

Book 5 - Part B - Psalms 120-150

Songs of Ascents

Psalm 120 (DBT) CM

There is no particular tune for this Psalm, but a number of CM tunes would be suitable.

1. Answer me Lord when in distress ~ I raise to you my cry.
2. Deliver me from devious tongues, ~ and from the lips that lie.
3. Oh tongue what can be done with you, ~ deceitful, luring liar?
4. The arrows of the warrior ~ or burning coals of fire.
5. Too many are the hours I've spent ~ encamped with tribal bands,
On Meschech's lonely mountain peaks ~ or Kedar's desert sand.
6. I've made my bed with those who hate ~ the peace I now long for.
When I speak of the peace I crave ~ they place their feet with war.

Psalm 120 (S&Ha) 666 666

This has been updated, particularly v 5, where the language of original is difficult to follow. There is a proper tune, Old 120th which is in many hymn books. Another tune in this metre is Laudes Domini. 'When morning gilds the skies'.

1. In trouble and in thrall
upon the Lord I call
And he my soul comforts:
2. Deliver me, I pray,
From lying lips alway,
and tongues with false reports.
3. What do you gain or get
With such deceits to set,
You false and flatt'ring liar?
4. Your tongue hurts and is seen,
As worse than arrows keen,
or hot consuming fire.

5. Alas it is my lot
In Meschech's wastes to squat
Where none would wish me well;
Or else my soul laments
To be in Kedar's tents
And in its deserts dwell.
6. With those that hate all peace
Too long I lacked release,
To find a quiet life:
7. When I would peace take hold,
I found I was controlled
by those who've chosen strife.

Psalm 121 (DBT) CM

P&G has an attractive but complex tune in three voices to different words but the same metre. A number of CM tunes would be suitable. There is a chorus type hymn inspired by this psalm, which starts with the words, 'I lift my eyes to the quiet hills', but that is misleading. The point is that help does not come from the hills. The question is, 'where does my help come from?'. The answer is not 'the hills', or 'nature', or even, my 'friends hidden up there', The answer is 'the Lord'.

1. I'll lift my eyes up to the hills. ~ But whence shall come my aid?
2. My help comes from the Lord himself ~ who heaven and earth has made.
3. He will not let your foot be tripped. ~ He holds you to his chest.
4. He neither slumbers nor shall sleep, ~ the shield of Israel's blest.
5. The Lord shades you with his right hand. ~ He keeps you in his sight.
6. The sun shall not smite you by day. ~ Nor shall the moon by night.
7. The Lord shall keep you from all harm ~ and watch your way before,
8. Your exits and your entrances, ~ now and for evermore.

Psalm 121 (SHa/DBT) 866 888

There is a curiosity here. S&H provides words in an unusual metre 866 866. However, the tune in Playford, though attractive, is in 866 888, also a very unusual metre, and one which the words do not fit. This version is partly inspired by the original S&H version but altered to fit 866 888.

1. Aloft, my eyes the mountains see;
 And on them may be stayed
 But whence shall come my aid?
2. The mighty Lord shall succour me
 who both the earth and heav'n has framed,
 and all that is in them has named.
3. From slipping he'll preserve your foot,
 You he will safely keep;
 For he will never sleep:
4. Since he who watches Israel's suit.
 Sleep never, never, can surprise,
 nor slumber even close his eyes.
5. The Lord is your keeper always;
 At your right hand he's true,
 A cover to shade you:
6. The sun shall not smite you by day
 Nor moon, though it be half so bright,
 Harm you in any way by night.
7. The Lord will keep you from distress;
 He shall preserve your soul,
 And keep you hale and whole,
 Watching to give you good success;
8. For whether you go in or out,
 He shall encompass you about.
9. *Great glories to the Father pay
 Which to the Son are due,
 And Holy Spirit too.
 As was from first creation's day,
 Is and so shall for ever be,
 Without end through eternity.*

Ps 122 (DBT) The Pilgrim Psalm Irregular Metre
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This goes specifically to the tune King's Lynn, which is nominally in 7676 D, but has elided notes, which can either be slurred or carry two light syllables. The direses denote single syllables that are sung over slurred

notes. It also fits Ellacombe, and goes well to it, though logic wouldn't suggest this.

1. I was glad when they said I should
 To the LORD's house go with them.
Nöw stand our feet within your gates,
 Your gates, Jerusalem.
Shë is built as a city
 Firmly together bound
Knotted, entwined in unity
 Cömpact, with walls around.

2. To her the tribes of God go up.
 Tö her, his tribes ascend.
För God commandëd Israel
 'With thanks on Him attend'.
Thëre are set thrones öf judgement,
 The thrones of David's kin.
Pray for peace and security
 Jërusalem within.

3. May those who love you be at ease,
 Pëace dwell within your walls.
Yöur ramparts know prospëritiy,
 Secure your citadels.
For my brothers and compänions' sake
 I say, "peace be with you".
And for the house of our LORD God
 I will seek your well-being too.

4. *All glory to the Fäther*
 All glory to the Son
Änd to the Holji Spirit
 For ever three and one.
As it was in the bëgginning
 Is now and evermore
To endless ages ständs firm
 Thë God whom we adore.

Ps 122 (SHa/DBT) The Pilgrim Psalm 866866D

This is in the unusual metre 668668D, and has its own tune, Old 122nd which is in a few hymn books as an

alternative tune for 'When morning gilds the skies'. It is based on William Kethe's original but with a lot of changes. If one wants to include the doxology, the second half of the tune should be repeated.

1. Gladly I did rejoice ~ to hear the peoples' voice,
that said, "go to Jerusalem":
"Let us go up", they say, ~ "in the Lord's house to pray"
So I was glad to go with them.
2. Our feet which wandered wide ~ shall in your gates abide
Jerusalem your city fair.
3. United and complete ~ compactly built and neat
To which your people shall repair.
4. The tribes with one accord, ~ to give thanks to the Lord,
Are thither charged their way to take:
For God to them did tell ~ that here his Israël
Their prayers must all together make.
5. And here the thrones are set, ~ here his counsel are met,
Imparting justice faithfully:
For David's house, each throne ~ shall make his verdicts known
And judge his folk with equity.
6. To pray let us not cease ~ for Jerusalem's peace:
God keep your friends in amity;
7. Peace wrap you walls about, ~ and prosper you throughout
Your citadels continually.
8. For my friends' sake my plea ~ is that prosperity,
Shall evermore abide in you.
9. For the Lord's house's sake, ~ my prayers for you I'll make;
Your good I'll ever seek to do.

*To God, the Father, Son ~ and Spirit three in one
All glory give now and again:
As was from utmost yore ~ be now and evermore
World without out end, Amen, Amen.*

Psalm 123 (DBT) 7676D

The suggested tune is Aurelia, 'From Greenland's icy mountains'

1. We lift our eyes to you Lord ~ in heaven enthroned above,
As are the eyes of servants ~ fixed on their master's glove.
2. Or as the maid's eyes hang for ~ her mistress's command.
3. So wait our eyes on you Lord, ~ till you extend your hand.
4. Have mercy on us now Lord ~ have mercy is our cry.
Too long has been our portion ~ contempt, indignity.
5. The arrogant have scorned us ~ the proud our names deride;
So hear our call for mercy ~ the roaring waves divide.

*All glory to the Father ~ all glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, ~ for ever three and one.
As once it was and is now ~ and shall for ever more,
To endless ages stands firm, ~ the God whom we adore.*

Psalm 124 (SH&Ra) 10 10 10 10 10.

From Sternhold and Hopkins and Scottish psalter with slight alterations; tune Old 124th, but better known as "Turn back O man, forswear thy foolish ways".

