

Book 2 – Psalms 42-72

Psalm 42 (TBa) CM

This Psalm is of course well known deeply familiar, and closely associated with the tune Martyrdom. It is almost unchanged apart from modernising the second person and one other small change where a word has changed sense. The version in most hymn books is vv 1,2,11 and doxology. CW prescribes vv 1-5 + a chorus based on v 11 for mornings in the Kingdom season.

- 1 As pants the hart for cooling streams, ~ when heated in the chase;
So longs my soul, O God, for you, ~ and your refreshing grace.
- 2 For you, my God, the living God, ~ my thirsty soul does pine;
O when shall I behold your face, ~ O Majesty divine!
- 3 Tears are my constant food, while thus ~ insulting foes upbraid:
"Deluded wretch! Where's now your God? ~ And where his promis'd aid?"
- 4 I sigh when'er my musing thoughts ~ those happy days present,
When I with troops of worshippers ~ thy temple did frequent:

When I advanc'd with songs of praise ~ my solemn vows to pay,
And led the joyful sacred throng, ~ that kept the festal day.
- 5 Why restless, why cast down, my soul? ~ Trust God, and he'll employ
His aid for you, and change these sighs ~ to thankful hymns of joy.
- 6 My soul's cast down, O God, but thinks ~ on you and Sion still:
From Jordan's bank, from Hermon's heights, ~ and Mizar's humbler hill.
- 7 One trouble calls another on, ~ and gath'ring o'er my head,
Fall spouting down, till round my soul ~ a roaring sea is spread.
- 8 But when your presence, Lord of life, ~ has once dispell'd this storm,
To you I'll midnight anthems sing, ~ and all my vows perform.
- 9 God of my strength, how long shall I, ~ like one forgotten, mourn?
Forlorn, forsaken, and exposed ~ to my oppressor's scorn.
- 10 My heart is pierced, as with a sword, ~ whilst thus my foes upbraid,
"Vain boaster, where is now your God? ~ and where his promis'd aid?"
- 11 Why restless, why cast down, my soul? ~ Hope still, and you shall sing

The praise of him who is your God, ~ your health's eternal spring.

Psalm 43 (TBa) LM

It is possible this and 42 may once have been one psalm., as they end the same way. P&G provides an attractive tune from Sussex and also says Tallis' Canon , now "Glory to thee my God this night" went with this psalm. Kingsbridge (see 24) might go rather well.

- 1 Just Judge of heav'n, against my foes ~ assert, I plead, my injured right;
O set me free, my God, from those ~ who in deceit and wrong delight.
- 2 Since you are still my only stay, ~ why leave you me in deep distress?
Why go I mourning all the day ~ whilst me insulting foes oppress?
- 3 Let me with light and truth be blest, ~ be these my guides, and lead the
way
Till on your holy hill I rest, ~ and in your sacred temple pray.
- 4 Then will I there fresh altars raise ~ to God, who is my only joy;
And well tuned harps, with songs of praise, ~ shall all my grateful hours
employ.
- 5 Why then cast down, my soul? And why ~ so much oppressed with
anxious care?
On God, your God, for aid rely, ~ who will your ruined state repair.

Psalm 44 (SHa) CM

The original is one of the most vigorous in the book. So this has been altered only to bring it more into line with modern usage and speech patterns and not very much. The scheme of verse numbering varies greatly between versions. There is no unanimity as to which particular savage beast is meant by the word which S&H translate as dragons in v 20. I could not resist the 'shambles', an old word for meat market, in v23. There doesn't seem to be any particular tune associated with this version though P&G provides Belgrave for TB in the same metre.

- 1 Our ears have heard. Our fathers tell, ~ and reverently record:
The wondrous works that you have done ~ in ancient times, O Lord.
- 2 How you drove heathen nations out ~ with your most pow'rful hand:
Planting our fathers in their place, ~ and giving them their land.

3 They conquered not by their own sword ~ the land in which they dwell:
 But by your hand, your arm, and grace, ~ because you loved them well.

4 You are my King, O God, who saves ~ Jacob in sundry ways;
 5/6 Led with your pow'r we tread down such ~ as did against us rise.

7 I did not trust in bow or sword: ~ they could not save me sound.
 8 You kept us from our foes' great rage: ~ you did them all confound.

9 And still we boast of you, our God: ~ we praise your holy Name.
 10 Yet you no more march with our host: ~ you leave us to our shame.

11 You made us flee before our foes, ~ so we were over-trod:
 They robbed us and they spoiled our goods; ~ we were dispersed abroad:

12 You've giv'n us over to our foes, ~ as sheep left to be slain:
 Amongst the nations everywhere ~ we scattered now remain.

13 Your people, you have sold like slaves, ~ and as a thing of nought:
 No profit did you gain by it; ~ no gain at all you sought.

14 And to our neighbours you have made ~ of us a laughingstock:
 And those that round about us dwell, ~ at us all grin and mock.

The Second Part.

Thus we serve for no other use, ~ but for their common talk:
 They mock, they scorn, they shake their heads, ~ wherever they may walk.

15 With shame and great confusion I ~ afflicted am and sore:
 Yes, I blush, so that all my face ~ with red is covered o'er.

