

Book 3 - Psalms 73-89

Psalm 73 (DBT) CM

There is no particular tune associated with this psalm. Playford suggests one from Ravenscroft called Gloucester which has not really survived in currency and T&B's provision is in LM.

1. Truly to Israel, God is good ~ and to the pure in heart.
2. But me - my feet had almost slipped: ~ my steps skidded apart.
3. Because I envied those puffed up; ~ I saw the bad at peace.
4. For them no pangs or frightened death, ~ their bodies, sleek, obese.
5. They are not troubled, are not harmed: ~ as others must address.
6. With necklaces of pride, they clothe ~ themselves with ruthlessness.
7. Their eyes gleam out through folds of fat: ~ their hearts fill with conceit.
8. They mock; they speak oppressively ~ and haughtily browbeat.
9. They set their mouths against the heav'ns: ~ their tongues stride through
the earth:
10. So people treat them as a well, ~ drink deeply of their worth.

Part 2

11. "How can it be?" they say, "that God ~ sees, or the Highest knows?"
12. Look how the wicked lounge at ease: ~ how their wealth ever grows."
13. Have I in vain kept my heart clean ~ washed hands in innocence?
14. Known all day long, the chastening hand, ~ each morn, a harsh sentence?
15. If I had said, "thus shall I speak" ~ your offspring I'd betray.
16. But when I tried to puzzle this ~ it was too much to weigh.
17. Until I came into your shrine: ~ then did I comprehend.
For once I gained God's holy place ~ I understood their end
18. Truly, you place them where they slip, ~ to ruin bring them down.

- 19 How suddenly are they destroyed ~ by terrors overthrown.
20 As when one wakes from some dark dream, ~ Oh Lord, when you arise,
So you their simulacra shall ~ as fantasies despise .

Part 3

- 21 Sour was my heart as bitter yeast: ~ my deepest parts pierced through.
22. I was brutish and ignorant, ~ as sullen beast to you.
23 Yet constantly am I with you, ~ for you hold my right hand.
24 You guide me with your counsel and ~ your glory is my end.
25 Who else but you in heav'n or earth ~ shall be my delight there.
26 My heart and flesh may fail, but God's ~ their strength, their rock, my share.
27 For lo, those that are far from you ~ shall perish without joy:
And faithless folk who cheat on you, ~ you blot out and destroy.
28 For me, my good is to be near ~ my God, my sovereign Lord.
My refuge I have placed in you; ~ your deeds I shall record.

Psalm 74 (Tba) CM

Although this moving lament is attributed to Asaph, most commentators have assumed that it dates from the destruction of the Temple by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC, and that there was either another Asaph who lived then or the attribution is incorrect. Some have even suggested it dates from AD 70, which is unlikely. I suspect it's too sad to be sung very often. Some parts of this psalm are unaltered from TB and other altered fairly considerably. There is a natural break at v 9. There is no tune particularly associated with this psalm

- 1 Why have you cast us off, O God? ~ will you no more return?
And why against your chosen flock ~ does your fierce anger burn?
2 Think on your ancient purchase, Lord, ~ the land that is your own:
By you redeemed, and Zion's mount, ~ where once your glory shone.
3 O come, and view our ruins, bare ~ for ever now defaced!
See how the foe, with wicked rage, ~ has laid your temple waste.
4 Your foes roar out against your Name, where late ~ your zealous servants

prayed:

The heathen there, with haughty pomp, ~ their banners have displayed.

- 5,6 Like such as hack down forest trees ~ and put the woods to rout:
With axe and hammer brutally ~ your carvings they ripped out.
7. They set your sanctuary on fire; ~ they burnt it to the ground:
They have profaned your dwelling-place ~ where once your name was owned.
- 8 Within their hearts they said, “we shall ~ crush them as grains of sand”:
They have burnt ev’ry meeting place ~ of God throughout the land
9. No sign you give us, nor, no more, ~ your prophet do we see:
And none of us can know or guess ~ how long this state will be

Part 2

- 10 How long, Lord will your advers’ry, ~ reproach, taunt and deplore:
Or shall your enemy impugn ~ your name for evermore.
- 11 Oh, why withhold your strong right hand, ~ within your patient breast:
When vengeance calls to stretch it forth, ~ why calmly let it rest?
12. For you, O God, have been my king ~ from ancient times, of old:
Salvation have you wrought amidst ~ the earth a myriad fold.
- 13 With power, you split the sea in two ~ and smashed the kraken’s head.
14 You crushed Leviathan’s heads and him ~ to savage creatures fed.
- 15 You opened springs and brooks: you made ~ perennial rivers dry. .
16 Yours are the day and night: you placed ~ the sun and moon on high.
- 17 You set the boundaries of the earth; ~ they stand as by your seal.
Summer and winter you have formed, ~ and turned upon your wheel.

Part 3

- 18 Remember how the enemy ~ Lord, scoffs to urge your shame:
And how a foolish people has ~ blasphemed your holy name.

- 19 Do not give to wild beasts the soul ~ of your own turtle dove:
Nor the life of the poor forget ~ forever from your love.
- 20 Regard your covenant because ~ the earth with gloom is dense:
Its darkest places have been filled ~ as lodgings of violence.
- 21 Let not the crushed merely return ~ to be put down in shame:
But let the poor and needy now ~ rejoice and praise your name.
22. Arise O God, your pleadings plead; ~ your case, your cause maintain:
Remember how insulting fools ~ each day your name profane.
- 23 Do not forget the voice of those ~ who are your enemy:
The noise of those who challenge you ~ ascends continually.

Psalm 75 (Tba)

CM

This is based on the T&B version but with considerable alteration. There is a tune for vv 1, 7 9 and 10 in P&G.