1. Now Israë! may say, and that truly,
If God the Lord had not our cause maintained,
2. If God the Lord had not our right sustained,
When all the world against us furiously
Rose up in wrath to make of us their prey.
3. Then certainly they'd have devoured us all,
And swallowed quick, for aught that we could deem;
Such was their rage, as we might well esteem
4. And as the floods with mighty force do fall,
So would they now our lives have brought in thrall.

- Then raging streams so proud with roaring noise,
Had long ago o'erwhelmed us in the deep;
5. So praised be God, who does us safely keep
From bloody teeth, and their most cruel voice
Which as a prey to eat us would rejoice.
 6. E'en as a bird from fowler's gin or pen

- Escapes away, so is our soul set free;
 Broken their nets, and thus escaped have we.
7. God that made heav'n and earth is our help then,
 His Name has saved us from these wicked men.

Psalm 124 (?) CM

An alternative version from Donald Davie's Penguin Psalms in English, source unknown.

1. Had not the Lord (may Israel say) ~ been pleased to interpose;
2. Had not he then espoused our cause ~ when men against us rose.

3. Their wrath had swallowed us alive, ~ and raged without control;
4. Their spite and pride's united floods ~ had quite o'erwhelmed our soul.

5. But praised be our eternal Lord, ~ who rescued us that day,
 Nor to their savage jaws gave up ~ our threatened lives a prey.

6. Our soul is like a bird escaped ~ from out the fowler's net;
 The snare is broke, their hopes are crossed ~ and we at freedom set.

7. Secure is his almighty name, ~ our confidence remains,
 Who as he made both heav'n and earth, ~ of both sole monarch reigns.

Psalm 125 (TBa) CM

This has hardly been altered at all. P&G provides a fuguing tune, Deritend and also suggests Irish or St Anne.

1. Who place in Zion's God their trust, ~ like Zion's rock shall stand:
 Like her immovably be fixed ~ by his almighty hand.

2. See how the hills on ev'ry side ~ Jerusalem enclose;
 So stands the Lord around his saints, ~ to guard them from their foes.

3. The wicked may command the just, ~ but may not long oppress,
 Nor force them by despair to seek ~ base means for their redress.

4. Be good, O righteous Lord, to those ~ who righteous deeds effect:
 The heart that innocence retains ~ let innocence protect.

- 5 All those who walk in crooked paths ~ the Lord shall soon destroy;
Cut off th' unjust, but Israel crown ~ with lasting peace and joy.

Psalm 125(SHa) 888866

This is a version from S&H by William Kethe with its own metre, written to a Genevan tune which is in Playford. The Doxology is added. It is not in the original.

- 1 Those that in God as Lord do trust ~ as mount Zion, endorsed and proved,
Shall stand and never be removed.~ The Lord will count them right and just,
So like it they, secure, ~ for ever shall endure.
- 2 As many mountains do surround, ~ Jerusalem and it enclose,
So does the Lord surround all those ~ that are his people, and he's bound,
To hold them all so dear ~ they never need to fear.
3. The wicked's sceptre shall not rule ~ over the righteous person's lot
For then the righteous one might plot ~ to give their hand to evil's school.
4. Your goodness Lord impart ~ to each good truthful heart
5. But as for such as turn aside ~ to crooked ways which they have sought,
The Lord will bring their cause to naught: ~ with evil doers they'll abide;
But ever more shall dwell ~ his peace with Israël.

*Glory to Father and to Son ~ and Holy Spirit three in one.
As was when ages first begun ~ continues as time yet may run
Such as today might be ~ until eternity.*

Psalm 126 (Ra) CM

The Scottish psalter recommends Abbey for this psalm, but the tune is not in many other hymn books. It could go well to a lively fuguing tune.

- 1 . When God turned Zion's bondage back, ~ like those that dream were we:
2. Then were our mouths with laughter filled, ~ our tongues with melody.
3. Then did the nations say, "the Lord ~ for them has done great things".
4. The Lord indeed has done great things ~ which to us great joy brings.

5. Retrieve us from captivity; ~ revive our fortunes, Lord:
As in the Negev, dried out beds ~ of rivers are restored.
6. Those that sow seeds in sorrow, ~ shall reap with songs of joy:
The tears with which they planted, ~ the harvest shall destroy.
7. Whoso goes out with bag of seeds, ~ and weeps for what aggrieves:
Shall come back home with shouts of joy ~ when they bring in their sheaves.

Ps 126 (DBT) 4-12's and 2-10's

S&H's provision for this psalm is in a very unusual metre. It was therefore a challenge to try and provide a usable version for the tune, even though as far as I know, no other tune exists in this metre apart from the one that Playford gives, which has not survived into any modern book. It is however, an attractive, dignified and stately tune that is well worth trying. The original wording is too antique to be suitable for modern use. Too little of it remains here for it to be fair to attribute any of it to S&H. Playford sets it out with a slight caesura between the second and third foot in the longer lines. I have retained this.

1. When God the Lord ~ brought Zion from captivity
Restoring them ~ from servitude, enchained extremes.,
So giving back ~ our fortune and our liberty,
Then we were like ~ a soul refreshed or one who dreams.
 Our mouths brimmed full with laughter loud and long;
 Our tongues welled over with exultant song.
2. The gentiles saw; ~ they were amazed at this and said,
"The Lord has done ~ a great and mighty thing for them".
Indeed the Lord ~ has done great things for us and led
Us home with song ~ rejoicing to Jerusalem.
 Lord banish our captivity again,
 As dry beds in the Negev after rain.
3. Those that have sown ~ in sorrow and with tears indeed,
Yet shall they reap ~ with joyful ringing shouts aglow.
The one who weeps ~ when they go out with bag of seed,
Weighed under with ~ their weary burden as they sow,
 Shall come back in, one who no longer grieves,
 With shouts of joy when they bring in their sheaves.

Psalm 126 (?a) 6666 88

I do not know the source of this, but as it is alleged to be from a source at least as early as 1887 am assuming it is out of copyright. It goes to the same metre as Darwell's 148th 'Ye holy angel's bright'. There are some small alterations.

1. When Zion by the Lord ~ from her captivity
Was graciously restored, ~ like those that dream were we.
Our months were filled with mirth, our tongues
Were ever singing joyful songs.
2. Great things the heathen own, ~ the Lord for them has wrought;
Great things the Lord hath done, ~ which joy to us have brought.
As desert streams are filled with rain,
Lord, turn our captive state again.
3. Those that in tears may sow ~ with joyfulness shall reap;
With precious seed they go ~ and going out they weep
Yet doubtless they their sheaves shall bring,
And coming back, with joy shall sing.

Psalm 127 (DBT) CM

Although this is influenced by both the TB and R versions, too little remains of either for it to be fair on them to attribute this text to one of them. The references to threatening behaviour means that vv 4-6 are about fathers and sons, not parents and children. Whatever tune is adopted, the text is sufficiently condensed that the tune should not be played too fast. T&B's equivalent has been linked to Abridge.

1. It is in vain to build a house, ~ unless the Lord sustains:
2. Unless the Lord should guard a town ~ the watchman wakes in vain.
3. Vain too to rise before the day ~ or from your rest to keep:
And vain to eat the bread of toil. ~ He gives his loved ones sleep.
4. Sons are the Lord's inheritance, ~ the womb's fruit, his reward:
5. Those of your youth are arrows that ~ in warriors' hands are stored.
6. How happy is the one who fills ~ his quiver with such freight:
He need not back down in the face ~ of foes' threats in the gate.

Psalm 127 (SHa) 888888

This is by William Whittingham to the same tune as Coxe's Lord's Prayer. It has had minor alterations from C16 grammar but has not been changed substantially.