16 And why? We hear such slanderous words, ~ blasphemous taunts and lies:
 17 That death it is to see their wrongs, ~ their threatening, and their cries.

18 Yet we did not forget you, nor ~ did we your covenant break:
 19 Our hearts did not turn back from you, ~ nor did your paths forsake,

20 Yet you have trod us down to dust, ~ where dens of dragons be:
 And covered us with shade of death, ~ and great adversity.

21 If we forgot the name of God, and help of idols sought,
 Shall he not search and find it out? ~ he knows our secret thought.

22 But 'tis for your name's sake, O Lord: ~ all day we are slain thus.
 23 As sheep into the shambles sent, ~ is how they reckon us.

24 Up Lord, why do you sleep? Awake, ~ for ever leave us not;

- Why do you hide your countenance? ~ And why our thrall forgot.
- 25 Down to the dust our soul is brought: ~ our troubles so increase.
- 26 Our belly cleaves to the raw earth: ~ our sorrow does not cease.
- 27 Rise up therefore in our defence, ~ and help us, in our need:
We ask you in your steadfast love ~ to rescue us with speed.

Psalm 45 (SHa) SM

Although this has kept the form of the original, it has been altered quite a bit, particularly since S&H has interpreted this psalm as though addressed to and about God, whereas the original is really about the king. V 6 is particularly puzzling, as it seems to conflate the two. Playford provides a tune called St Peter's but there is no tune particularly associated with this psalm.

- 1 My heart it overflows ~ a goodly theme to sing:
The verses that I have composed, ~ I address to the King.
- My tongue shall be as quick, ~ his honour to recite:
As is the pen of any scribe ~ who readily can write.
- 2 O fairest of all folk, ~ your lips with grace are pure:
For God has blessed you with his gifts ~ which ever shall endure.
- 3 About you gird your sword, ~ O prince of might elect:
With honour, glory, and renown, ~ you are most richly decked.
- 4 In majesty ride forth ~ with meekness, truth, and right:
And let your right hand teach you well ~ in works of dreadful might.
- 5 Your arrows sharp and keen ~ their hearts so sore shall sting,
That they shall crouch and kneel to you, ~ yes, all your foes, O King.
- 6 Your royal throne, Oh Lord, ~ for ever pray sustain:
Because the sceptre of your realm ~ shall equity maintain,
- 7 Because you loved the right, ~ and evil did detest,
Therefore God has anointed you ~ with joy above the rest.
- 8 With myrrh and unguents sweet ~ your clothes are all bespread:
And out of ivory palaces ~ string music makes you glad.
- 9 Kings' daughters you attend ~ in fine and rich attire:

At your right hand the Queen doth stand ~ robed in gold from Ophir.

The Second Part.

- 10 O daughter, take good heed, ~ incline to me your ear:
You must forget your own kindred, ~ your father's house most dear:
- 11 Then shall the King desire ~ your beauty more and more:
He is your lord, to whom you give ~ your homage, and adore.
- 12 Rich daughters then of Tyre, ~ with gifts your favour sue:
And all the wealthy of the land ~ shall press their case with you.
- 13 The daughter of the King ~ is glorious to behold:
Within her closet, see she sits ~ all decked in cloth of gold.
- 14 In robes with needle wrought, ~ and every pleasant thing:
With virgins fair to wait on her ~ she's brought forth to the King.
- 15 So they are brought with joy, ~ and mirth on every side,
Into the palace of the King, ~ and there they shall abide.
- 16 Instead of fathers, you ~ shall children multiply:
Whom you shall make princes, to rule ~ the earth successively.
- 17 So I shall cause your name ~ all ages to endure:
The people shall give praise to you ~ always and evermore.

Psalm 46 (TB) 888 888

This is unaltered, and is really excellent. Unfortunately though, there are not many tunes in this metre, with the lines in batches of threes, and such as there are, may not be easy to access. Possibles though include Whitby, Treton and Old 113 which is in the Methodist hymn book.

- 1 God is our refuge in distress,
a present help when dangers press;
In him undaunted we'll confide:
- 2,3 Though earth were from her centre tossed,
and mountains in the ocean lost.
Torn piecemeal by the roaring tide.
- 4 A gentler stream with gladness still
the city of our Lord shall fill,
The royal seat of God most high:
- 5 God dwells in Ziön, whose fair towers

shall mock th' assaults of earthly powers,
While his almighty aid is nigh.

6 In tumults when the heathen raged
and kingdoms war against us waged,
He thundered, and dispersed their powers:

7 The Lord of hosts conducts our arms,
our tower of refuge in alarms,
Our fathers' guardian God and ours.

8 Come see the wonders he has wrought,
on earth what desolation brought;
How he has calmed the jarring world:

9 He broke the warlike spear and bow;
with them the thundering chariots too
Into devouring flames were hurled.

10 Submit to God's almighty sway,
for him the heathen shall obey,
And earth her sovereign Lord confess:

11 The God of hosts conducts our arms,
our tower of refuge in alarms,
As to our fathers in distress.

12 *To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
the God whom heav'n's triumphant host
And suffering saints on earth adore;
Be glory as in ages past,
as now it is, and so shall last,
When time itself shall be no more.*

Psalm 46 (DBT) CM

Because of the difficulty finding tunes in triple 8s, I have included my own common metre version. In the Hebrew there is a Selah at the end of vv 3, 7 and 11, and to mark that I have inserted an additional repeat line at v3. I have also arranged for the same rhyme for tower in each repeat. The Scottish psalter recommends for a different version Stroudwater.