- 1 To you, O God, we give our thanks, ~ to you with thanks repair:
Because your name is near to us, ~ your wondrous deeds declare.
2. “The due day I shall seize to judge, ~ with equity to reign.
3. Earth may melt and all therein, but ~ its pillars I sustain”.
4. “To those that self proclaim I say ~ ‘boast of yourselves no more’:
And to the wicked, ‘do not raise ~ your horn on high for sure’ ”.
5. “Do not lift up your horn on high: ~ nor with a stiff neck speak”.
6. From east, nor west, nor wilderness ~ shall elevation wreak.
7. For God the great disposer is, ~ and sov'reign Judge alone:
He casts the proud to earth, and lifts ~ the humble to a throne.
- 8 The Lord extends with stretched out hand ~ a cup of foaming wine:
Full it is, rich and mixed with spice, ~ fermented fruit of vine.
- The Lord then pours out from that wine ~ the utmost one might squeeze:

And all the wicked of the earth ~ must drain the dregs and lees.

9. But as for me, I shall declare ~ through time, however long:
And to the God of Jacob, I ~ shall bring my praise in song
- 10 All the horns of the wicked I ~ shall hack off, damnify:
But the horns of the righteous shall ~ be exalted on high.

Psalm 76 (DBT) CM

T&B provides a version (see below) in the less usual metre of 888 888. There are not very many tunes available for that metre. P&G suggests Martin's Lane. In theory, this version in CM derives from S&H, but so little of the original remains, that it's fairer to describe it as a fresh composition. V4 is an attempt to translate what it might mean, but nobody seems to know what it does mean. The T&B version contains three very minor modernisations in grammar.

- 1 In Judah God is known: his name ~ is great in Israël.
2. At Salem is his hideaway: ~ and Zion his place to dwell.
3. There burnished bow and bolt he broke: ~ and shield and sword and fight.
4. As meat on mighty mountain tops: ~ you are effulgent light.
5. The brave hearts are be-spoiled: they sleep ~ the sleep beyond all mind:
A whole army of fighting men, ~ their hands they cannot find.
6. At your rebuke, O Jacob's God: ~ chariot and horse lie stunned.
7. You terrify: before your face ~ who can your wrath withstand.
8. From heav'n you made your judgements heard: ~ the earth feared and was still.
9. God rose to save the meek of earth: ~ you freed them by your will.
- 10 The anger that in people burns ~ shall turn into your praise:
And anger's remnant you shall gird ~ about yourself always.
11. Make vows; perform them then in full ~ to God, the Lord revered:
Let all about him bring their gifts ~ to him that should be feared.
- 12 He breaks the breath of rulers, brings ~ their spirits down to dearth:
He fills with abject terror too ~ the kings of all the earth.

Psalm 76 TBa version in 888 888

- 1 In Judah the Almighty's known,
(Almighty there by wonders shown)
His Name in Jacob does excel ;
- 2 His sanctuary in Salem stands;
the Majesty that heav'n commands
In Zion condescends to dwell.
- 3 He broke the bow and arrows there,
the shield, the tempered sword, and spear,
There slain the mighty army lay;
- 4 Whence Zion's fame through earth is spread,
of greater glory, greater dread,
Than hills where robbers lodge their prey.
- 5 Their valiant chiefs, who came for spoil,
themselves met there a shameful foil;
Securely down to sleep, they lay:
But woke no more; their stoutest band
Ne'er lifted one resisting hand
'Gainst his, that did their legions slay.
- 6 When Jacob's God began to frown,
both horse and charioteers o'erthrown
Together slept in endless night.
- 7 When you, whom earth and heav'n revere,
should once with wrathful look appear,
What mortal pow'r can stand thy sight?
- 8 Pronounced from heav'n, earth heard its doom;
grew hushed with fear, when you did come,
- 9 The meek with justice to restore:
- 10 The wrath of man shall yield you praise;
its last attempts but serve to raise
The triumphs of Almighty pow'r.
- 11 Vow to the Lord, ye nations; bring
vowed presents to th' eternal King;
Thus to his Name due rev'rence pay:
- 12 Who proudest potentates can quell;

to earthly kings more terrible,
Than to their trembling subjects they.

Psalm 77 (TBa) CM

Although this ultimately derives from TB it has been very substantially altered. P&G has a tune called Overton for this Psalm, and another link is with Croft's St Matthew in DCM, which would require a doxology if the whole psalm were sung. In the Hebrew, the verses in the later part of this psalm are in triple sections, often with two short blocks and one slightly longer one. It is difficult to replicate this. To some extent, it is possible by having one line of the verse deal with a whole thought, and the other line with two shorter thoughts, split at the ~.

- 1 To God I cried, who to my help ~ did graciously repair:
- 2 In trouble's dismal day I sought ~ my God with humble prayer.

All night I raised my hands aloft, ~ my tears without relief:
My soul no comforts would admit, ~ my soul was swathed in grief.
- 3 I thought on God, and favours past, ~ but that increased my pain:
I found my spirit more oppressed, ~ the more I did complain.
- 4 You would not let my eyelids close: ~ troubled, I could not speak.
5. I call to mind the days of old ~ the ancient years re-seeK.
- 6 By night I recollect my songs, ~ reflect what is their writ:
I meditate within my heart ~ and question my spirit.
7. "Will God for ever cast us off:~ no more acceptance know.
- 8 His word and loving kindness cease ~ from age to age to show".
- 9 Has God forgotten graciousness ~ forgotten befriending?
Has he in wrath shut up and sealed ~ his mercy's healing spring?
- 10 I said, it wounds that the right hand ~ of the most High's turned cold.
- 11 I will recall the Lord's deeds and ~ your wonders from of old.
- 12 On them my heart shall meditate: ~ my tongue shall them relate.
- 13 Holy your way, who is like you? ~ Who, as our God, is great?

