

Give thanks unto the Lord our God

The Whole Booke of Psalmes (1621) - Psalme 107

Thomas RAVENSCROFT (1590-1633)

CANTVS

MEDIVS

TENOR

BASSVS

Christ Hospital Tune

Give thanks un - to the Lord our God, for gra - ci - ous is he:

Give thanks un - to the Lord our God, for gra - ci - ous is he:

Give thanks un - to the Lord our God, for gra - ci - ous is he:

Give thanks un - to the Lord our God, for gra - ci - ous is he:

3

S.

A.

T.

B.

And that his mer - cy hath no end all mor - tal me may see.

And that his mer - cy hath no end all mor - tal men may see.

And that his mer - cy hath no end all mor - tal men may see.

And that his mer - cy hath no end all mor - tal men may see.

2. Such as the Lord redeemed hath,
with thanks should praise his name:
And shew how they from foes were freed
and how he wrought the same.

3. He gathered them forth of the lands
that lay so far about:
From East to West, from North to South,
his hand did find them out.

4. They wandered in the wilderness,
and strayed from the way:
And found no City where to dwell,
thet serve might for their stay.

5. Whose thirst and hunger was so great
in those deserts so void:

That faintness did them sore assault,
and eke their sooul annoyed.

6. Then did they cry in their distress
unto the Lord for aid:

Who did remove their troublous state
according as they prayed.

7. And by that way that was most right
he led them like a guide:

That they might to a city go,
and there also abide.

8. Let men therefore before the Lord
confess his kindness then:

And shew his wonders that he doth
before the sons of men.

9. For he the empty soul sustained,
whom thirst had made to faint:
The hungry soul with goodness fed,
and did them eke acquaint.

10. Such as do dwell in darkness deep
where they of death do wait:
Fast bound to taste such troublous storms
as iron chains do threat.

Critical notes:

Mdius bar 1, note 9: editorial natural added;
this setting is similar to the one of Psalm 72;
text somewhat modernised.

The second part.

11. For they against the Lord's own words,
they sought for to rebel:

Esteeming light his counsels high,
which do so far excel.

12. But when he humbled them full low,
then they fell down with grief:

And none was found so much to help,
whereby to get relief.

13. Then did they cry in their distress,
unto the Lord for aid:

Who did remove their troublous state,
according as they prayed.

14. For he from darkness out them brought
and from death's dreadful shade:

Bursting with force the iron bands,
which did before them lade.

15. Let men therefore before the Lord
confess his kindness then:

And shew his wonders that he doth
before the sons of men.

16. For he threw down the gates of brass
and brake them with strong hand:

The iron bars he smote in two,
nothing could him withstand.

17. The foolish folk great plagues do feel,
and cannot from them wend:

But heap up now to those they have,
because they do offend.

18. Their souls so much did loath all meat
that none they could abide:

Whereby death had them almost caught,
as they full truly tried.

19. Then did they cry in their distress
unto the Lord for aid:

Who did remove their troublous state,
according as they prayed.

20. For he then sent to them his word,
which health did soon restore:

And brought them from those dangers deep
wherein they were before.

The third part.

21. Let men therefore before the Lord,
confess his kindness then:

And shew the wonders that he doth
before the son of men.

22. And let them offer sacrifice
with thanks and also fear:

And speak of all his wondrous works,
with glad and joyful cheer.

23. Such as in ship or brittle Barks,
into the seas descend:

Their merchandise through fearful floods
to compass and to end.

24. These men are forced to behold
the Lord's works what they be:

And in the dangerous deep the same
most marvelous they see.

25. For at his word the stormy wind
ariseth in a rage:

And stirreth up the surges so
as nought can them assuage.

26. Then are they lifted up so high,
the clouds they seem to gain:

And plunging down the depth until
their souls consume with pain.

27. And like a drunkard to and fro,
now here, now there they reel:

As men with fear, of wit bereft,
or had of sense no feel.

28. Then did they cry in their distress
unto the Lord for aid:

Who did remove their troublous state
according as they prayed.

29. For with his word the Lord doth make
the sturdy storms to cease

So that the great waves from their rage
are brought to rest and peace.

30. Then are men glad when rest is come
which they so much do crave:

And are by him in heaven brought,
which they so fain would have.

The fourth part.

31. Let men therefore before the Lord
confess his kindness then:

And shew thee wonders that he doth
before the sons of men.

31. Let them in presence of the folk
with praise extol his name:

And where the elders do convent,
let them there do the same.

33. For running clouds to dry desert
he doth oft change and turn:

And dryeth up as it were dust
the springing well and bourn.

34. A fruitful land with pleasures decked
full barren he doth make:

When on their sins which dwell therein
he doth just vengeance take.

35. Again the wilderness full rude,
he maketh fruit to bear:

With pleasant springs of waters clear
though none before were there.

36. Wherein such hungry souls are set,
as he doth freely choose:

That they a City may them build,
to dwell in for their use.

37. That they may sow their pleasant land,
and vineyards also plant:

To yield them fruit of such increase,
as none may seem to want.

38. They multiply exceedingly,
the Lord doth bless them so:

Who doth also their brute beasts make,
by numbers great to grow.

39. But when the faithful are low brought
by the oppressors stout:

and minish do through many plagues,
that compass them about.

40. Then doth he princes bring to shame
which did them sore oppress:

And likewise caused them to err,
within the wilderness.

41. But yet the poor he raiseth up,
out of his troubles deep:

And oft times doth his train augment,
much like a flock of sheep.

42. The righteous shall behold this sight,
and also much rejoice:

Whereas the wicked and perverse,
with grief shall stop their voice.

43. But who is wise that now full well
he may these things record?

For certainly such shall perceive
the kindness of the Lord.