

My soule praise the Lord

The Whole Booke af Psalmes (1621) - *Psalm 104*

Thomas RAVENSCROFT (1590 - 1633)

CANTVS

MEDIVS

TENOR
or *Playnsong*

BASSVS

S.

A.

T.

B.

My soul praise the Lord, speak good of his name: O Lord our great God, how dost thou appear?

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My soul praise the Lord, speak good of his name: O Lord our great God, how dost thou appear?

So passing in glory, that great is thy fame; honor and majesty in thee shine most clear.

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2. With light as a robe thou hast thee beclad:
Whereby all the earth thy greatness may see.
The heavens in such sort thou also hast spread:
That it to a curtain compared may be.

3. His chamber-beams lie in the clouds full sure:
Which as his chariot are made him to bear.
And there with much swiftness his course doth endure.
Upon the wings riding of wind in the air.

4. He maketh his spirits as Heralds to go:
And lightnings to serve, we see also pressed:
His will to accomplish, they run to and fro:
To save and consume things, as seemeth him best.

5. He groundeth the earth so firmly and fast:
That it once to move none shall have such power.
6. The deep a fair covering, for it made thou hast:
Which by his own nature the hills would devour.

7. But at thy rebuke the waters do flee
And so give due place thy word to obey:
At thy voice of thunder so fearful they be:
That in their great raging they haste soon away.

8. The mountains full high they then up ascend:
If thou do but speak thy word they fulfil:
So likewise the waves most quickly descend,
Where thou them appointest, remain they do still.

9. Their bounds thou hast set, how far they shall run,
So as in their rage not that pass they can:
For God hath appointed they shall not return,
The earth to destroy more which made was for man.

Critical notes:

Note durations are halved;

Medius bar 4, last note is not dotted in the original;

all discontinued accidentals are editorially restored;

text somewhat modernised; the poor numbering of the verses is in the original.

The Second Part.

10. He sendeth the springs to strong streams and lakes,
Which run do full swift among the huge hills;
11. Where both the wild Asses their thirst oft times slakes,
And beasts of the mountains thereof drink their fills.

12. By these pleasant springs of fountains full fair,
The fowls of the air abide shall and dwell;
When moved by nature to hop here and there,
Among the green branches their songs shall excel.

13. The mountains to moist the clouds he doth use.
The earth with his works is wholly replete:
14. So as the brute cattle he doth not refuse,
But grass doth provide them, and herb for man's meat.

15. Yea, bread, wine, and oil, he made for man's sake,
His face to refresh, and heart to make strong:
16. The cedars of Liban this great Lord did make,
Which trees he doth nourish that grow up so long.

17. In these may birds build, and make there their nest;
In Fir-trees the Storks remain and abide;
18. The high hills are succour for wild Goats to rest;
And eke the rocks stony for Conies to hide.

19. The Moon then is set her seasons to run,
The days from the nights thereby to discern;
And by the ascending also of the Sun,
The cold from heat alway thereby we do learn.

20. When darkness doth come by God's will and pow'r,
Then creep forth do all the beasts of the wood
21. The Lions range roaring their prey to devour:
But yet it is thou Lord which givest them food.

22. As soon as the Sun is up, they retire,
To couch in their dens then are they full fain;
23. That man to his work may, as right doth require:
Till night come and call him to take rest again.

The Third Part.

24. How sundry, O Lord, are all thy works found ?
With wisdom full great they are indeed wrought;
25. So that the whole world of thy praise doth sound;
And as for thy riches they pass all men's thought.

So in the great sea, which large is and broad;
Where things that creep swarm, and beasts of each sort,
26. There both mighty ships sail, and some lie at road;
The Whales huge and monstrous there also doth sport.

27. All things on thee wait, thou dost them relieve,
And thou in due time full well dost them feed.
28. Now when it doth please thee, the same so to give;
They gather full gladly those things which they need:

Thou open'st thy hand and they find such grace,
That they with good things are filled we see;
29. But sore they are troubled if thou turn thy face;
For if thou their breath take, vile dust then they be.

30. Again when thy spirit from thee doth proceed;
All things to appoint, and what shall ensue;
31. Then are they created, as thou hast decreed,
And dost by thy goodness the dry earth renew.

32. The praise of the Lord for ever shall last:
Who may in his works, by right well rejoice.
His look can the earth make to tremble full fast,
And likewise the mountains, to smoke at his voice,

33. To this Lord and God sing will I always:
So long as I live my God praise will I:
34. Then am I most certain my words shall him please:
I will rejoice in him, to him I will cry.

35. The sinners, O Lord, consume in thine ire;
And eke the perverse them root out with shame:
But as for my soul, now, let it still desire,
And say with the faithful, praise ye the Lord's Name.