- 14 Long since a God of wonders, you ~ your rescued people found:
 15 Long since, Jacob and Joseph's seed ~ with strong deliv'rance crowned.
- 16 The waters saw you, God above: ~ saw you and writhed for fear:
 The depths of ocean quaked and shook ~ down to their lowest sphere.
- 17 The storm clouds poured their waters forth: ~ the skies spoke and replied.
 Your arrows spanned the heav'nly vault: ~ they flashed from side to side.
- 18 Your thunder speaks with whirlwind's voice: ~ the sky spins, shudders, shakes.
 Lightning lights up the world beneath: ~ the earth trembles and quakes.
- 19 Your ways led through the sea itself, ~ your paths where waters churned.
 Your footprints were invisible: ~ nor could they be discerned.
- 20 You led your people as a flock ~ of sheep through desert lands:
 Guided and tended on the way ~ by Moses and Aaron's hands.

Psalm 78 (SH/DBT)

This is a great psalm, reciting the deeds of God in the history of Israel. Nevertheless, it is doubtful whether anyone would normally sing the whole of this psalm at once. Even cathedral choirs singing the prose version tend to split it into two. The tune associated with it, since at least Playford, is York 'The Lord will come and not be slow' in some hymn books. One version of this tune was harmonised by a John Milton, who was the father of the poet.

This version derives from S&H, but the original has been very considerably altered to bring it more into line with modern grammar and usage. The divisions into parts follow S&H, but there would be a number of alternative ways of breaking it into sections.

1. Attend my people to my law: ~ to my mouth give your ears.
2. My lips shall speak in parables: ~ with riddles from past years.
3. Things which we have both heard and learnt ~ from our fathers of old:
 Things which for our instruction, us ~ our ancestors have told.
4. Things which we should not hide from those ~ who after forebears came:
 But the Lord's mighty power declare, ~ his wondrous works proclaim.
5. He gave to Jacob his decrees ~ how Israë'l should live;
 He charged our fathers should his laws ~ unto their children give.

- 6 That they and their posterity, ~ that were not sprung up then,
Should have a knowledge of the law, ~ and teach it their children.
7. That they might have the better trust ~ in God who is above;
And not forget to keep his laws ~ and his commands in love.
8. Not being as their forefathers, ~ who rebelled in God's sight;
And would not frame their wicked hearts ~ to know their God aright.
- 9 The sons of Ephraim ventured forth, ~ armed with their bows to fight:
Yet in the battle they turned tail; ~ they gave themselves to flight.
- 10 They did not keep God's covenant: ~ would not live by his law:
11 His deeds and wonders they forgot, ~ which he'd shown them before.

Part 2

- 12 Though to their fathers he displayed ~ wonders to amaze man:
Both in the land of Egypt and ~ in the fields of Zoan.
- 13 He split the seas in two that they ~ might pass through as his sheep:
On either side he gathered back ~ the waters in a heap.
- 14 He led them with a cloud by day: ~ all night with glowing fire.
15 Split rock in the desert and gave ~ abundant water there.
- 16 He caused the cliff to bubble forth ~ water like rivers flow.
17 Yet still they sinned in the desert ~ defied God with their no.
- 18 They rebelled and they tested God, ~ within their hearts, depraved:
Wilfully they demanded food ~ to meet what their souls craved.
- 19 They spoke out words against their God ~ and this did they express:
“Can God prepare a table in ~ this barren wilderness?”
- 20 True, when he smote the rock, then floods ~ of water forth did flow:
But can he give his people bread ~ or provide meat also?”
- 21 When the Lord heard this he was wroth; ~ with fury did he swell:
Fire was kindled against Jacob, ~ anger with Israël.

Part 3

- 22 They placed no faith nor trust in God ~ nor in his saving power
23 At which he opened heaven's doors ~ and told the clouds to shower
- 24 He rained down manna for their food: ~ He gave them heav'nly wheat.
25 The bread of angels, mortals supped, ~ on more than they could eat.
- 26 He caused to blow across the skies ~ an east wind by his mouth
And then with all his strength he drove ~ a wind up from the south
- 27 He poured down meat on them like dust, ~ and birds as thick as sand.
28 He made them fall within their camp ~ round where their tents did stand.
- 29 The people ate. They had their fill. ~ He gave them what they craved.
30 Their meat was still within their mouths ~ in gluttony enslaved.
- 31 The wrath of God rose up at them; ~ he slew them in their fat.
The youth of Israel, he brought low; ~ its flower, he laid flat.
- 32 Yet still they wallowed in their sin ~ and still his heart did grieve:
For all the wonders that he wrought ~ they would not him believe.
- 33 Their days he brought to nought but air, ~ to terror all their years.
34 But when God slew them, then they sought ~ to turn, repent with tears.
- 35 They called to mind God was their Rock, ~ the Most High who redeems.
36 Yet with their mouths they flattered him; ~ their tongues laid lying schemes.

Part 4

- 37 Their hearts disloyal, in covenant ~ they would not place their trust.
38 Yet he was merciful to them ~ pardoned their wrongs unjust.
- For he has neither wiped them out ~ nor placed in pit, enchained:
His anger held back many times, ~ his wrath, his ire constrained.
- 39 He called to mind they were but flesh ~ no more than wind or rain
That passes by and like a breath ~ does not return again.

40 How often they rebelled against ~ him in the wilderness.
How often on the open moors ~ they caused him such distress.

41 Time, time again they tempted God, ~ the Holy One provoked,
42 Forgot the power that rescued them ~ when they to doom were yoked.

43 How wonders he in Egypt showed, ~ and signs at Zoan's brink.
44 He turned their rivers all to blood: ~ no springs they had to drink.

45 He sent them swarms of flies, then frogs ~ to wreck them to their roots.
46 Their produce he to locusts gave, ~ to grubs their labours' fruits.