1. Unless the Lord the house should make
And unto such should sets his hand,
What people build, just cannot stand:
2. Likewise in vain we undertake
Cities, strongholds, to watch and ward
Unless the Lord be our safeguard.
3. Though in the morn you rise early,
And though at night go late to bed,
Eating with carefulness your bread,
Your labour is but vanity:
But those that God should love and keep,
Enjoy all things with quiet sleep.
4. So mark well, when you see and view,
That peoples' hearts enjoy their land;
It is the gift of God's own hand:
For God shall multiply to you
Of his great liberality,
The blessing of posterity.
5. For when such children come of age,
They grow in strength and activeness,
Of person and in comeliness:
So that a shaft shot with courage
Of one that has the strongest arm,
Flies not so swift, nor does such harm.
6. Well is whoso has their quiver
Furnished with such artillery:
For when in peril they should be,
They neither shall shake nor shiver,
When they might plead before a judge
Against their foes that bear them grudge.

Psalm 127(?)

LM

This is a LM version from an 1887 Presbyterian psalter, source otherwise unknown

1. Unless the Lord the house shall build, ~ the weary builders toil in vain;
Unless the Lord the city shield, ~ the guards a useless watch maintain.
2. In vain you rise ere morning break, ~ and late your nightly vigils keep,
And bread of anxious care partake: ~ God gives to his beloved sleep.
3. Lo, children are the gift of God, ~ and sons the blessing he commands;
These, when in youthful days bestowed, ~ are like the shafts in warrior's hands.
4. And happy they whose quivers bear ~ full store of arrows such as these;
They in the gate are free from fear, ~ and boldly face their enemies.

Psalm 128 (Ra) CM

This psalm has traditionally been appointed for weddings. P&G provides a fuguig tune for the TB equivalent in the same metre.

1. Blest is each one who fears the Lord, ~ and who walks in his ways.
 2. For you shall eat of your hands' work, ~ and happy be always.
 3. Your wife shall bear fruit as the vines ~ that by your house abound:
Your children be like olive plants ~ around your table found.
 4. Thus too shall one who fears the Lord ~ be blessed their whole life through.
 5. The Lord from Ziön shall bestow ~ his blessings upon you.
- So may you see Jerus'lem's good ~ so long as you may dwell:
6. Your children's children also see, ~ and peace on Israel.

Psalm 129 (TBa) CM

This has been linked to York 'The Lord will come and not be slow'.

1. From my youth up, may Israel say, ~ they've often me assailed:
2. Attacked and placed me in dire straits, ~ but never quite prevailed.

3. They've seared and ploughed my patient back ~ with furrows deep and long:
4. But our just Lord has snapped their cords ~ and cut me free from wrong.

5. Defeat, confusion, shameful rout ~ be still the doom of those:
Their righteous doom, who Zion hate ~ and Zion's God oppose.

6. Like grass that on the housetops grows, ~ untimely let them fade:
Which too much heat, and want of root, ~ has blasted in the blade.

7. Which in his arms no reaper takes, ~ but unregarded leaves;
No binder thinks it worth the pains ~ to fold it into sheaves.

8. No passing traveller in the road ~ gives it a moment's stop,
To wish it well or else to crave ~ Heav'n's blessing on the crop.

Psalm 130(Ra) CM

This ultimately derives from the Scottish psalter, but this version has undergone considerable alterations, and is designed to go to the tune of the House of the Rising Sun. The Scottish psalter suggests Martyrdom for its version.

- 1-2. Lord, from the depths to you I call. ~ My voice, O Lord please hear:
And to my cry for mercy now ~ bend your attentive ear.

3. If you should keep a log of sin: ~ who then O Lord could stand?
4. But with you is forgiveness found: ~ revered shall be your hand.

5. I wait on God, my spirit waits: ~ my hope is in his word.
6. More than those that for morning watch, ~ my soul waits for the Lord.

7. More than those that watch for the dawn ~ hope Israel in the Lord!
For with the Lord is steadfast love, ~ redemption wide and broad.

8. For he shall ransom Israë! ~ release her, set her free:
He shall redeem them from their sins ~ and each iniquity.

Psalm 130 (TBa) SM

This is an alternative in SM. P&G provides a tune for this by Samuel Chapple. Another tune linked with this version is St Brides

1. From lowest depths of woe ~ to God I sent my cry;
2. Lord, hear my supplicating voice, ~ and graciously reply.

3. Should you severely judge, ~ who can the trial bear?
4. But you forgive, lest we despond, ~ and quite renounce your fear.

5. My soul with patience waits ~ for you, the living Lord;
My hopes are on your promise built, ~ your never-failing word.

6. My longing eyes look out ~ for your enliv'ning ray-
More than the morning watch awaits ~ to spy the dawning day.

7. Let Israel trust in God, ~ no bounds his mercy knows:
The plenteous source and spring from whence ~ eternal succour flows.

8. Whose friendly streams to us ~ a ransom shall convey;
healing spring, a spring to cleanse, ~ and wash our guilt away.

Psalm 131 (SHa) (CM)

This psalm has been linked to the tune Windsor. Although almost all Bible translations liken the quieted soul in v 3 to a child that has been weaned on its mother's breast, and although the Hebrew word often has the meaning of 'weaned', query whether this is likely to be the right meaning in this context. The underlying meaning of the word appears to be more like 'reward' or 'complete', and 'fed' or 'filled' seems to be a more likely meaning here.

1. Lord, I am not puffed up in mind, ~ I have no scornful eye,
2. I do not exercise myself ~ in things that are too high:

3. But like a satiated child ~ upon its mother's breast
So I have stilled and set my soul ~ in silence and in rest.

4. O Israë!, trust in the Lord ~ make him your hope, your stay,
From this time forth for evermore, ~ from age to age always.

Psalm 132 (SHa) DCM

The original is lively but has had some alteration to bring it more into line with modern usage. Playford provides an attractive and dignified proper tune for this psalm DCM in D mi which unfortunately does not appear to have survived into any modern hymn book. An additional reason why this is a pity is that with some small adjustments, the way the thoughts in this psalm are grouped fit double metre in a way that brings out their sense better than single metre.

- 1 Remember David's troubles, Lord, ~ and all that he endured:
So keep in mind his hardships and ~ the effort he ensured.
2. Do not forget the oath he gave ~ and how to you he swore
He vowed a vow to Jacob's God, ~ he'd keep for evermore;
3. "I will not come within my house, ~ nor climb up to my bed,
4. Nor let my eyelids close in sleep, ~ my eyes rest in my head;
5. Until I have found for the Lord ~ a site to make his base:
A house where Jacob's God can rest, ~ his home and dwelling-place".
6. We heard of it in Ephrata, ~ but found it in Jaar's field.
7. Come let us bow down in his house, ~ and to his footstool yield.
8. Arise, O Lord, arise and come ~ into your resting place
You and the ark of your great strength ~ the presence of your grace.
- 9 So let your priests be vested, Lord, ~ with truth and righteousness:
And let your saints with shouts of praise ~ their joyfulness express.
10. Lord for your servant David's sake ~ do not refuse, I pray.
And from your own Anointed one ~ don't turn your face away.

The Second Part

11. The Lord to David swore this oath; ~ he will not shrink from it;
12. "The fruit proceeding from your loins ~ upon your throne shall sit:
13. And if your sons will keep my laws ~ the cov'nant I've made known:
Then their sons shall for ever sit ~ upon your princely throne".
14. The Lord has chosen Zion as ~ where he desires to dwell:
15. and said, "This is my resting place, ~ always; I love it well.
16. I shall bless her with bounteous food, ~ with bread will fill the poor:
17. With salvation I'll clothe her priests; ~ her saints sing evermore".
18. "There I shall set up David's horn, ~ make his line grow and sprout:
The lamp of my anointed cause ~ to flourish and shine out.
19. As for his foes, I shall clothe them ~ with mortifying shame
But cap his head with shining crown ~ resplendent with his fame".