1 God is our refuge and our strength: ~ our help when troubles be.
2 We will not fear though earth be moved ~ and peaks cast in the sea..
3 Though waters may ferment and rage, ~ mountains shake at his power:
The Lord of hosts, he is with us ~ and Jacob's God our tower.

- 4 A river flows where streams make glad ~ the city of the Lord:
The holy house of the most high ~ where our God is adored.
- 5 With God amidst, she'll not be moved ~ he rescues her at dawn:
6 Nations may rage and kingdoms shake: ~ down are the heathen torn.
- He speaks and at his voice the earth ~ shall melt before his power:
7 The Lord of hosts, he is with us ~ and Jacob's God our tower.
- 8 Come, see the works that God has done, ~ the waste he's wrought on
earth.
He makes war cease to earth's far end ~ and peace he brings to birth.
- 9 He breaks the bow; the spear he cracks: ~ the carts he burns with fire.
10 "Be still and know that I am God ~ and over all stand higher".
- "Above the nations and this land ~ I'm lifted up in power";
11 The Lord of hosts, he is with us ~ and Jacob's God our tower.

Psalm 46 (Coles) PM

There seems to be some disagreement whether Luther's classic hymn, Ein Feste Burg, 'A safe stronghold our God is still,' is inspired by this psalm or Psalm 91. Here is a version of this psalm to the same metre. It is by Abraham Coles, and published in 1888, but I have no further information on who he was. I am assuming from the date of publication that he died over seventy years ago!

1. God is our refuge and our rock ~ our help in tribulation.
2. Therefore we will not fear the shock ~ that moves the world's foundation,
Let mountains be ~ sunk in the sea;
3. It's waters roar ~ and shake the shore.
 Our hearts shall ne'er be shaken.
4. There is a river whose pure streams ~ make glad the holy city;
Hard by the hill it glides and gleams, ~ where dwells the God of pity.
5. Where God abides ~ no danger hides;
 Seems he withdrawn ~ at break of dawn,
 His help will be extended.
6. The nations raged, the kingdoms were ~ in turmoil and commotion;
He spoke, earth melted; ceased the stir ~ and madness of the ocean.
7. The Lord of hosts ~ defends our coasts;
 In perils high ~ to him we fly,
 And all the peril passes.

8. Come, see Jehovah's works of peace ~ who wrought earth's desolations.
 9. Now causing wars and strife to cease ~ among all tribes and nations:
 He breaks the bow, ~ the spear also;
 The chariot burns; ~ to ashes turns
 The engines of destruction.
10. Be still and know that I am God! ~ my name shall be exalted.
 I'll stretch my peace-restoring rod ~ o'er nations that revolted.
11. The Lord of hosts ~ defend our coasts;
 In perils high, ~ to him we fly,
 And all the peril passes.

Psalm 47 (TB) LM

This is unaltered. P&G provides Bromley as the tune for this psalm.

- 1,2 All ye people clap your hands,
 and with triumphant voices sing:
 No force the mighty power withstands,
 of God, the universal King.
- 3,4 He shall opposing nations quell,
 and with success our battles fight:
 Shall fix the place where we must dwell,
 the pride of Jacob, his delight.
- 5,6 God is gone up, our Lord and King,
 with shouts of joy and trumpet's sound:
 To him repeated praises sing,
 and let the cheerful song go round.
- 7,8 Your utmost skill in praise be shown,
 for him, who all the world commands:
 Who sits upon his righteous throne,
 and spreads his sway o'er heathen lands.
- 9 Our chiefs and tribes that far from hence,
 to serve the God of Abr'am came:
 Found him their constant sure defence:
 how great and glorious is his name!

Psalm 48 (SHa) CM

Although the original is excellent, this has been altered considerably to bring it more into line with current modes of expression. Playford recommends an attractive tune in F ma, Exeter, which does not appear to be in modern use.

- 1 Great is the Lord, who with great praise ~ shall be exalted still:
 Within the city of our God, ~ and on his holy hill.
- 2 Mount Zion lifts up, a fair prospect, ~ which gladdens all the land:
 The city of the mighty King ~ does on her north side stand.
- 3 God is within her citadels ~ as a sure refuge known:
4 For lo, the kings are gathered, and ~ together they come on:
- 5 They were amazed, aghast, and shocked, ~ when they spotted her there:
6 And in a panic suddenly ~ they bolted back in fear;
- 7 And terror took them, pain such as ~ women know in travail:
 With the east wind, you shred the ships ~ that out of Tarshish sail.
- 8 So in the city of the Lord ~ we saw as we were told:
 Here, in the city which our God ~ for ever will uphold.
- 9 Lord, we recall, we ponder on, ~ your steadfast love and grace:
10 In the midst of your temple, Lord, ~ within your holy place.
- 11 O Lord, according to your Name ~ to earth's end wings your praise:
 And your right hand, O Lord, is full ~ of righteousness always.
- 12 Let Mount Zion be glad and let ~ Judah's daughters rejoice:
 Let them rejoice in your judgements, ~ your justice bring them joys.
- 13 Go round Ziön; round her process: ~ her towers and bulwarks count.
14 Review her palaces to give ~ descendants an account.
- 15 For such is God, our mighty God, ~ for evermore is he:
 And all our life and till our death ~ our guide he'll always be.