Part 5

47 Their vines with hailstones he destroyed; ~ their fig-wood trees he froze.
48 He seared their beasts with hail, and hit ~ their herds with lightning blows.

49 Hot anger, he let loose on them ~ wrath, fury and distress:
Unleashing angels of evil, ~ messengers of darkness.

50 He made a path for his anger ~ a highway, straight not vague.
He did not spare their souls from death ~ but gave them to the plague.

51 He smote all Egypt's firstborn babes, ~ struck down as any lamb:
He claimed the first fruits of their strength ~ in all the tents of Ham.

52 But his own people, he led out ~ to trek as his own sheep:
He steered them through the wilderness ~ his flock, to guide and keep.

53 To safety he conducted them ~ where they from fear were free.
When waters took their foes who all ~ were swallowed by the sea.

54 He brought them to his holy bounds ~ the hill his hand had got.
55 Before them nations he drove out ~ their land to re-allot.

He gave out their inheritance ~ that was their place to dwell.
In stead he settled in their tents ~ the tribes of Israel.

56 Yet still they tested God most high ~ rebelled, refused his laws,
57 Drew back faithless as their forebears, ~ like a bow strung with flaws.

Part 6

- 58 They made him angry with their shrines ~ jealous at their idols.
59 God heard, was wroth with Israë!, ~ spurned them as infidels.
60. He left his dwelling at Shiloh ~ his tent with human kind.
61. He placed his strength, his ark in thrall, ~ his pride to foes assigned.
62. He gave his people to the sword, ~ his portion to his ire.
63 His maidens knew no marriage songs: his youths devoured by fire.
- 64 His priests fell to the flashing blade; ~ their widows could not weep.
65 'Till like a hero hot with wine ~ the Lord arose from sleep.
- 66 With hem'roids in the hinder parts ~ he caused their foes to flee:
Perpetuäl disgrace he brought ~ upon their enemy.
- 67 He turned down Joseph's tents, did not ~ choose Ephraim for his throne.
68 But chose Mount Zion which he loved, ~ and Judah as his own.
- 69 Where like high pinnacles aloft, ~ he built his sanctuary:
Established like the earth to last ~ throughout eternity.
- 70 David he chose as his servant ~ took him from the sheepfold,
From tending ewes with suckling lambs ~ his people to uphold.
- 71 He made him shepherd of Jacob ~ his nation, his substance
And guardian of Israel which is ~ his own inheritance.
- 72 He shepherded and pastured them ~ with heart upright and true.
And with an understanding hand ~ guided and led them too.

Psalm 79 (T'ba) CM

This lament for the destruction of the Temple and deportation to Babylon has been associated with the tune Burford, which is in P&G and some accessible hymn books, but many other minor tunes would be suitable. Apart from vv 8 & 10, there are relatively few changes, to fit changes in grammar and flavour.

- 1 Behold, O God, how heathen hosts ~ have your possession seized:

- Your sacred house have they defiled, ~ your holy city razed.
- 2 The mangled bodies of your saints ~ abroad unburied lay:
Their flesh exposed to savage beasts, ~ and ravenous birds of prey.
- 3 All through Jerusalem their blood ~ was like mere water shed:
And none were left alive to pay ~ last duties to the dead.
- 4 Our neighbours taunt our remnant and ~ with their reproaches wound:
Mocking derision we've become ~ to all of those around.
- 5 How long will you be angry, Lord; ~ must we for ever mourn?
Shall your devouring jealous rage, ~ like fire, for ever burn?
- 6 On nations that will not know you, ~ your wrath, your fury show'r:
Those kingdoms let it crush, that have ~ not owned your name or pow'r.
- 7 For their devouring jaws have preyed ~ on Jacob's chosen race:
And to a barren desert turned ~ his fruitful dwelling-place.
- 8 Do not remember against us ~ guilt that the past may owe:
Hasten your mercy to our aid; ~ we are brought very low.
- 9 O God of our salvation, help, ~ and free our souls from blame:
Then shall our pardon and defence ~ exalt your glorious Name.
- 10 Why should the peoples blame, elude, ~ or ask "where is their God?"
11 Avenge before our eyes on them ~ the loss of your saints' blood.
- 12 Lord, hear the sighing pris'ners' groans, ~ your saving arm extend;
Preserve the wretches, doomed to die, ~ from that untimely end.
- 13 On those who us oppress let all ~ our sufferings be repaid:
Make their confusion seven times more ~ than what on us they laid.
- 14 So we, your kin, your flock, your fold, ~ shall ever praise thy Name:
And with glad hearts our grateful thanks ~ from age to age proclaim.

Psalm 80 DBT (CM)

This psalm seems to be a lament for the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel to the Assyrians. So it is probably of northern origin. A possible tune is St James, 'Thou art the way, to thee alone'. Vv 4, 8 and 20 are repetitions with a small addition to the name of God each time. V 15 seems to have a similar role in the structure of the psalm.

- 1 Shepherd of Israel hear us. You ~ lead Joseph as your flock.
Shine forth, as with the cherubim ~ you sit above your stock.
- 2 Before the face of Ephraim ~ Manasseh, Benjamin
- 3 Stir up your strength to save us and ~ stride out among your kin.
- 4 Turn us again, Oh God, we cry; ~ restore; turn us to you.
Upon us shine your face so that ~ we shall be saved anew.
- 5 How long will you, Lord God of Hosts ~ rage at your people's prayers?
- 6 You dole them weeping for their bread ~ and slake their thirst with tears
- 7 To our neighbours you have made us ~ contention, strife, forsworn.
They mock us, do our enemies ~ they laugh at us with scorn.
- 8 Turn us again, Oh God of Hosts; ~ restore; turn us to you.
Upon us shine your face so that, ~ we shall be saved anew.
- 9 From Egypt you brought forth a vine ~ cleared nations it to plant
- 10 You turned the earth, caused it to root: ~it filled the land, your grant.
- 11 Its shadow swathed the high mountains: ~ the cedars, boughs cover.
- 12 It sent its shoots out to the sea, ~ and buds to the river.
- 13 Why have you broken down its walls ~ so passers pinch the fruit,
- 14 Where beasts of any field may browse ~ and forest pigs uproot?
- 15 O God of Hosts return to us ~ to us your eyes incline.
Look down from Heaven and regard; ~ keep watch over this vine.
- 16 The root stock mark which your right hand ~ has planted; strengthen it.
And may your son, your sapling, shoot ~ grow sturdy, stalwart, fit.