Psalm 133 (TB) CM

The version is from T&B CM, which P&G describes as the Fellowship Psalm and goes to Lydia, often used for 'Jesus the name high over all'. It is ambiguous whether the last verse is an alternative or simply an optional extra verse.

1. How vast must their advantage be! ~ how great their pleasure prove!
Who live like brethren, and consent ~ in offices of love!
 2. True love is like that precious oil, ~ which, poured on Aaron's head,
Ran down his beard, and o'er his robes ~ its costly moisture shed.
 3. 'Tis like refreshing dew, which does ~ on Hermon's top distil;
Or like the early drops that fall ~ on Zion's fruitful hill.
 4. For Zion is the chosen seat, ~ where the Almighty King
The promised blessing has ordained, ~ and life's eternal spring.
- [4/5. For God to all, whose friendly hearts ~ with mutual love abound,
Has firmly promis'd length of days ~ with constant blessings crowned.]

Psalm 133 (SHa) CM

This is a shorter version derived from the SH version. Apart from Lydia, other tunes from P&G might be Bromsgrove, or Bedford.

1. O what a happy thing it is, ~ a joyful thing to see:
Brethren who dwell together in ~ friendship and unity!
2. It's like the precious ointment that ~ was poured on Aaron's head:
Which from his beard down to the skirts ~ of his rich garments spread.
3. For as the lower ground may drink ~ the dew of Hermon's hill:
And with his liquid silver drops ~ Zion's fields with fruit does fill;
4. So there the Lord has charged them with ~ the blessings he might pour:
His promise and command bestows ~ his life for evermore.

Psalm 134 (DBT) 10,10,10,10

This is among the shortest Psalm and is one of the psalms CW appoints for Compline. This version is in Iambic pentameters. It would go to Ellers 'Saviour again to thy dear name we raise'.

1. Come bless the Lord all servants of his Name.
Who stand by night to worship and acclaim:
Within his house, come, bless, lift up your hands
Towards the holy place where his ark stands.
2. Come bless the Lord and give to him his worth.
May he, who fashioned heav'n and the earth,
He, who can both create and make anew,
Out of Ziön pour his blessings on you.
3. All glory to the Father and the Son,
And to the Spirit, ever three in one:
As was and is, and ever more shall be
World without end for all eternity.

Psalm 134 (DBT) LM

This is an alternative version in LM which would go to Tallis's Canon

1. Come bless the Lord, whose name is might.
All you that serve him, come draw nigh:
Come bless him you who stand by night,
In the Lord's house, hands lifted high.
2. So bless the Lord, give him due worth,
Your hands raise to his holy place:
May the Lord who made heav'n and earth,
From Zion bless you with his grace.

This completes the Songs of Ascents

Psalm 135 (SHa) DCM

This has historically normally been sung to Old 81st. The version of the tune in P&G is more interesting than the usual form in hymn books, with additional passing notes etc.

- 1 Alleluia, the Lord's name praise, ~ praise him with one accord:
O give him praise, all you who are ~ the servants of the Lord.
- 2 Come praise him, you that minister ~ in the house of the Lord:
That stand within his house and courts, ~ praise him with one accord.
- 3 Alleluia, the Lord is good, ~ sing praises to his Name;
It is a good and pleasant thing ~ his nature to acclaim.
- 4 For he has chosen Jacob for ~ himself, his precious stone:
And has picked Israël to be ~ his treasure and his own.
5. I know the Lord is very great: ~ above all gods is he:
6. In heaven, earth, sea and abyss: ~ as he wills, he makes be.
7. He raises clouds from earth's far end, ~ makes light'ning and the rain:
He brings the winds out from his store: ~ and does nothing in vain.
8. Of Egypt's firstborn children, ~ he smote both man and beast.
9. Wonders and signs he sent the slaves ~ of Pharoah, Egypt's least.
10. He struck down many nations, and ~ did great and wondrous things;
He likewise slew the mightiest, ~ the strongest of their kings.
11. Sihon king of the Amorites, ~ and Og king of Basán;
He brought down all the kingdoms too ~ that were in Canaän.
- 12 He gave their land to Israel ~ their heritage to be,
To Israel his people, and ~ to their posterity.

The Second Part.

- 13 Your name shall last for ever, Lord, ~ your memory likewise:
Throughout all generations that ~ are now, or shall arise.
14. The Lord will vindicate, avenge, ~ his people with all speed.
And to his servants he will show ~ favour in time of need.
15. The idols of the nations are ~ of silver and of gold:
They are the work of human hands, ~ are fashioned, blank and cold.
16. They may have mouths, but cannot speak, ~ have eyes but cannot see:

17. Though they have ears, they do not hear; ~ their mouths of breath are free.
18. Those that make them, become like them; ~ turn into what they've made.
And so do all that trust in them ~ become where their hope's stayed.
19. So all the house of Israel, ~ make sure you bless the Lord;
And you that are of Aaron's house, ~ bless him with one accord.
20. And you that are of Levi's house, ~ bless you, likewise the Lord:
All you that reverence the Lord, ~ bless him with one accord.
21. From Zion may the Lord be blessed ~ worshipped with loud hurrah:
He who dwells in Jerusalem ~ praise him. Alleluia

Psalm 136 (TBa) 6666 4444

This goes to the same metre as Psalm 148. A well known tune to that metre is Darwell's 148th 'Ye holy angels bright', but there are others such as St John, Lawes 47 and Croft's 136th. There are quite a number of changes from T&B. One reason is that some of the rhymes in the original no longer work. Vv 13-14 comes from the SH equivalent.

- 1-2 O give thanks to the Lord; ~ praise him for he is good:
The God of gods applaud, ~ who o'er all things is stood.
His steadfast love ~ shall ever last:
Both firm and fast ~ here and above.
3. The Lord of lords make known; ~ to him your thanks be paid:
4. By him and him alone ~ are mighty wonders made:
His steadfast love etc
5. By wisdom he has wrought ~ the heav'ns, brought them to birth:
6. He's hammered, beaten out, ~ upon the seas, the earth.
His steadfast love etc
7. He made and did display ~ his heav'nly hosts of light;
- 8/9. The sun to rule by day, ~ the moon and stars by night,
His steadfast love etc
10. He struck the first-born dead ~ of Egypt's stubborn land;
- 11/2. And thence his people led ~ by outstretched arm and hand.

His steadfast love etc

13. He split the sea in two; ~ it stood up like a wall:
14. And made his chosen go ~ through it, each one and all.
 His steadfast love etc
15. But there he overthrew ~ proud Pharaoh and his host:
 Who, rushing to pursue, ~ were in the billows lost.
 His steadfast love etc
16. Through empty wilderness ~ he led his chosen seed:
17/8 He slew great kings no less, ~ made mighty monarchs bleed.
 His steadfast love etc
19. Sihon, whose potent hand ~ great Ammon's sceptre swayed;
20. And Og, whose stern command ~ rich Bashan's land obeyed,
 His steadfast love etc
21. The lands where once did dwell ~ the nations he'd destroyed:
22. He gave to Israel ~ to be by them enjoyed .
 His steadfast love etc
23. He called our plight to mind ~ when in our depth of woe:
24. Delivered us by might ~ retrieved us from each foe.
 His steadfast love etc
25. He does the food supply ~ on which all creatures live:
26. To God who reigns on high ~ eternal praises give.
 His steadfast love etc

*To God, the Father, Son ~ and Spirit, ever blest,
Eternal three in one ~ all worship be addressed.
As heretofore ~ it was, is now,
And shall be so ~ for ever-more.*

Psalm 136 (Milton)

7777 77

This is the whole of the well known Milton version, in its original form, but some of the verses will be unfamiliar. The verses usually sung are marked with an asterisk. The first verse is often repeated at the end. The tune is Monkland. It is alleged to have been written when he was fifteen years old. Some of the terms will be puzzling. Erythean main = Red Sea. Tawney king = Pharaoh, Amorrean = of the Amorites.

