

# The God of Gods, the Lord

The Whole Booke of Psalmes (1621) - *Psalm 50 - Another of the Same*

Martin PEIRSON (ca. 1571 - ca.1651)

CANTVS  
MEDIVS  
TENOR or Playnsong  
BASSVS

*Southwell Tune*

S.  
A.  
T.  
B.

The God of Gods, the Lord hath called the earth by name:  
The God of Gods, the Lord hath called the earth by name:  
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The God of Gods, the Lord hath called the earth by name:

From where the Sun doth rise un - to the set - ting of the same:  
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From where the Sun doth rise un - to the set - ting of the same:

2. From Sion his fair place,  
his glory bright and clear:  
The perfect beauty of his grace,  
from thence it did appear.

3. Our God shall come in haste,  
to speak he shall not doubt:  
Before him shall the fire waste,  
and tempest round about.

4. The heavens from on high,  
the earth below likewise:  
He will call forth to judge and try,  
his folk he doth devise.

5. Bring forth my Saints saith he,  
my faithful flock so dear:  
Which are in bond and league with me,  
my law to love and fear.

6. And when these things are tried,  
the heavens shall record:  
That God is just and all must 'bide,  
the judgements of the Lord.

7. My people O give heed,  
Israel to thee I cry:  
I am thy God, thy help at need,  
thou canst it not deny.

8. I do not say to thee,  
thy sacrifice is slack:  
thou offerest daily unto me,  
much more than I do lack.

9. Thinkest thou that I do need,  
thy cattle young or old?  
Or else so much desire to feed,  
on Goats out of thy fold?

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10. Nay all the beasts are mine,  
in woods that eat their fills:  
And thousands more of neat and kine,  
that run wild on the hills.

## The Second part.

11. The birds that build on high,  
in hills and out of sight:  
And beasts that in the fields do lie,  
are subject to my might.

12. Then though I hunger sore,  
what need I ought of thine:  
Sith that the earth with her great store,  
and all therein is mine?

13. To bulls' flesh have I mind,  
to eat: it dost thou think?  
Or such a sweetness do I find,  
the blood of Goats to drink?

14. Give to the Lord his praise,  
with thanks to him apply:  
and see thou pay thy vows always  
unto the Lord most high.

15. Then seek and call to me,  
when ought would work thee blame:  
And I will sure deliver thee,  
that thou mayest praise my name.

16. But to the wicked train,  
which talk of God each day:  
And yet their works are foul and vain,  
to them the Lord will say,

17. With what a face dar'st thou,  
my word once speak or name:  
Why doth thy talk my Law allow,  
thy deeds deny the same?

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18. Whereas for to amend  
thy life thou art to slack:  
My word, the which thou dost pretend,  
is cast behind thy back.

## The Third part.

19. When thou a thief dost see,  
by theft to live in wealth  
With him thou runst and dost agree  
likewise to thrive by stealth.

20. When thou dost them behold,  
that wives and maids defile:  
Thou likest it well, and waxest bold,  
to use that life most vile.

21. Thy lips thou dost apply,  
to slander and defame:  
Thy tongue is taught to craft and lie,  
and still doth use the same.  
22. Thou studiest to revile  
thy friends to thee so near:  
With slander thou wouldst needs defile,  
thy mother's son most dear.

23. Hereat while I do wink,  
as though I did not see  
Thou goest on still, and so dost think,  
that I am like to thee.  
24. But sure I will not let,  
to strike when I begin  
Thy faults in order I will set,  
and open all thy sin.

25. Mark this I you require,  
that have not God in mind:  
Least when I plague you in my ire,  
your help be far to find.  
26. He that doth give to me,  
the sacrifice of praise:  
Doth please me well, and he shall see,  
to walk in godly ways.

## Critical notes:

The setting is similar to the one of Psalms 70 & 134;  
text somewhat modernised.