- 17 Your vine is lopped. It is cut down ~ and then is burnt with fire:
Before the frowning of your face ~ we perish in your ire.
- 18 Let your hand rest upon the man ~ the one at your right hand:
The son of man whom for yourself ~ you have made strongly stand.
- 19 Then we shall not turn back from you ~ shall not forsake your claim:
Restore us, let us live again ~ to call upon your name
- 20 Turn us again, Lord God of Hosts; ~ restore; turn us to you.
Upon us shine your face so that ~ we shall be saved anew.

Psalm 81 (DCM) John Milton

This is one of a group of nine Psalms which John Milton translated into English metre during April 1648.
There's an Old 81st tune in DCM many hymn books

- 1 To God our strength sing loud and clear, ~ sing loud to God our king,
To Jacob's God, that all may hear ~ loud acclamations ring.
- 2 Prepare a hymn, prepare a song. ~ The timbrel hither bring
The cheerful Psaltr'y bring along ~ and harp with pleasant string.
- 3 Blow, as is wont, in the new moon ~ with trumpet's lofty sound,
Th' appointed time, day whereon ~ our solemn Feast comes round.
- 4 This was a statute giv'n of old ~ for Israel to observe,
A law of Jacob's God, to hold ~ from whence they might not swerve.
- 5 This he a testimony ordained ~ in Joseph, not to change,
When as he passed through Egypt's land; ~ the tongue I heard, was strange.
- 6 From burden, and from slavish toil ~ I set his shoulder free;
His hands from pots, and miry soil ~ deliver'd were by me.
- 7 When trouble did thee sore assail, ~ on me then didst thou call,
And I to free thee did not fail, ~ and led thee out of thrall.
I answered thee in thunder deep ~ with clouds encompassed round;
I tried thee at the water steep ~ of Meribah renowned.
- 8 Hear O my people, hearken well, ~ I testify to thee

9 Thou ancient flock of Israëġ, ~ if thou wilt list to me,
 Throughout the land of thy abode ~ no alien God shall be
 Nor shalt thou to a foreign God ~ in honour bend thy knee.

10 I am the Lord thy God which brought ~ thee out of Egypt's land
 Ask large enough, and I, besought, ~ will grant thy full demand.

11 And yet my people would not hear, ~ nor hearken to my voice;
 And Israel whom I loved so dear ~ misliked me for his choice.

12 Then did I leave them to their will ~ and to their wand'ring mind;
 Their own conceits they followed still ~ their own devises blind.

13 O that my people would be wise ~ to serve me all their days,
 And O that Israel would advise ~ to walk my righteous ways.

14 Then would I soon bring down their foes ~ that now so proudly rise,
 And turn my hand against all those ~ that are their enemies.

15 Who hate the Lord should then be fain ~ to bow to him and bend,
 But they, his people, should remain, ~ their time should have no end.

16 And he would feed them from the shock ~ with flower of finest wheat,
 And satisfy them from the rock ~ with honey for their meat.
To Father, Son and Holy Ghost, ~ immortal glory be;
As was, is now, and shall be still ~ to all eternity.

Psalm 82 (DBT)

There is no tune particularly associated with this psalm, though York (see 78) is a possibility.

1. God takes his place in heaven's court ~ between the gods to judge.
 2. "How long will you unjustly judge ~ or for the wicked, fudge?"

3 "You should defend the fatherless ~ give justice for the weak:
 4 Maintain the rights of the oppressed; ~ avenge the poor and meek."

5 Yet neither do they know nor grasp: ~ in darkness do they walk:
 Though earth's foundations utterly ~ are shaken like a cork.

6 Myself, I said, " you may be gods, ~ be sons of the most high.
 7 Yet you will fall like any prince ~ and as a human die."

8. Arise O God and judge the earth ~ your verdicts here make known,
For you will enter and possess ~ the nations for your own.

Psalm 83 (SHa) CM

This has been considerably altered from the original. There is no tune particularly associated with this psalm, but it probably needs one in a minor or modal key.

1. Do not, O God, restrain your tongue; ~ in silence do not stay.
Do not withhold yourself so long; ~ O Lord, do not delay.
2. Your enemies an uproar raise; ~ see how they rage and cry.
And those that hate you and your ways ~ hold up their heads on high.
3. Against your folk, they plot deceit; ~ they craftily enquire.
For your elect, they lie in wait; ~ in council they conspire.
4. “So come”, they say, “ let us expel ~ this nation, blot it out.
So that the name of Israël ~ may be wholly forgot.
5. They all conspire with common heart, ~ against you take their stand:
To covenant they take their part ~ in league they form a band.
6. The tents of all the Edomites. ~ the Ishmaelites likewise,
Join in the plots which Hagarites ~ and Moabites devise
7. Gebal and Ammon do also ~ with Amalek conspire,
The Philistines against you show, ~ with those that dwell in Tyre;
8. Assyria too has joined with them ~ in their conspiracy,
Willingly has he lent his arm ~ to Lot's posterity,
9. As you did to the Midianites, ~ so pay them back, each one:
As Jabin and as Sisera, ~ beside the brook Kishon:
10. At Endor they were all wiped out ~ they perished all around:
You spread their bodies all about ~ like dung upon the ground.