- 1*. Let us with a gladsome mind
Praise the Lord, for he is kind,
For his mercies ay endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.
- 2*. Let us blaze his Name abroad,
For of gods he is the God;
For his mercies, etc
3. O let us his praises tell,
That doth the wrathfull tyrants quell.
For his mercies, etc
4. That with his miracles doth make
Amazéd Heav'n and Earth to shake.
For his mercies, etc
5. That by his wisdom did create
The painted Heav'ns so full of state.
For his mercies, etc
6. That did the solid Earth ordain
To rise above the watery plain.
For his mercies, etc
- 7*. That by his all-commanding might,
Did fill the new-made world with light.
For his mercies, etc
- 8*. And caus'd the Golden-tresséd Sun,
All the day long his course to run.
For his mercies, etc
- 9*. The hornéd Moon to shine by night,
Amongst her spangled sisters bright.
For his mercies, etc
10. He with his thunder-clasping hand,
Smote the first-born of Egypt Land.
For his mercies, etc

- 11/2. And in despite of Pharaoh fell,
He brought from thence his Israël.
For his mercies, etc
13. The ruddy waves he cleft in twain,
Of the Erythraean main.
For his mercies, etc
14. The floods stood still like Walls of Glass,
While the Hebrew Bands did pass.
For his mercies, etc
15. But full soon they did devour
The Tawny King with all his power.
For his mercies, etc
16. His chosen people he did bless
In the wasteful Wilderness.
For his mercies, etc
- 17/8. In bloody battle he brought down
Kings of prowess and renown.
For his mercies, etc
19. He foiled bold Sihon and his host,
That rul'd the Amorrean coast.
For his mercies, etc
20. And large-limb'd Og he did subdue,
With all his over hardy crew.
For his mercies, etc
- 21/2. And to his Servant Israël,
He gave their Land therein to dwell.
For his mercies, etc
23. He hath with a piteous eye
Beheld us in our misery.
For his mercies, etc

24. And freed us from the slavery
Of the invading enemy.
For his mercies, etc
25. All living creatures he doth feed,
And with full hand supplies their need.
For his mercies, etc
26. Let us therefore warble forth
His mighty Majesty and worth.
For his mercies, etc
27. That his mansion hath on high
Above the reach of mortal eye.
For his mercies, etc

Psalm 137 (DBT) CM

This needs to be sung to a tune in a minor key. There is an Old 137th tune in DCM in many books (Scottish psalm tune 155) but it is not very inspiring. There is an additional issue with using a double metre tune for this psalm. Questionable though this may be, some users may prefer to sanitise this psalm. This is harder to do with a double metre tune.

1. By the rivers of Babylon ~ we sat down and we wept:
When we remembered Ziön, how ~ could we our loss accept?
2. As for our harps we hung them high ~ upon each willow tree:
For there our captors called for song ~ our bullies ordered glee.
3. “A song of Zion, sing for us,” ~ they said, “for sing you must”.
4. How can we sing the Lord’s song, how ~ on foreign soil, your dust?
5. If I am faithless or forget ~ you, O Jerusalem:
Then let my right hand lose its skill ~ and wither at its stem.
6. My tongue stick in my throat if I ~ do not keep you in mind:
Nor rate Jerusalem above ~ pleasure of any kind.
7. Remember Lord what Edom did ~ the day the city fell:

“Strip it” they cried, “and lay it bare, ~ its foundations wreck well”.

8. Daughter of Babylon, your doom ~ is devastation, thus:
Happy are those who pay you back ~ what you have done to us.
9. And bless'd whoever takes your babes, ~ your hope, your future stock:
Seizes your children in their hands, ~ to smash them on a rock.

Psalm 138 (DBT) (DCM)

The T&B version in single CM has been linked to the tune Irish which is in some hymn books. However, the way the thoughts are grouped fit DCM very well, particularly as the usual way the verses are split and numbered in most bibles look a little random.

1. With all my heart before the gods ~ your praises I'll acclaim:
2. And to your holy palace, I ~ prostrate to praise your name.
Since at your steadfast love and truth ~ my heart with worship sings:
You've raised your utterances and name ~ above all other things.
3. The day I called, you answered me. ~ You made me bold and strong.
4. Let all earth's king's avow you Lord, ~ praise you, make you their song.
When they have heard the words your mouth ~ has spoken clear and straight,
5. May they sing of your ways, O Lord; ~ your glory, Lord, is great.
6. For though the Lord is lifted high ~ he looks upon the low:
But keeps his distance from the proud, ~ that he disdains to know.
7. Though I may walk in trouble's toils, ~ yet you preserve my life
You stretch your hand against my foes, ~ their raging wrath and strife.
8. By your right hand, you rescue me; ~ you save me, set me right.
His purpose for me shall my Lord, ~ accomplish and requite.
Your steadfast love endures always; ~ for ever it shall stand:
Do not abandon what you've made ~ the work of your own hand.

Psalm 139 (TBa) LM

This, with its lyrical quality, is one of T&B's best. As it is not widely familiar, I have modernised its use of the 2nd person singular, but apart from changes necessary to achieve this, it is otherwise unaltered. P&G has a

repeating tune called Simon. It also goes well to Rivaulx, Father of Heaven whose love profound, using vv 1/2, 7, 8, 9/10, 11 and 23/24.

1. You Lord, by strictest search hast known ~ my rising up and lying down;
2. My secret thoughts, you know and see ~ known long before conceived by me.

3. Your eye my bed and path surveys, ~ my public haunts and private ways;
4. You know all that my lips would vent, ~ my yet unuttered words' intent.

5. Surrounded by your pow'r I stand, ~ on ev'ry side I find your hand: .
6. O skill, for human reach too high! ~ too dazzling bright for mortal eye:

7. Could I be so faithless, untrue ~ to think of once deserting you?
Where, Lord, could I your influence shun? ~ or whither from your presence
run?

8. If up to heav'n I take my flight, ~ 'tis there you dwell, enthroned in light;
Or dive to hell's infernal plains, ~ 'tis there almighty vengeance reigns.

9. If I the morning's wings could gain, ~ and fly beyond the western main,
10. Your swifter hand would first arrive, ~ and there arrest your fugitive.

11. Or should I try to shun your light ~ beneath the sable wings of night;
One glance from you, one piercing ray, ~ would kindle darkness into day.

12. The veil of night is no disguise, ~ no screen from your all-searching eyes;
Through midnight shades you find your way, ~ as in the blazing noon of day.

13. You know the texture of my heart, ~ my reins, and ev'ry vital part;
Each single thread in nature's loom ~ by you was covered in the womb.

14. I'll praise you, from whose hands I came, ~ a work of such a curious frame;
The wonders you in me has shown, ~ my soul with grateful joy must own.

15. Your eyes my substance did survey, ~ while yet a lifeless mass it lay;
In secret how exactly wrought, ~ ere from its dark enclosure brought.

16. You did the shapeless embryo see; ~ you registered each part of me.
You saw the daily growth they took, ~ formed by the model of your book.

17. Let me acknowledge too, O God, ~ that, since this maze of life I trod,

Your thoughts of love to me surmount ~ the pow'r of numbers to recount.

18. Far sooner could I reckon o'er ~ the sands upon the ocean's shore;
Each morn, revising what I've done, ~ I find th' account but new begun.
19. The wicked you shall slay, O God: ~ depart from me, you men of blood,
20. Whose tongues heav'n s majesty profane ~ and take th' Almighty's Name in
vain.
21. Lord, don't I hate their impious crew, ~ who you with enmity pursue?
And does not grief my heart oppress, ~ when reprobates your laws transgress?
22. Who gives to you their enmity ~ shall utmost hatred have from me;
Such sort I utterly detest, ~ as if they were my foes professed.
- 23,24 Search, try, O God, my thoughts and heart, ~ if mischief lurks in any part;
Correct me where I go astray, ~ and guide me in your perfect way.

