have em - braced, let

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Peace and jus - tice have em - braced, let

Peace and jus - tice have em - braced, let

Peace and jus - tice have em - braced, let

Peace and jus - tice have em - braced, let

VERSES Psalmist (Cantor) *from the ambo; oboe may ad lib. on selected verses*

1. Speak the word we long to hear,
 2. Truth and mercy, both embrace,
 3. Who shall make our crops grow,

E C#m B A

1. word of prom - ise,
 2. peace, through jus - tice, grow
 3. earth shall yield good fruit

E A B

1. All who and long for You now
 2. Right - ness roads, kes root on earth: re -
 3. Har - mo - ny is here at last, be

C#m E D A

1. see of free - dom dawn.
 2. joyce thre - out the land, in God!
 3. har - py for the Day is here!

G#m A B A/B

D.S.

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REFRAIN ♩ = ca. 142

Descant on selected Refrains

Music & text from Psalm 85 Tony Barr

Peace and justice have embraced,
All earth rejoice from sea to sea

Peace and justice embrace let
earth rejoice from sea to sea

VERSES Psalms (Cantor) from the ambo; oboe or flute on selected verses

1. Speak the word we long to hear,
2. Truth and mercy both embrace,
3. Who shall sow crops to grow,
word of promised peace.
peace, justice, grows.
earth shall bear good fruit.

1. who hope and long for You now
Rightness leads, takes root on earth: reborn
Harshness is here at last, be reborn

1. see day of freedom dawn.
2. rejoice through out the land, in God!
3. happy for the Day is here!

D.S.