Part 2

- 11 Their lords like Zeeb and Oreb make ~ Zebub and Zalmunna:
12 Who said, let us possession take ~ of God's good pastures fair.
- 13 Make them like whirling dust or chaff, ~ that spins before the wind:
14 As forests with wild fire combust ~ or flames the mountains skinned.
- 15 So chase them with your storm of wrath ~ pursue them with your gall:
With your tornado's twisting breath, ~ Lord terrify them all.
- 16 Heap shame upon their heads, Oh Lord, ~ until they seek your name.
17 May they be shamed, dismayed, abhorred ~ for ever know defame.
- 18 So they may know and understand ~ that you are God most high
And that you with your mighty hand ~ rule the world constantly.

Psalm 84 (DBT) (PM)

This is written to go to the tune Slievenemon. In the original, the last two lines of each verse are simple repeats, but in this version, there are differences between the first and second repeat of those lines. Bearing in mind how many ways there are of singing this tune, it is suggested it is best treated for this purpose as a slow air.

1. How I love, Lord of Hosts, the tents where you dwell.
My soul longs and thirsts for your courts.
My heart and flesh cry out; with gladness they swell,
living God, O Lord of my thoughts.
The sparrow finds rest and the swallow her nest
At your altars to care for her young .
At your altars O Lord, my King and God adored.
The place where your praises are sung.
How blest are they that dwell in your house they love so well.
For ever your praise there is sung.
2. How blessed is each one, who puts in you their strength,
Who holds in their heart your highway.
Who treading the valley of Baca's lonely length,
can make of it their well and their stay.
The early rains shower their blessings of power.

From strength and to strength such shall share,
In Zion to appear, the place where God is near,
O Lord God of hosts hear my prayer.
To stand before the Lord, in the place where he's adored.
God of Jacob give ear to my prayer.

3. On our shield shine your face, O God with favour.
Look on your anointed, your heir.
For a day in your courts is much better by far,
Than a thousand more days spent elsewhere.
I rather would be, at your door a lacky
Than dwell in the tents of sin's taboo.
God is our sun and shield, our glory revealed.
For each, grace, who places trust in you.
Nothing shall he withhold from those who truth enfold
For blessed is whoever trusts in you.

Psalm 84 (DBT) DCM

The tune for this is known variously as Tramps and Hawkers (Scotland), Durham Gaol (England) and the Lake of Ponchartrain (Ireland, though Ponchartrain is not in Ireland!). There is a version of words that goes with the same tune in Mission Praise and various other hymn books, but it does not include the whole psalm, and, unlike the tune, is presumably subject to copyright. This version, though is more regular and therefore will fit other DCM or CM tunes if desired.

1. O Lord of hosts how lovely are ~ the tents you dwell within.
My soul it longs and languishes ~ your sacred courts to win.
My heart and flesh with joy shall sing ~ to draw towards your board.
I yearn and reach out to approach ~ my God the living Lord.
2. The sparrow too has found a house ~ the swallow made a nest,
A place where she may lay her young ~ and at your altars rest.
O Lord of hosts my God and King, ~ beneath your kindly gaze.
3. Blest are those who dwell in your house ~ and ever sing your praise.
4. Blest whoso's strength is placed you, ~ whose heart's set on your way,
5. Who uses Baca's thirsty vale ~ as their well and a stay.
The early rains refill its pools: ~ from strength to strength they steer.
6. Until the God of gods to them ~ in Zion shall appear.
7. O God of Jacob, Lord of hosts ~ listen and hear my prayer.

- I thirst to gain your dwelling place. ~ I hunger to be there.
8. Our guardian and our shield regard; ~ pray look on him with grace.
With your favour and support look: ~ see your anointed's face.
 9. For one day in your courts exceeds, ~ by far is better than,
A thousand spent wherever else, ~ whatever ages span.
 10. A porter I would rather be ~ hard by your temple door.
Than in the tents of wickedness ~ live my life evermore.
 11. The Lord God is our sun and shield: ~ glory and grace he gives.
Nothing that's good will he hold back ~ from whoso blameless lives,
 12. Who treads the path of righteousness ~ as you would have them do.
O Lord of hosts blest is the one ~ who puts their trust in you.

Psalm 85 (TBa) CM

This has been changed considerably, partly because of changes since the C17 in which words rhyme and partly because the original is in places an erroneous translation. Abridge and London New are possible tunes. CW appoints vv 6, 7, 9-11 and 13 for Tuesday evenings. The prose version adds 'O God' to v 6. To provide a metrical version one should start with v 5 and change 'For' to 'O'. One can then follow CW and omit v 8, which refers back to vv 1-5.

There seems to be disagreement whether in v 1 what is restored is fortune or captivity.

1. Lord, you have given to your land ~ the favours we implored:
And Jacob's fortune, captive held, ~ have graciously restored.
2. You have absolved your people's sins ~ and all their guilt out cast;
3. You have not let your wrath flame on, ~ nor your fierce anger last.
4. Come back, O God our Salvation, ~ restore us and return:
Break, put away your bile for us, ~ your wrath no longer burn.
5. For why should you be angry still, ~ your ire so long retain?
6. Revive us, Lord, and let your saints ~ rejoice in you again.
7. Your gracious favour, steadfast love ~ to us O Lord display:
And grant us your salvation now ~ our peril take way.
8. I will hear what the Lord God says, ~ who speaks peace to his own,
His saints, his kin if they do not ~ return to folly's zone.

- 9 To those who fear him salvation ~ is surely near at hand:
His salvation is what can make ~ glory dwell in our land.
- 10 For loving kindness has met truth ~ and righteousness kissed peace.
11 From earth springs truth, while righteousness ~ from heaven looking, sees
- 12 The Lord gives good things and our land ~ gives bounteous fruits replete.
13 Righteousness walks before his face, ~ makes a way for his feet.