Psalm 139 (JD) LM

This is a more compact version from Sir John Denham (1615-69), extracted from Donald Davie's Penguin Psalms in English. It is a paraphrase rather than a translation. It is unaltered.

- 1-3 Lord, thou my ways hast searched and known, ~ my rising up and sitting down;
To thee are my conceptions brought, ~ e'er they are formed into a thought.
- 4-5 My idle words thou dost condemn ~ before my lips have fashioned them;
On ev'ry part thy hand imposed; ~ behind, before, has me enclosed.
- 6-8 Such knowledge is for me too high; ~ from thee O whither shall I fly?
If up to heav'n, thou there dost dwell; ~ and if my bed I lay in hell,
- 9-10 I should not 'scape thy piercing eye. ~ if on the morning's wings I fly,
Or th'ocean's untraced paths should tread, ~ with thy right hand I should be
led.
- 11-12 If I my head in night involve, ~ thy light the darkness would dissolve;
E'en day and night are but one name, ~ for both to thee appear the same.
- 13-14 Nor reins nor heart could thee escape, ~ thou in the womb my form didst

- shape;
- So marvellously I was made, ~ e'en of myself I stand afraid.
- 14.15 For this my soul, which knows so well ~ thy wondrous works, thy praise shall
tell.
My substance was by thee surveyed, ~ when it was first in secret made.
- 16 Thy hand did free, with curious art, ~ from imperfections every part;
And ev'ry member, which had yet ~ no being, in thy book was writ.
- 17 At last to show whose hand it was, ~ God stamped his image on the mass.
O how thy thoughts my soul delight! ~ the sum of them is infinite.
- 18 When I to number them would try, ~ I find they all accounts outvie;
I sooner might the sands explore ~ that lie upon the ocean's shore;
- 19-20 Yet they my early thoughts employ. ~ Lord, thou the wicked wilt destroy:
Such as blaspheme and thirst for blood, ~ and those whose counsels thine
withstood.
- 21.24 I hated to the last degree ~ all those, O God who hated thee.
Search all my thoughts, and if they stray ~ from thee, be thou their guide and
way.

Psalm 140 (DBT) DCM

There is no tune particularly associated with this psalm. The sense of the verses mean they fit better with a double metre.

1. Untangle me from wicked folk; ~ Lord hear how my soul pleads:
Preserve my life from people who ~ delight in violent deeds.
2. Their hearts are bent on wickedness: ~ each day they stir up strife.
3. They whet their tongues like snakes: their lips ~ hide venom against life.
4. Keep me, Lord, from the wickeds' hands ~ from those who violence use:
Who look for ways to trip my feet ~ by any cunning ruse.
5. The proud concealed a trap for me; ~ with cords, they've spread a net:
They hid an ambush on my path, ~ for me their snares they've set.:

6. You are my God. Lord hear my plea: ~ your mercy I implore.
7. My strong deliv'rer, Lord my God ~ who shields my head in war.
8. The wicked's plans, Lord, block and thwart; ~ what they desire, becloud:
Do not let what they want succeed ~ lest it should make them proud.
9. The trouble that the lips have caused ~ of those that surround me:
Let it fall back upon their heads, ~ let burning coals fall free.
10. Let them be cast into the fire ~ beneath a scorching rain:
Be thrown into some filthy pits ~ and never rise again.
11. Though in the land, the slanderer ~ shall find no place to stand:
And speedily disaster will ~ hunt down the violent hand.
12. I know the Lord upholds the weak: ~ gives judgement for the poor.
13. The righteous shall applaud your name: ~ the just stand evermore.

Psalm 141 (DBT) (DCM)

The traditional versions of this psalm are metrically weak and inaccurate translations. This is unsurprising as even the commentaries do not agree on what several verses mean or how to translate them even without having to render them into metre. There is no tune associated with this psalm.

1. Oh Lord, I raise my voice to you ~ come quickly to my aid:
And when I call, please hear my plea ~ aspiring to persuade.
2. Like incense, let my prayers ascend, ~ sweet smoke of paradise:
My raised up hands be counted as ~ the evening sacrifice.
3. Lord set a vigil on my mouth ~ a guardian on my lips:
Let not my heart be drawn to words ~ of vice, or to its grips.
4. Nor let me practice wickedness ~ with those to evil bent:
Nor ever sup of fancy food ~ with those of ill intent.
5. It's kindness for the just to strike ~ and so take me to task:
I'll gladly bear it on my head ~ as oil poured from its flask.
6. I pray that when the wicked are ~ thrown off a rock for dead:
From their own judges they will learn ~ that my speech was well said.
7. "As when one ploughs to break the soil ~ or split the earth in two
Before the mouth of Sheol, our bones, ~ are scattered, spread astrew".
8. But as for me, my eyes are fixed ~ on you my Sovereign Lord:

You are my refuge; do not leave ~ me bare and cast abroad.

9. Protect me from the hidden traps ~ my enemies have laid:
And keep my footsteps from the snares ~ evildoers have made.
10. Enmesh the wicked in the nets ~ that they themselves have cast:
But let me pass in safety by ~ and reach my goal at last.

Psalm 142 (TBa) SM

There are a few changes to fit modern usage and reduce the number of inversions. P&G provides an excellent tune in DSM, Persecution. Other tune linked to this psalm include St Brides and Shirland, the latter in a minor key.

1. To God, with mournful voice, ~ from my dark cave I pray:
2. Make him the umpire of my cause, ~ my wrongs before him lay.
3. For you direct my steps, ~ when my sad soul despaired:
For where I thought I walked secure, ~ they had their traps prepared.
4. I looked, but found no friend ~ to own me in distress:
All refuge failed, no one showed me ~ their pity or redress.
5. To God at last I prayed; ~”Lord refuge of my heart,
My portion in the land of life, ~ till earth itself depart”.
6. O hear the painful cry ~ of my adversity:
Save me from persecutors who ~ have grown too strong for me.
7. So I may praise your name ~ from prison free my soul:
Then round me shall your gathered saints ~ your recompense extol.

Psalm 143 (DBT) CM

This is the seventh of the seven penitential psalms, Pss 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130 and 143. CW allocates a selection of verses from this psalm, 1,2,4. 6-8, 10 and 11 to Friday evenings and the whole to Compline in Advent. P&G provides a good tune, to the T&B version, but the quality of the words of the full set of verses in T&B is intermittent. S&H is more vigorous but clumsy. So this is a fresh version. Among other possible tunes are Crowle and London New.

1. Lord hear my prayer; come bend your ear, ~ and listen to my plea:
In faithfulness and righteousness ~ give heed and answer me.
2. Judge not; do not decide against ~ your servant, though your right:
For there is no one living who ~ is righteous in your sight.
3. An enemy has hunted me, ~ has crushed me to the ground:
Has made me sit in darkness, chained, ~ like those long dead and bound.
4. My spirit faints within me; ~ my heart is numb, aghast:
5. So I recall all you have done ~ and times that are now past.
6. I meditate upon your works, ~ creations of your hand:
My hands and soul reach out for you, ~ as gasps a thirsty land.
7. Hear me with speed; my spirit fails; ~ Lord do not hide your face:
Or I shall be like those sent down ~ into the deepest place.
8. Let me hear of your steadfast love, ~ each morning told anew:
Show me the way where I should walk; ~ I lift my soul to you.
9. Deliver me O Lord from those, ~ who hate me, are my foes:
I flee to you for refuge as ~ the shelter my heart knows.
10. Teach me to do what is your will; ~ you are my God, well crowned:
May your good Spirit lead me on, ~ as though on level ground.
11. For the good standing of your name ~ and by your righteousness:
Deliver me; renew my life; ~ retrieve me from distress.
12. Wipe out my foes according to ~ your love, steadfast and true:
Destroy all those who hate me since ~ I've chosen to serve you.