Psalm 49 (SHa) CM

This psalm has been modernised considerably. Some verses have been completely rewritten. Part of the problem is that this psalm seems to be remarkably difficult to translate. There are considerable differences between versions where they attempt to guess at what they think the original text meant. V 15 is particularly opaque. Also although v19 repeats most of the words of v 12, they are not identical. One must therefore assume the differences are supposed themselves to resonate and be significant. The shift from third to second person in v 17 and 18 does mark a similar change in the Hebrew. Playford gives Cambridge. as a tune

- 1/2 All people on the earth give ear ~ high, low or rich or poor:
 3 My mouth will spell out wisdom's voice ~ my heart muse on her lore.
- 4 I bend my ear, proverbs to catch, ~ their message to acquire:
 I try to grasp them and to test ~ a riddle on my lyre.
- 5 Why should I fear when days are ill, ~ when evil round me boils:
 When those who persecute me seek ~ to bind me in their toils.
- 6 And those that trust and vaunt themselves ~ in quantities of wealth:
 Not one of them can ransom give ~ for brother or himself.
- 7 None can give God value enough ~ nor raise their own life's price:
 The ransom of a soul costs more ~ than ever can suffice.
- 8 It is too great a price to pay ~ and none can rise to it:
 9 To set ones own life to prolong ~ and never see the Pit.
- 10 They see the wise as much as fools, ~ are subject to death's bands:
 And being dead, strangers possess ~ their houses, goods, and lands.
- 11 Though they thought that their mansions should ~ their names and
 memories keep:
 Their everlasting home shall be ~ the grave in which they sleep.
- 12 The human soul which does not make ~ its honour its lodging:
 Is like brute beast which go down to ~ a death everlasting.

The Second Part.

- 13 This is the fate of those who have ~ a foolish confidence:
 And of their offspring who approve ~ their every utterance.
- 14 Like sheep to Sheol they are sent; ~ their shepherd death shall be:
 And in the morning the upright ~ their rulers then shall be.

Their form shall waste; their honour die; ~ in Sheol they fade away:
What was their fine and high abode ~ becomes their pit of clay.

- 15 But me, God surely will redeem ~ from death, Sheol and pain:
Because he will of his good grace ~ receive my soul again.
- 16 If any one grow wondrous rich, ~ show neither fear nor awe:
Although the glory of their house ~ should increase more and more.
- 17 For when one dies, one cannot keep ~ or carry wealth away:
One's glory will not follow one, ~ beyond the end of day.
- 18 Though in this life you count yourself ~ the happiest under sun:
And though others may flatter you, ~ saying, "All is well done",
- 19 Yet like all, you must go to join ~ those that have gone before:
Among your ancestors who see ~ the light of day no more.
- 20 The soul which has its honour but ~ without understanding,
Is like brute beasts which go down to ~ their death everlasting.

Psalm 50 (SH) 10,10,10,10,11,11

This Psalm is a real treasure and is unaltered. Unfortunately, its tune, Old 51st, a wonderful tune, with a magnificent sense of build up and drama, which goes right back to the reformers of Geneva, is not now generally known, and it is difficult for people these days to catch the rhythm, particularly for the last two lines of each verse with their extra foot. Playford provides a 3 part setting. There's also a version in some C19 editions of Hymns Ancient and Modern.

- 1 The mighty God, th' Eternal hath thus spoke,
And all the world, he will call and provoke!
E'en from the east, and so forth to the west:
Out of Zion, which place he liketh best,
 God will appear, in beauty most excellent,
 God will come before that long time be spent:
- 2 Devouring fire shall go before his face,
A tempest great shall round about him trace.
Then shall he call the earth and heavens bright,
To judge his folk with equity and right.
 Saying, Go to, and now my saints assemble;
 My pact they keep, their gifts do not dissemble.
- 3 The heav'ns they shall declare his righteousness

For God is judge of all things more and less
Hear, my people, for I will now reveal;
List, Israel, I'll from thee nought conceal:
 Thy God, the Lord and I, and will not blame thee
 For not giving all sorts of off'rings to me:

- 4 I have no need to take of thee at all
Goats of thy fold, or calves out of thy stall.
For all the beasts are mine within the woods,
On thousand hills cattle are mine own goods;
 I know for mine all birds that are on mountains,
 All beasts mine are which haunt the fields and fountains.
- 5 Were I hungry I would not thee it tell;
For all is mine that in the world doth dwell.
Eat I the flesh of great bulls or bullocks?
Or drink the blood of goats or of the flocks?
 Offer to God praise and hearty thanksgiving,
 And pay thy vows unto God ever living.
- 6 Call upon me when troubled thou shalt be;
Then will I help, and thou shalt honour me.
To the wicked thus saith th' eternal God,
Why dost thou preach my words and laws abroad,
 Seeing thou hast them with thy mouth abus-ed,
 And hat'st to be by discipline reduc-ed!
- 7 My words, I say, thou dost reject and hate:
If that thou seest a thief, as with thy mate,
Thou runn'st with him, and so your prey seek out;
And art all one with the adult'rous rout.
 Thou giv'st thyself to backbite and to slander,
 And how thy tongue deceiveth, is a wonder.
- 8 Thou sitt'st musing thy brother how to blame,
And how to put thy mother's son to shame.
These things thou didst, and while I held my tongue,
Thou didst me judge, because I stayed so long,
 Like to thyself; yet though I kept long silence,
 Once shalt thou feel of thy wrongs just recompence.
- 9 Consider this, ye that forget the Lord,
And fear not when he threat'neth with his word,
Lest without help I spoil you as a prey:

But he that thanks offers, praiseth alway,
Saith the Lord God, and he that walketh this trace,
I will him teach God's saving health t' embrace.

Psalm 50 (SH) SM

Because the better version of Psalm 50 is in such an unusual metre, I have provided an alternative on in Short Metre. To keep the striking double rhyming pattern, it has not been possible to update the language. I have described it as unaltered, even though there are actually four small alterations.. Playford suggests Southwell as a tune

- 1 The God of gods, the Lord, ~ hath called the earth by name,
 From whence the sun rises down to ~ the setting of the same.
- 2 From Zion his fair place, ~ his glory bright and clear,
 The perfect beauty of his grace, ~ from thence it did appear,
- 3 Our God shall come in haste, ~ to speak aloud, no doubt;
 Before him shall the fire waste, ~ and tempest round about.
- 4 The heav'ns which are so high, ~ the earth below likewise,
 He will call forth, that he may try ~ the people that are his.
- 5 Bring forth my saints, saith he, ~ my faithful flock most dear,
 Who are in band and league with me, ~ my law to love and fear.
- 6 And when these things are tried ~ then shall the heav'ns record;
 That God is just, and all must 'bide ~ the judgement of the Lord.
- 7 My people, now give heed, ~ Israel, to thee I cry;
 I am thy God, thy help at need, ~ thou canst it not deny.
- 8 I do not say to thee, ~ “thy sacrifice is slack”;
 Thou offer'st daily unto me ~ much more than I do lack.
- 9 Think'st thou that I do need ~ thy cattle young or old?
 Or else so much desire to feed ~ on goats out of thy fold?
- 10 Nay, all the beasts are mine, ~ in woods that eat their fills
 And thousand more of neat and kine ~ that run wild on the hills:

The Second Part,

- 11 The birds that build on high, ~ on hills and out of sight,
 And beasts that in the fields do lie, ~ are subject to my might,

- 12 Then, though I hungered sore, ~ what need I ought of thine;
Since that the earth with her great store; ~ and all therein is mine?
- 13 To bulls' flesh have I mind ~ to eat it, dost thou think?
Or such a sweetness do I find ~ the blood of goats to drink!
- 14 Give to the Lord his praise, ~ with thanks to him apply,
And see thou pay thy vows always ~ unto the God most high:
- 15 Then seek and call to me ~ when ought would work thee blame;
And I will sure deliver thee, ~ that thou may'st praise my Name.
- 16 But to the wicked train, ~ who talk of God each day,
And yet their works are foul and vain, ~ to them the Lord will say;
- 17 With what face darest thou ~ my word once speak or name;
Why do thy words my law allow, ~ thy deeds deny the same?
- 18 Whereas for to amend ~ thy life thou art so slack;
My word, the which thou dost pretend, ~ is cast behind thy back,

The Third Part.

- 19 When thou a thief dost see ~ by theft to live in wealth,
With him thou runn'st, and dost agree ~ likewise to thrive by stealth.
- 20 When thou dost them behold ~ that wives and maids defile,
Thou lik'st it well, and waxest bold, ~ to use that life most vile.
- 21 Thy lips thou dost apply ~ to slander and defame,
Thy tongue doth teach to cheat and lie, ~ and still doth use the same;
- 22 Thou studiest to revile ~ thy friends to thee most near,
With slander basely dost defile ~ thy mother's son most dear.
- 23 Here while at this I wink, ~ as though I did not see,
go'st on still, and so dost think ~ that I am like to thee.
- 24 But sure I will not let ~ to strike when I begin;
Thy faults in order I will set, ~ and open all thy sin.
- 25 Mark this, I you require, ~ who have not God in mind,
Lest when I plague you in mine ire ~ your help be far to find,
- 26 Whoso doth give to me ~ the sacrifice of praise,
Doth please me well, and so shall see ~ to walk in godly ways.

Selection of verses from Psalm 50 (SHa)

DSM

Derived from the Sternhold & Hopkins version above to the tune Diademata (Crown him with many crowns) written to accompany a sermon on Is 1:10-16 . The selection is 1, 4, 7-10, 14-15 on true worship & service.