Psalm 86 (DBT) CM

P&G recommends a tune by C W Hempel written for a different version of the same psalm to the same metre. Also Playford provides a very dignified DCM tune which deserves to be revived.

1. Incline your ear, Lord, answer me ~ for I am poor and weak.
 2. Preserve my soul that staunchly loves ~ you, God, the one I seek.
- Your servant save, who trusts in you: ~ 'have mercy' is my song.
3. For you, Lord, are my God; to you ~ I cry the whole day long.
 4. Make glad your servant's soul, O Lord: ~ that soul I raise on high.
 5. Forgiving, good, your love abounds ~ to all who on you cry.
 6. Give ear, Lord to my prayer; attend ~ my voice, my suit, my plea.
 7. I call on you in trouble's hour: ~ for you will answer me.
 8. Among the gods, is none like you ~ nor works as yours in fame.
 9. All nations you have made will come, ~ worship, exalt your name.
 10. You are great and do wondrous things: ~ God, you are, you alone.
 11. Teach me your way, and I will walk ~ by your truth, your loadstone.
 12. Unite my heart to fear your name, ~ aligned to God, my Lord.
With all my heart your name I'll praise, ~ ever glory accord.
 13. Great is your steadfast love for me: ~ when I was near deceased,
My soul from Sheol's depths you sought, ~ delivered and released.
 14. The proud stand over me, O God, ~ they rise, my face before.

A ruthless congregation seeks ~ my life; you, they ignore.

15 But you, Lord, you're a God who is ~ gracious, compassionate:
You're full of steadfast love and truth ~ and slow to be irate.

16 Turn to me and be merciful ~ show favour, kind and mild
Grant to your servant your own strength ~ and save your handmaid's child.

17 Give me a sign of your goodness ~ so that each enemy
May see and be ashamed because ~ you've helped and heartened me.

Psalm 87 (TBa) 88, 88, 88

Save for two small changes, this is unaltered. The hymn, "Glorious things of thee are spoken" is inspired by v2. Commentaries admit that though there is a sort of theme, the verses do not seem to be connected to each other. There are a number of good tunes in this metre. Abingdon would be a strong contender.

1 God's temple crowns the holy mount, ~ the Lord there condescends to dwell;
2 His Zion's gates, in his account, ~ our Israel's fairest tents excel.
3 Fame glorious things of you shall sing, ~ O city of th' Almighty King!

4 I'll mention Rahab with due praise, ~ in Babylon's applauses join,
The fame of Ethiopia raise, ~ with that of Tyre and Palestine;
And grant that some amongst them born ~ their age and country did adorn,

5,6 But still of Zion I'll aver, ~ that many such from her proceed;
Th' Almighty shall establish her: ~ his register shall show, when read,
That such a person there was born, ~ and such did such an age adorn.

7 He'll Zion find with numbers filled ~ of such as merit high renown;
For hand and voice musicians skilled, ~ and (her transcending fame to crown)
Of such she shall successions bring, ~ like waters from a living spring.

Psalm 88 (TBa) LM

This translation is fairly free but has an almost lyrical quality. It has only been changed where really necessary to modernise the language. Babylon Streams has been suggested as a tune.

1 To you, my God and Saviour, I ~ by day and night address my cry;

2 Vouchsafe my mournful voice to hear; ~ to my distress, incline your ear:

3 For seas of trouble me invade, ~ my soul draws near to death's cold shade,
 4 Like one whose strength and hopes are fled, ~ they number me among the
 dead.

5 Like those who, shrouded in the grave, ~ from you no more remembrance
 have;
 6 Cast off from your sustaining care ~ down to the confines of despair.

7 Your wrath has hard upon me lain, ~ afflicting me with restless pain:
 Me all your mountain waves have pressed, ~ too weak, alas! to bear the least.

8 Removed from friends, I sigh alone ~ in a loathed dungeon laid, where none
 A visit will vouchsafe to me, ~ confined, past hopes of liberty.

9 My eyes from weeping never cease, ~ they waste, but still my griefs increase;
 Yet daily Lord, to you I prayed, ~ with out-stretched hands invoked your aid.

10 Will you by miracle revive ~ the dead, whom you forsook alive.
 From death restore, your praise to sing, ~ whom you from prison would not
 bring?

11 Shall the mute grave your love confess? ~ A mould'ring tomb your faithfulness?
 12 Your truth and pow'r renown obtain, ~ where darkness and oblivion reigns.

13 To you, O Lord, I cry forlorn: ~ my pray'r precedes the early morn.
 14 Why have you Lord, my soul forsook, ~ nor once vouchsafed a gracious look?

15 Prevailing sorrows bear me down, ~ which from my youth with me have
 grown;
 Your terrors past distract my mind, ~ and fears of blacker days behind.

16 Your wrath has burst upon my head, ~ your terrors ill! my soul with dread;
 17 Environed as with waves combined, ~ and for a gen'ral deluge joined.

18 My lovers, friends, familiars, all ~ removed from sight, and out of call;
 To dark oblivion all retired, ~ dead, or at least to me expired.

Psalm 89 (Tba) LM

This is largely unaltered. Vv 26-36 are linked to St Joseph, husband of Mary. In this version, v 26 is particularly eloquent.

26 Me for his father he shall take, ~ his God and rock of safety call;

27 Him I my first-born son will make, ~ and earthly kings his subjects all.

The division into parts has been amended to bring it into line with CW. TB puts its only break between v 29 and 30. This version has an additional part from v 38.

P&G has a tune Lambeth New for this psalm. Another suggestion is Angel's Song, 'forth in thy name O Lord I go'.

