

Praise ye the Lord

The Whole Booke of Psalmes (1621) - Psalme 106

Thomas RAVENSCROFT (1590-1633)

CANTVS
MEDIVS
TENOR
or Playnsong
BASSVS

Cambridge Tune

Praise ye the Lord, for he is good, his mer - cy dures for aye:
Praise ye the Lord, for he is good, his mer - cy dures for aye:
Praise ye the Lord, for he is good, his mer - cy dures for aye:
Praise ye the Lord, for he is good, his mer - cy dures for aye:

5
S.
A.
T.
B.

Who can ex - press his no - ble acts, or all his praise dis - play?
Who can ex - press his no - ble acts, or all his praise dis - play?
Who can ex - press his no - ble acts, or all his praise dis - play?
Who can ex - press his no - ble acts, or all his praise dis - play?

2. They blessed are that judgment keep,
and justly do alway:
With favor of thy people Lord,
remember me I pray.

4. And with thy saving health O Lord,
vouchsafe to visit me:
That I the great felicity
of thine elect may see.
5. And with thy people's joy I may
a joyful mind possess:
And may with thine inheritance
a glorying heart express.

6. Both we and eke our fathers all
have sinned every one:
We have committed wwickedness,
and lewdly we have done.
7. The wonders great which thou O Lord
hast done in Egypt land:
Our fathers though they saw them all
yet did not understand.

Nor yet thy mercies multitude
did keep in thankful mind:
But at the sea, yea, the red sea,
rebelled most unkind.
8. Nevertheless he saved them
for honor of his name:
That he might make his power known,
and spread abroad his fame.

9. The red sea he did then rebuke,
and forthwith it was dried:
And as in wilderness, so through
the deep he did them guide.
10. He sav'd them from the cruel hand
of their despiteful foe:
And from the enemies hand he did
deliver them also.

Critical notes:

Bar 2, note 5: the 'conflict' between the E flat in the Medius and the E natural in the Tenor is in the original and has to be respected;
this setting is similar to the one of Psalms 2, 73, 117 & 128;
text somewhat modernised; the poor numbering of the verses is in the original.

The second part.

11. The waters their oppressors whelmed,
not one was left alive:
12. Then they believ'd his words and praise
in song they did him give.
13. But by and by unthankfully
his words they clean forgate:
And for his counsel and his law
they did neglect to wait.

14. But lusted in the wilderness
with fond and greedy lust:
And in the desert tempted God,
the stay of all their trust.
15. And then their wanton minds' desire
he suffered them to have:
But wasting leanness therewithall
into their souls he gave.

19. Then when they lodged in their tents
at Moses they did grutch:
Aaron the holy of the Lord
so did they envie much.
17. Therefore the earth did open wide,
and Dathan did devour:
And all Abiram's company
did cover in that hour.

18. In their assemblies kindled was
the hot consuming fire:
And wasting flame did then burn up
the wicked in his ire.
19. Upon the hill of Horeb they
an Idol calf did frame:
And there the molten Image they
did worship of the same.

20. Into the likeness of a calf
that feedeth on the grass:
Thus they their glory turned, and all
their honor did deface.
21. And God their only Saviour
unkindly they forgot,
Which many great and mighty things
in Egypt land had wrought.

The third part.

21. And in the land of Ham for them
most wondrous things had done:
And by the red dea dreadful things
performed long ago.
23. Therefore for these so shewing them
forgetful and unkind,
To bring destrustion on them all
he purposed in his mind.

Had not his chosen Moses stood
before him in the break,
To turn his wrath lest he on them
with slaughter should him wreak.
24. They did despise the pleasant land
that he behighed to give:
Yea, and the words that he had spoke
they did no whit believe.

25. But in their tents with grudging heart
they wickedly repined:
Nor to the voice of God the Lord
they gave an hearkening mind.
26. Therefore against them lifted he
his strong revenging hand
Them to destroy in wilderness,
ere they should see the land.

27. And to destroy their seed among
the nations with his rod:
And through the countries of the world
to scatter them abroad.
28. To Baal Peor then they did
adjoin themselves also:
And ate the offerings of the dead,
so they forsook him tho.

29. Thus with their own inventions
his wrath they did provoke:
And in his so enkindled wrath,
the plague upon them broke.
30. But Phinees stood up with zeal
the sinners wile to slay:
And judgment he did execute,
and then the plague did stay.

The fourth part.

31. It was imputed unto him
for righteousness that day:
And from thenceforth so counted is
from race to race for aye.
31. At waters eke of Meribah
they did him angry make:
Yea, so far forth that Moses was
then punished for their sake.

33. Because they vexed his spirit so sore,
that in impatient heat
His lips spake unadvisedly,
his fervor was so great.
34. Nor as the Lord commanded them
they flew the people tho;
But were among the heathen mixed,
and learned their works also.

36. And did their Idols serve, which were
their ruin and decay:
37. To fiends their sons and daughters they
did offer up and slay:
38. Yea, with unkindly murdering knife
the guiltless blood they spilt:
Yea, their own sons and daughters blood
without all cause of guilt.

Whom they to Canaan Idols then
offer'd with wicked hand:
And so with blood of innocents
defiled was their land.
39. Thus were they stained with the works
of their own filthy way:
And with their own inventions
a whoring they did stray.

40. Therefore against his people was
the Lords wrath kindled sore:
And even his own inheritance
therefore he did abhor.
41. Into the hands of heathen men
he gave them for a prey:
And made their foes their Lords, whom they
were forced to obey.

The fifth part.

42. Yea, and their hateful enemy
oppressed them in the land:
And they were humbly made to stoop
as subject to their hand.
43. Full oftentimes from thrall had he
delivered them before:
But with their counsels they to wrath
provoke him evermore.

Therefore they by their wickedness
were brought full low to lie:
44. Ye(t) when he saw them in distress,
he hearken'd to their cry.
45. He called to mind his covenant,
which he to them had swore:
And by his mercies multitude,
repented him therefore.

46. And favor he them made to find
before the sight of those
That led them captive from their land,
when earst they were their foes.
47. Save us O Lord that art our God,
save us O Lord we pray:
And from among the heathen folk
Lord gather us away.

48. That we may spread the noble praise
of thy most holy name:
That we may glory in thy praise,
and sounding of thy fame.
49. The Lord the God of Israel
be bless'd for evermore:
Let all the people say, Amen:
praise ye the Lord therefore.