- 1 The God of gods, the Lord, ~ has called the earth by name,
From sun rise in the east toward ~ the setting of the same.
4. Above the heav'ns so high, ~ below, the earth that is,
He summons them that he may try ~ the people that are his.
- 7 My people, now give heed. ~ Israel, to you I cry.
I am your God, your help in need; ~ this you cannot deny.
8. To you I do not say, ~ your sacrifice falls short,
The off'rings that you daily pay ~ my favour to extort.
- 9 But do you think I need ~ your cattle, young or old?
And do you think I want to feed ~ on goats out of your fold?
- 10 For every beast is mine ~ that wood or forest fills
And all the cattle, calves or kine, ~ upon a thousand hills.
- 14 So give the Lord his praise; ~ to him your thanks apply.
Make sure you pay your vows always ~ to God, the Lord most high:
15. If you call out to me ~ when trouble comes your way,
I'll rescue you and set you free; ~ so rev'rance you may pay.

Psalm 51 (TBa)

SM

This has only been altered to bring it into line with modern grammar. There is no tune particularly associated with this version. CW allocates vv 1-5, and 12-15 to mornings in Lent. CCP allocates verses 1-18 of this palm to Friday morning and for mornings in Lent,, but allows for the omission of vv 6-10. P&G provides Sutton Coldfield. Southwell works well.

- 1 Have mercy, Lord, on me, ~ as you were ever kind;
Let me, oppressed with loads of guilt, ~ your wonted mercy find.
- 2/3 Wash off my foul offence, ~ and cleanse me from my sin;
For I confess my crime, and see ~ how great my guilt has been.
- 4 Against you, Lord, alone, ~ and only in your sight
Have I transgressed, and tho' condemned, ~ must own your judgements
right.
- 5 In guilt each part was formed ~ of all this sinful frame;

In guilt I was conceived, and born ~ the heir of sin and shame.

- 6 Yet you; whose searching eye ~ does inward truth require,
In secret did with wisdom's laws ~ my tender soul inspire.
- 7 With hyssop purge me, Lord; ~ so make me clean and true;
I shall with snow in whiteness vie, ~ when purified by you.
- 8 Make me to hear with joy ~ your kind forgiving voice;
So that the bones which you have broke ~ may with fresh strength rejoice.
- 9/10 Blot out my crying sins, ~ nor me in anger view;
Create in me a heart that's clean, ~ an upright mind renew.

The Second Part.

- 11 Do not withdraw your help, ~ nor cast me from your sight;
Nor let your holy Spirit take ~ his everlasting flight.
- 12 The joy your favour gives ~ let me again obtain;
And your free Spirit's firm support ~ my fainting soul sustain.
- 13 So I your righteous ways ~ to sinners will impart,
Whilst my advice shall wicked folk ~ to your just laws convert.
- 14 My guilt of blood remove, ~ my Saviour and my God:
And my glad tongue shall loudly tell ~ your righteous acts abroad.
- 15 So now unlock my lips, ~ with sorrow closed and shame;
So shall my mouth your wondrous praise ~ to all the world proclaim.
- 16 Could sacrifice atone, ~ whole flocks and herds should die
But on such off'rings you disdain ~ to cast a gracious eye.
- 17 A broken spirit is ~ by God most highly prized;
By him a broken contrite heart ~ shall never be despised.
- 18 Let Zion favour find, ~ of your good-will assured;
And your own city flourish long, ~ by lofty walls secured.
- 19 The just shall then attend, ~ and pleasing tribute pay;
And sacrifice of choicest kind ~ upon your altar lay.

Psalm 51 (SHa) CM

In case it is felt Short Metre for nineteen verses is too monotonous. this is an alternative version in Common Metre. This has some modernisation but not a great deal. The word 'bowels' in v10 of the original, though more expressive, has been amended to "being". Playford suggests Cambridge as a tune. There is also quite a good LM version in S&H.

- 1 Have mercy on me, Lord, after ~ your steadfast love for me:
And in the fullness of mercy ~ my soul from sin set free.
- 2 Yes, wash me clean from my offence ~ and my iniquity:
For I do own my faults, and still ~ my sin's before my eye.
- 3 Against you , you alone, have I ~ offended in this case:
I have committed evil in ~ your presence and your face.
- 4 And so the sentence you pronounce ~ shall justified appear:
And in the judgement that you give ~ you're manifestly clear.
- 5 In wickedness was I formed when ~ I first began to be:
In sin my mother first made me, ~ in sin, she conceived me:
- 6 Behold you call us and desire ~ truth in the inward part:
So teach your wisdom Lord to me ~ within my inmost heart.
- 7 With hyssop sprinkle me O Lord, ~ so that I clean may go:
Yes, Lord wash me so that I shall ~ be whiter than the snow.
- 8 Make me hear joy, and gladness too ~ in the sound of your voice:
So that the bones which you, O Lord, ~ have broken may rejoice.
- 9 From the sight of my sordid sins, ~ Lord, turn away your face:
And all my deeds of wickedness ~ blot out and so efface:
- 10 O God, create in me a heart ~ that's spotless in your sight:
Within my being, Lord, renew ~ a spirit strong and right.
- 11 Cast me not from your face, nor take ~ your Spirit clean away:
The comfort of your saving health ~ give me again, I pray;
- 12 With gen'rous Spirit sustain me ~ so that these shall I do:
13 To teach transgressors in your way, ~ sinners return to you.

The Second Part.

- 14 Oh God of my salvation, God ~ from blood-guilt release me:
Of your just righteousness my tongue ~ shall sing aloud with glee.