- 1 Your mercies, Lord, shall be my song, ~ my song on them shall ever dwell;
To ages yet unborn my tongue ~ your never-failing truth shall tell.
- 2 I have affirmed, and still maintain, ~ your mercy shall for ever last;
Your truth, that does the heav'ns sustain, ~ like them shall stand for ever fast.
- 3 You spoke thus by the prophet's voice, ~ "With David I a league have made;
"To him, my servant and my choice, ~ by solemn oath this grant conveyed:
- 4 "While earth, and seas, and skies endure, ~ your seed shall in my sight remain;
To them thy throne I will insure; ~ they shall to endless ages reign."
- 5 For such stupendous truth and love ~ both heav'n and earth just praises owe,
By choirs of angels sung above, ~ and by assembled saints below.
- 6 What seraph of celestial birth ~ to vie with Israel's God shall dare?
Or who among the gods of earth ~ with our Almighty Lord compare?
- 7 With rev'rence and religious dread ~ his saints should to his temple press;
His fear through all their hearts should spread, ~ who his Almighty Name
confess.
- 8 Lord God of armies, who can boast ~ of strength or pow'r, like yours
renowned?
Of such a num'rous faithful host, ~ as that which does your throne surround.
- 9 For you the lawless sea control, ~ you change the prospect of the deep;
You make the sleeping billows roll; ~ and make the rolling billows sleep.
- 10 You broke in pieces Rahab's pride, ~ and did oppressing pow'r disarm;
Your scattered foes have dearly tried ~ the force of your all powerful arm.

- 11 In you the sov'reign right remains ~ of earth and heav'n; you, Lord, alone,
The world, and all that it contains, ~ their maker and preserver own.
- 12 The poles on which the globe doth rest ~ were formed by your creating voice;
Tabor and Hermon, east and west, ~ in your sustaining pow'r rejoice.
- 13 Your arm is mighty, strong your hand, ~ yet, Lord with justice, you do reign;
14 Possessed of absolute command, ~ you truth and mercy yet maintain.
- 15 Happy, thrice happy they who hear ~ your sacred trumpet's joyful sound;
Who may at festivals appear, ~ with your most glorious presence crowned!
- 16 Your saints shall always be o'erjoyed, ~ who on your sacred Name rely;
And, in your righteousness employed, ~ above their foes be raised on high.
- 17 For in your strength they shall advance, ~ whose conquests from your
favour spring;
- 18 The Lord of hosts is our defence, ~ and Israel's God is Israel's King.

Part 2

- 19 You spoke so by the prophet's voice: ~ "A mighty champion I will send;
From Judah's tribe I made my choice ~ of one who shall the rest defend."
- 20 "My servant David I have found, ~ with holy oil anointed him;
21 Him shall the hand support that crowned, ~ and guard that gave the diadem."
- 22 "No prince from him shall tribute force, ~ no son of strife shall him annoy;
23 His spiteful foes I will disperse, ~ and them before his face destroy."
- 24 "My truth and grace shall him sustain; ~ his armies, in well ordered ranks,
25 Shall conquer from the Tyrian main, ~ to 'Tigris and Euphrates' banks."
- 26 "Me for his father he shall take, ~ his God and rock of safety call;
27 Him I my first-born son will make, ~ and earthly kings his subjects all."
- 28 "To him my mercy I'll secure, ~ my cov'nant make for ever fast:
29 His seed for ever shall endure; ~ his throne, till heav'n dissolves, shall last."
- 30 "But if his heirs my law forsake, ~ and from my sacred precepts stray;

31 If they my righteous statutes break, ~ nor strictly my commands obey:"

32 "Their sins I'll visit with a rod, ~ and for their folly make them smart;
33 Yet will not cease to be their God, ~ nor from my truth, like them, depart."

34 "My cov'nant I will ne'er revoke, ~ but in remembrance fast retain:
The thing that once my lips have spoke ~ shall in eternal force remain."

35 "Once have I sworn, but once for all, ~ and made my holiness the tie,
That I my grant will ne'er recall, ~ nor to my servant David lie."

36 "Whose throne and race the constant sun ~ shall, like his course, established
see;

37 Of this my oath, thou conscious moon, ~ in heav'n my faithful witness be."

Part 3

38 Such was your gracious promise, Lord; ~ but you have now our tribes forsook;
Your own anointed have abhorred ~ and turned on him your wrathful look.

39 You seem now to have rendered void ~ the cov'nant with your servant made;
You have his dignity destroyed, ~ and in the dust his honour laid,

40 Of strong holds you have him bereft, ~ and brought his bulwarks to decay;
41 His frontier coasts defenceless left, ~ a public scorn and common prey.

42 His ruin does glad triumphs yield ~ to foes advanced by you to might;
43 You have his conqu'ring sword unsteeled, ~ his valour turned to shameful
flight.

44 His glory is to darkness fled, ~ his throne is levelled with the ground;
45 His youth to wretched bondage led, ~ with shame o'erwhelmed and sorrow
drowned.

46 How long shall we your absence mourn ~ will you for ever, Lord, retire?
Shall your consuming anger burn, ~ till it and we at once expire?

47 Consider, Lord, how short a space ~ you do for mortal life ordain;
No method to prolong the race, ~ save loading it with grief and pain.

48 Whoso exists who can control ~ death's strict unalterable doom?

Or rescue from the grave the soul, ~ the grave that must humans entomb?

49 Lord, where's your love, your boundless grace, ~ the oath on which your truth
placed seal,
Consigned to David and his race, ~ the grant which time should ne'er repeal!

50 See how your servants treated are ~ with infamy reproach, and spite;
Which in my silent breast I bear ~ from nations of licentious might.

51 How they, reproaching your great Name, ~ have made your servant's hope
their jest,

52 Yet your just praises we'll proclaim, ~ and ever sing, "The Lord be blest."
Amen, Amen.
