

A Series of devotions on Psalm 33

MAKE MUSIC TO THE LORD

Psalm 33:2-3 “Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings! Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.”

Music is an important component of worship. Musical instruments, choirs and congregational singing, according to the Holy Scriptures, have been an essential part of worship for literally thousands of years. The musical settings are not preserved, but many of the hymns we still have with us today. The Psalms were most likely the hymnal for the people.

While it is not certain how or when the first musical instrument was invented, most historians point to early flutes made from animal bones. The Bible says that David played some type of harp. (1 Samuel 16) Psalm 150 mentions a number of musical instruments used to praise God, “Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!” (verse 2-3)

When Mary was told she would be the mother of Jesus, she sang what today we know as the Magnificat. (Luke 1:46ff) At the birth of Jesus after the Angel of the Lord announced to the Shepherds Jesus’ birth, Luke wrote, “. . .suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” (Luke 2:13-14) In Revelation 5, 24 Elders sang what is known as the New Song.

Why is there so much music and singing in the church today? The answer given in the introduction to Lutheran Service Book is, “The Lord’s service calls forth our service—in sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving to Him and in loving service to one another. Having been called, gathered, enlightened, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit, we receive His gifts with thankfulness and praise. With psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, we joyfully confess all that God has done for us, declaring the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. Our song joins with the song of every saint from every age, the new song of Christ’s holy

people, declaring: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” (Revelation 5:12)

Prayer: Receive, O Lord, our shouts of praise and worship through the songs we sing and the music we raise up to You. Amen.

The Lord, my God, be praised, My light, my life from heaven;
My maker, who to me Has soul and body given;
My Father, who will shield And keep me day by day
And make each moment yield New blessings on my way.

The Lord, my god, be praised, My trust, my life from heaven,
The Father’s own dear Son, Whose life for me was given,
Who for my sin atoned With His most precious blood
And gives to me by faith The highest heav’nly good.

The Lord, my God, be praised, My hope, my life from heaven,
The Spirit, whom the Son In love to me has given.
His grace revives my heart And gives my spirit pow’r,
Help, comfort, and support In sorrow’s gloomy hour.

The Lord, my God, be praised, My God, the ever-living,
To whom the heav’nly host Their laud and praise are giving.
The Lord, my God, be praised, In whose great name I boast,
God Father, God the Son, And God the Holy Ghost.
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