- 15 Loosen my throat; unleash my voice; ~ open my lips, O Lord:
My mouth shall then proclaim your praise, ~ your glory spread abroad.
- 16 I would have offered sacrifice ~ if that you'd have me bring:
But you do not delight in such, ~ nor yet burnt offering.
- 17 A shattered spirit's sacrifice ~ sufficient in your eyes:
A broken and a contrite heart, ~ Lord, you will not despise.
- 18 Do good and show your favour, Lord ~ to Zion your holy mound:
Rebuild the walls and ramparts that ~ Jerusalem surround.
- 19 Burnt offerings, gifts, and sacrifice ~ of righteousness that day:
You will accept, and calves upon ~ your altar they shall lay

Psalm 51 (SH) LM

This is an extra version from S&H, by WW which in LM is probably too long to sing, but is so well written it seemed impossible to leave it out. So it is included for personal devotional use.

- 1 O Lord, consider my distress, ~ and now with speed some pity take,
My sins forgive, my faults redress, ~ good Lord, for thy great mercy's sake.
- 2 Wash me, O Lord, and make me clean ~ from this unjust mad sinful act,
And purify me once again ~ from this foul crime and bloody fact.
- 3 Remorse and sorrow do constrain ~ me to acknowledge my excess,
Because my sin doth still remain ~ before my face without release.
- 4 Against thee only have I sinned, ~ and done this evil in thy sight;
And if I should no mercy find, ~ yet were thy judgments just and right,
- 5 It is too manifest, alas ! ~ that first I was conceived in sin;
Yea, of my mother so born was, ~ and yet, vile wretch, remain therein.
- 6 Also, behold, Lord, thou dost love ~ the inward truth of a pure heart;
Therefore thy wisdom from above ~ thou hast revealed me to convert,
- 7 If thou with hyssop purge this blot, ~ I shall be cleaner than the glass;
And if thou wash away my spot, ~ the snow in whiteness I shall pass.

- 8 Therefore O Lord such joy me send, ~ that I may praise thee with my voice,
And that my strength may now amend, ~ and broken bones also rejoice.
- 9 Turn back thy face and frowning ire, ~ for I have felt enough thine hand;
And purge my sins, I thee desire, ~ which do in number pass the sand.
- 10 Make new my heart within my breast, ~ and frame it to thy holy will;
And let thy Spirit in me rest, ~ which may my soul with comfort fill

Part 2

- 11 Cast me not Lord, out from thy sight, ~ but speedily my torments end;
Take not from me thy Holy Sp'rit, ~ which may from dangers me defend,
- 12 Restore me to those joys again, ~ which I was wont in thee to find;
Let me thy free Spirit retain, ~ which unto thee may draw my mind.
- 13 Thus when I shall thy mercies know, ~ I shall instruct others therein;
And men that are likewise brought low ~ by my example shall flee sin.
- 14 O God, that of my health art Lord, ~ forgive me this my bloody vice;
My heart and tongue shall, then accord ~ to sing thy mercy and justice.
- 15 Touch thou my lips, my tongue untie, ~ O Lord, I do thee humbly pray;
And then my mouth shall testify ~ thy praise and wondrous works alway.
- 16 And as for outward sacrifice, ~ I would have offered many one;
But thou esteem'st them of no price, ~ and therein pleasure takest none.
- 17 The heavy heart, the mind oppressed ~ O Lord, thou never dost reject;
This sacrifice indeed is blest ~ and that thou chiefly dost expect.
- 18 Lord, unto Zion turn thy face, ~ pour out thy mercies on thy hill,
And on Jerusalem thy grace, ~ build up the wall, and love it still.
- 19 Thou shalt accept then our off'rings ~ of peace and righteousness always,
Yea, calves and many other things ~ upon thy altar we will lay.

Psalm 52 (Sha) CM.

This has not been altered much beyond what has been required to modernise the grammar. Playford suggests a tune, Lichfield.

- 1 Why do you, tyrant, boast abroad ~ your wicked works to praise!
Do you not know that there's a God, ~ whose mercies last always?
- 2 Why does your mind yet still devise ~ such wicked wiles to harp?
Your tongue untrue in forging lies ~ is like a razor sharp.
- 3 Why on mischief set you your mind, ~ and why not walk upright?
You love far more false tales to find, ~ than bring the truth to light.
- 4 You so delight in fraud and guile, ~ in mischief, blood and wrong.
Your lips have learnt a flatt'ring style, ~ O false deceitful tongue!
- 5 Therefore the Lord shall you confound, ~ and pluck you from your place,
Your seed root out from off the ground, ~ and utterly deface.
- 6 The just, when they behold your fall, ~ with fear will praise the Lord,
And in reproach of you withal ~ cry out with one accord;
- 7 "Behold this is one who refused ~ the Lord as their defence,
But in their riches have reposed ~ their trust and confidence".
- 8 But I, as olive fresh and green, ~ shall sprout and spread abroad;
Because my trust all times has been ~ placed in the living God.
- 9 For this therefore will I give praise ~ to you with heart and voice,
I will advance your name always, ~ in which your saints rejoice.

Psalm 52 (Mary Herbert Countess of Pembroke) 6565

This comes from the late Donald Davie's Penguin Psalms in English. It begs a tune, preferably in double metre, even though that leaves an orphan verse.