Psalm 144 (SHa)

CM

This is based on S&H which is lively, but some verses have been altered to make them more compatible with modern English. T&B's version is pedestrian and in Long Metre which is heavy going for 14 verses. York is the tune in Playford and elsewhere and is in most hymn books. The version in P&G has a symphony. V 4 is

similar to, but different from, Ps 8:3. The structure is the same but the two key verbs are different. There is debate as to what is the best translation of v14.

1. Bless'd be the Lord, my rock and strength ~ who trains my hands to fight:
The Lord who frames my fingers too, ~ for battle, not for flight.
2. He is my hope, my fort, my tower, ~ deliverer and shield;
I trust in him, and to my power ~ he makes the nations yield.
3. Lord, what is man, that you should know ~ his life, his ways or limb:
Or what the son of man, that you ~ should take account of him.
4. As vanity, or puff of wind, ~ are we, as fleeting shade:
5. So part the heav'ns, Lord, come down; ~ this world below, invade.
6. Lord, touch the mountains so they smoke; ~ make bolts of light'ning flash.
Send forth your arrows, scatter them ~ and make the thunder crash.
7. Reach down your hand from heav'n above ~ and Lord deliver me:
From mighty waters and the power ~ of strangers, set me free.
8. Their mouths speak words of worthlessness, ~ their lips both lie and cheat:
Their right hands drip with falsehood and ~ their oath is a deceit.
9. A new song shall I sing to you ~ O God most joyfully:
And on a ten stringed lute shall I ~ praise you with melody.
10. You are the only one who brings ~ deliverance to kings:
And from the deadly sword-blade's reach ~ your servant David springs.
11. Save, shield me from the strangers' clutch ~ whose mouths are full of lies:
Whose right hands and whose oaths are false; ~ who deviousness devise.
12. Then shall our youthful sons excel ~ as plants thrive and grow tall:
Our daughters as carved corner stones ~ upon a palace wall.
13. And produce fill our granaries ~ with all the good soil yields:
Our flocks bear lambs in thousands ~ in droves to fill our fields.
14. Our cattle shall be fat with young ~ nor lose births anywhere.
There shall be no breaks in our walls ~ nor cries in street or square.

15. Happy all those who are so bless'd; ~ let such people applaud:
And blesséd all those who can say ~ their god is God the Lord.

Psalm 145 (TBa) CM

There is an attractive DCM tune for the S&H version of this psalm in E mi which unfortunately has not survived into modern hymn books. The S&H version is lively, but the T&B with its double rhyming metre is particularly successful. It has been alleged that the hymn 'How great thou art' is inspired by this psalm. The original Hebrew is an acrostic but no attempt has been made to replicate this. This has hardly been altered except to modernise the 2nd person singular.

- 1,2. You I'll extol, my God and King, ~ your endless praise proclaim:
This tribute daily I will bring, ~ and ever bless your name.
3. You, Lord, beyond compare are great, ~ and highly to be praised;
Your majesty, with boundless height, ~ above our knowledge raised.
4. Renowned for mighty acts, your fame ~ to future times extends:
From age to age your glorious name ~ successively descends.
- 5,6. Whilst I your glory and renown, ~ and wondrous works express:
The world with me your might shall own, ~ and your great power confess.
7. The praise, they shall with joy proclaim, ~ that to your love belongs:
Your truth shall be the constant theme ~ of all their grateful songs,
8. The Lord is good; fresh acts of grace ~ his pity still supplies:
His anger moves with slowest pace, ~ his willing mercy flies.
- 9,10. Your love through earth extends its fame, ~ to all your works expressed:
These show your praise, whilst your great name ~ is by your servants blessed.
11. They, with the glorious prospect fired, ~ shall of your kingdom speak:
And your great power, by all admired, ~ their lofty subject make.
12. God's glorious works of ancient date ~ shall thus to all be known:
And thus his kingdom's royal state ~ with public splendour shown.
13. His steadfast throne, from changes free, ~ shall stand for ever fast:

His boundless sway no end shall see, ~ but time itself outlast.

The Second Part

- 14,15. The Lord supports all those that that fall, ~ and makes the prostrate rise:
For his kind aid all creatures call; ~ on time he food supplies.
16. What'er their various wants require, ~ with open hand he gives:
And so fulfils the just desire ~ of ev'ry thing that lives.
- 17,18 How holy is the Lord, how just, ~ how righteous all his ways!
How near to each, who with firm trust ~ for his assistance prays!
19. He grants the full desires of those ~ who him with fear adore:
And will their troubles soon compose, ~ when they his aid implore.
20. The Lord preserves each one with care ~ who grateful love employs:
But sinners, who his vengeance dare, ~ with furious rage destroys.
21. My time to come, in praises spent, ~ shall still advance his fame:
And all mankind, with one consent ~ for ever bless his name.

Psalm 146 (TBa)

CM

This derives from T&B but has been altered to some extent. V 3 is the source of Machievelli's words, "Put not your trust in princes, bureaucrats or generals, they will plead expedience while spilling your blood from a safe distance". It is also said to have been quoted by Thomas Wentworth, 1st Earl of Strafford when Charles 1 gave royal assent to his bill of attainder in 1641. P&G provides two excellent tunes, Stocks for the S&H version of this psalm and a unnamed tune from Martinstown in Dorset, both to CM. Another tune that is linked to this psalm is Bishopsthorpe, 'Immortal love, forever full'. The setting of this tune in P&G (Ps 119; 17-24) is slightly more interesting than the standard one in most hymn books. Other suggestions are Bromsgrove and St Matthews.

1. Praise, praise the Lord, praise him my soul, ~ forever bless his name:
2. My constant praise, while life shall last ~ his wondrous love acclaim.
3. Put not your trust in princes, nor ~ in any human power:
They cannot save; they are no help, ~ nor any hope or tower.
4. They breathe their last, return to dust ~ and there, neglected, lie:
That very day their plans and thoughts ~ perish and with them die.

5. Happy the one who Jacob's God, ~ takes as their help and aid
Whose trust is in the Lord their God ~ whose hope on him is stayed.
6. The Lord who made the earth and sky, ~ the sea and all in it:
Will never cease from faithfulness, ~ from truth will never quit.
7. For those oppressed he executes ~ his justice eagerly:
He gives food to the famished and ~ the Lord sets prisoners free.
8. The Lord restores sight to the blind; ~ he lifts up those bowed low:
He loves the righteous and the just ~ who seek his ways to know.
9. He keeps the sojourner from harm ~ the orphan kindly treats:
Defends the widow and the wiles ~ of evil ones defeats,
10. The Lord shall reign from age to age ~ in Ziön and abroad:
Through generations as your God ~ and so praise, praise the Lord.

Ps 147 (Ra) CM

This is based on the Scottish version, but with quite a lot of alteration to try and remove some of the more ungainly word inversions. The Scottish psalter recommends Huddersfield, which is not in most hymn books and Dunfermline, which is but which needs the addition of gracing and ornamentation to be a pleasure to sing. P&G provides a tune called Carr's Lane to a different version in the same metre. Other tunes that have been linked to this psalm include London New and Zadok. V8ff would serve as an alternative harvest psalm to Ps 65: 9ff.

1. Praise, praise the Lord. How good it is ~ to sing to God our praise:
It is a pleasant, fitting thing ~ our songs in awe to raise.
2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem; ~ her hope, he underwrites:
He draws the dispersed exiles back, ~ brings in his Israelites
3. He heals each broken hearted soul, ~ each spirit that knows pain:
He binds and bandages their wounds. ~ He makes them whole again.
4. He counts the number of the stars; ~ he names each by their kind:
5. Great is our Lord, and great his pow'r, ~ his wisdom past all mind.

