

How pleasant is thy dwelling place

The Whole Booke of Psalmes (1621) - *Psalm 84*

Thomas RAVENSCROFT (1590 - 1633)

CANTVS
MEDIVS
TENOR
or Playnsong
BASSVS

Winchester Tune

How plea - sant is thy dwel - ling place O Lord of hosts to me?
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How plea - sant is thy dwel - ling place O Lord of hosts to me?
How plea - sant is thy dwel - ling place O Lord of hosts to me?

3
S.
A.
T.
B.

The ta - ber - nac - les of thy grace, how plea - sant Lord they be?
The ta - ber - nac - les of thy grace, how plea - sant Lord they be?
The ta - ber - nac - les of thy grace, how plea - sant Lord they be?
The ta - ber - nac - les of thy grace, how plea - sant Lord they be?

2. My soul doth long full sore to go
into thy courts abroad:
My heart doth lust, my flesh also
in thee the living God.

3. The Sparrows find a room to rest
ans save themselves from wrong:
And eke the Swallow hath a nest
wherein to keep her young.

4. These bird full nigh thine altar may
have place to sit and sing:
O Lord of hosts thou art (I say)
my God and eke my king.

5. Oh they be blessed that may dwell
within thy house always:
For they all times thy facts do tell,
and give thy name the praise.

6. Yea happy sure likewise are they,
whose stay and strength thou art:
Which to thy house do mind the way,
and seek it in their heart.

7. As they go through the vale of tears,
they dig up fountains still,
That as a spring it all appears,
and thou their pits do fill.

8. From strength to strength they walk full fast,
no faintness there shall be:
And so the God of Gods at last
in Sion they do see.

9. O Lord of hosts to me give heed,
and hear when I do pray:
And let it through thine ears proceed,
O Jacob's God I say.

10. O Lord our shield, of thy good grace
regard and so draw near:
Regard I say, behold the face
of thine anointed dear.

11. For why? within thy courts one day
is better to abide,
Then other where to keep or stay
a thousand days beside.

12. Much rather would I keep a door
within the house of God
Then in the tents of wickedness
to settle mine abode.

13. For God the Lord, light and defence,
will grace and worship give:
And no good thing will be with-hold
from them that purely live.

14. O Lord of hosts that man is blest,
and happy sure is he:
That is persuaded in his breast
to trust all times in thee.

Critical notes:

Bassus bar 1/note 8 and bar 3/note 1 are *B flat* in the original;
this setting is similar to the one of Psalms 23, 23b, 98, 101, 116, 113 & 150;
text somewhat modernised.