6. The Lord lifts up the meek but casts ~ the wicked to the ground:
7. Sing to the Lord a song of thanks; ~ on harp his praises sound;
8. He veils the sky with clouds; he soaks ~ with rain the earth below:
9. He clothes the mountains with green grass, ~ to burgeon and to grow.
10. He gives the cows their food and feeds ~ the raven's young that cry.
11. In neither horse nor human strength ~ does the Lord's pleasure lie.
12. But the delight and pleasure of ~ our Lord in heav'n above:
He lays on those who fear him and ~ trust in his steadfast love.
13. Extol the Lord, Jerusalem. ~ Ziön, your God confess:
14. For he has made your barred gates strong. ~ In you your sons he'll bless.
15. Within your borders he makes peace, ~ fills you with the best wheat:
16. He sends his orders through the earth; ~ his word runs fast and fleet.
17. He scatters hoar-frost as if ash. ~ The snow like wool he gives:
18. He flings down hailstones just like crumbs. ~ Who in such cold yet lives?
19. When he sends out his word, he melts ~ them all and brings the thaw:
The wind blows at his breath so that ~ the waters flow once more.
20. To Jacob he reveals his word; ~ his message he has shown:
His statutes and his verdicts he ~ to Israel has made known.
21. For to no other nation did ~ he such goodness afford:
His verdicts they have never known ~ and so, praise, praise the Lord.

Psalm 148 (TBa) (6,6,6,6 4,4,4,4)

All the psalters provide versions of this psalm in this metre which is known as 148th metre. The T&B version is the most attractive by quite a long way. Although this is a fairly free rendering, 'And clouds that move in liquid air' just might be a genuinely more dynamic translation than the more literal 'you waters above the heavens'. This almost unaltered. Several tunes exist for this metre which is also used for versions of Psalm 136. The best known is Darwell's 148th, which is in almost all hymn books as it is also the tune for Richard Baxter's 'Ye holy angels bright'. The more familiar harmonisation was added in the C19 but P&G has Darwells original version. P&G also provides a tune Resurrection for the Watts version in the same metre.

Others are St John, Lawes 47 and Croft's 136th.

- 1,2 Ye boundless realms of joy, ~ exalt your Maker's frame,
His praise your song employ ~ above the starry frame;
Your voices raise, ~ ye cherubim
And seraphim, ~ to sing his praise
- 3,4 You moon, that rules the night, ~ and sun, that guides the day;
Ye glitt'ring stars of light, ~ to him your homage pay;
His praise declare, ~ ye heav'ns above
And clouds that move ~ in liquid air.
- 5,6 Let them adore the Lord, ~ and praise his holy name,
By whose almighty word ~ they all from nothing came;
And all shall last ~ from changes free;
His firm decree ~ stands ever fast.
- 7,8 Let earth her tribute pay; ~ praise him, ye dreadful whales,
And fish, that through the sea ~ glide swift with glitt'ring scales.
Fire, hail, and snow, ~ and misty air,
And winds that, where ~ he bids them, blow.
- 9,10 By hills and mountains, (all ~ in grateful concert joined,)
By cedars stately tall, ~ and trees for fruit designed;
By every beast, ~ and creeping thing,
And bird on wing ~ his name be blest.
- 11,12 Let all of royal birth, ~ with those of humbler frame,
And judges of the earth, ~ his matchless praise proclaim.
In this design ~ let youth with maids,
And hoary heads ~ with children join.
- 13 United zeal be shown ~ his wondrous fame to raise,
Whose glorious name alone ~ deserves our endless praise.
Earth's utmost ends ~ his power obey;
His glorious sway ~ the sky transcends.
- 14 His chosen saints to grace; ~ he sets them up on high,
And favours Israel's race ~ who still to him are nigh.
O therefore raise ~ your grateful voice,

And still rejoice ~ the Lord to praise.

*To God, the Father, Son ~ and Spirit, ever blest,
Eternal three in one ~ all worship be addressed.
As heretofore ~ it was, is now,
And shall be so ~ for ever-more.*

Psalm 149(TB) (10,10,11,11)

This is as good as unaltered and is to the same metre as Ps 104. It can be sung to Old 104th, but Hanover is the more usual tune, 'O worship the King all glorious above'. P&G has a setting of it. Laudate Domine, 'O praise ye the Lord, praise him in the height' would also go well.

- 1,2 O Praise ye the Lord, prepare your glad voice,
His praise in the great assembly to sing:
In our great Creator let Israel rejoice;
And children of Ziön be glad in their King.
- 3,4 Let them his great name extol in the dance;
With timbrel and harp his praises express:
Who always takes pleasure his saints to advance,
And with his salvation the humble to bless.
- 5,6 With glory adorned, his people shall sing
To God, who their beds with safety shall shield:
Their mouths filled with praises of him their great King;
Whilst a two-edged sword their right hand shall wield;
- 7,8 Just vengeance to take for injuries past;
To punish those lands for ruin designed;
With chains, as their captives, to tie their kings fast,
With fetters of iron their nobles to bind.
- 9 Thus shall they make good, when them they destroy,
The dreadful decree which God does proclaim:
Such honour and triumph his saints shall enjoy,
O therefore for ever exalt his great name.

By angels in heav'n of ev'ry degree,

*And saints upon earth, all praise be addressed:
To God in three persons, one God ever blest
As it has been, now is and always shall be.*

Psalm 150 (DBT) CM

This is the last psalm in the book, and functions as a doxology to the entire collection. Some people will remember the lively Stanford congregational anthem ‘O praise God in his holiness’, written for the old BCP version. It would be a pity if that were lost and forgotten.

This version is in CM so that it can be sung to one of the lively fuguing tunes that exist in this metre. The words mean that it would be particularly appropriate to play it with different instruments for each part. It should also go quite well to the carol, Shepherds Arise, using the chorus for that carol, or perhaps writing another. To encourage this suggestion, I have added the usual chorus in italics.

1. Praise, praise the Lord; come praise our God ~ within his holy place:
Exalt him in his heav’ns above, ~ the outstretched spread of space.
2. Praise, praise him for his mighty acts, ~ his power as our great king:
Praise him for he is very great ~ surpassing everything.
3. Praise him with ram’s horn’s trumpet call; ~ praise him with harp and lute:
4. Praise him with tambourine and dance; ~ praise him with strings and flute.
5. Praise him with ringing cymbals and ~ make gongs praise and applaud:
6. Let everything with mortal breath ~ exalt and praise the Lord.

*Sing, sing all earth; ~ Sing sing all earth,
eternal praises sing;
To our Redeemer; to our Redeemer,
and our heavenly king.*

Psalm 150 (TB) LM

This is included because P&G has a lively setting for it with instrumental symphonies not just between verses, but between the second and third line of each verse. Many other LM tunes will fit, but one should choose something cheerful.

1. O praise the Lord in that best place ~ from whence his goodness largely flows:
Praise him in heav’n where he his face ~ unveiled in perfect glory shows.

2. Praise him for all his mighty acts ~ which he in our behalf has done:
His kindness this return exacts ~ with which our praise should equal run.
3. Let the shrill trumpet's warlike voice ~ make rocks and hills his praise resound.
Praise him with harp's melodious noise ~ and gentle psalt'ry's silver sound.
4. Let virgin troops soft timbrels bring, ~ and some with graceful motion dance:
Let instruments of various strings, ~ with organs joined, his praise advance.
5. Let them who joyful hymns compose, ~ to cymbals set their songs of praise:
Cymbals of common use and those ~ that loudly sound on solemn days.
6. Let all that vital breath enjoy, ~ the breath he does to them afford:
In just returns of praise employ; ~ let ev'ry creature praise the Lord.1.