1. Tyrant, why swells't thou thus, ~ of mischief vaunting?
Since help from God to us ~ is never wanting.
2. Lewd lies the tongue contrives, ~ loud lies it soundeth;
Sharper than sharpest knives ~ with lies it woundeth.
3. Falsehood thy wit approves, ~ all truth rejected:
Thy will all vices loves, ~ virtue neglected.
4. Not words from cursed thee, ~ but gulfs are pouréd:
Gulfs wherein daily be ~ good men devouréd.
5. Think'st thou to bear it so? ~ God shall displace thee;

- God shall thee overthrow, ~ crush thee, deface thee.
6. The just shall fearing see ~ these faithful chances,
And laughing shoot at thee ~ with scornful glances.
 7. Lo, lo, the wretched wight, ~ who, God disdain.
His mischief made his might, ~ his guard his gaining.
 8. I as an olive tree ~ still green shall flourish:
God's house the soil shall be ~ my roots to nourish.
 9. My trust on his true love ~ truly attending,
Shall never thence remove, ~ never see ending.
 10. Thee will I honour still, ~ Lord, for this justice;
There fix my hopes I will ~ where thy saints' trust is.
 11. Thy saints trust in thy name, ~ therein they joy them:
Protected by the same, ~ naught can annoy them.

Psalm 53 (SHa) CM

This Psalm is virtually identical to Psalm 14, but both SH and TB provide different versions for them. Playford suggests the same tune, York, for both. P&G gives Devizes for the TB equivalent.

- 1 Fools foolishly within their hearts ~ blasphemously, have said:
There is not any God at all; ~ why should we be afraid?

They are corrupt, and they have done ~ abominable things:
There is no one who does what's good ~ nor what righteousness brings.
- 2 The Lord looked down from heav'n upon ~ human offspring below:
To see if any were that sought ~ the living God to know.
- 3 Out of the way they all have gone; ~ they all corrupted are:
There is not any that does good; ~ not one for God shall care.
- 4 Do not all evildoers know, ~ that they are feeding on
My people as they feed on bread? ~ The Lord they call not on.
- 5 For there they were afraid, and stood ~ with trembling all dismayed.
Even though they could see no cause ~ why they should be afraid.

For God has scattered wide the bones ~ of those that opposed him:
He has put them to shame because ~ he has rejected them
- 6 O Lord, give to your people health, ~ and so, O Lord, fulfil

Your promise made to Israel from ~ out of Zion hill.

When God his people shall restore ~ that once were captive led,
So Jacob shall rejoice in it, ~ and Israel be glad.

Psalm 54 (DBT) CM

This has been so much altered from SH that little except part of the rhyming scheme remains. It would be incorrect therefore to describe it any longer as SHa. There doesn't seem to be any tune particularly associated with this psalm except that Playford suggests Glastonbury.

1. God save me by your name, and by ~ your strength vindicate me:
2. Give ear, God, to my prayer, my cry, ~ to my mouth's spoken plea.

3. For up against me, strangers rise ~ and tyrants wish me ill:
Who set not God before their eyes, ~ and seek my soul to spill.

4. For see, God is my help and aid: ~ the Lord sustains my soul.
5. My foes, you have with ill repaid: ~ keep faith and crush them whole.

6. A freewill offering I will slay ~ to praise your name O Lord:
7. Who rescued me from trouble's sway ~ to see my foes abhorred.

Psalm 55 (SHa) CM

This has not been altered all that much except to bring it more into line with modern syntax. There doesn't seem to be any particular tune associated with this psalm..

- 1 O God, give ear, and speedily. ~ Lord hear me when I pray:
And when I call to you and cry, ~ hide not yourself away.

- 2 Give heed to me, grant my request, ~ and answer me again:
With grief I pray, as one oppressed; ~ sorrows my life constrain.

- 3 Because my foes with threats and cries ~ oppress me in their spite:
Just as the wicked sort likewise ~ to vex me take delight.

- 4 For in their council, they conspire ~ to charge me with some ill:
And in their haste, their wrath and ire ~ do they pursue me still.

- 5 My heart, it faints for want of breath, ~ it pants within my breast:
With terror and with dread of death ~ my soul is much oppressed:

- 6 Such dreadful fear on me doth fall, ~ that with it I quite quake:
Such horror overwhelms my soul ~ that I no shift can make.
- 7 Oh, would I had wings like a dove! ~ then would I swiftly flee
Away from here to find a place ~ where I at rest should be:
- 8 Lo, then I would go far away, ~ to fly I would not cease:
Then would I hide myself, and stay ~ in some great wilderness.
- 9 I would be gone with speed in haste. ~ I would not stay behind:
Till I have safely overpassed ~ these blasts of boist'rous wind.
- 10 Divide them, Lord, and from them pull ~ their false and double tongue:
For I have spied their city full ~ of rapine, strife, and wrong.
- 11 Both day and night they go about ~ within the city wall:
In midst of her is mischief wrought, ~ and sorrows great withal:
- 12 Her inward parts are wicked plain, ~ her deeds they are most vile:
And in her streets there doth remain ~ nothing but fraud and guile,

The Second Part.

- 13 If it were foes that sought my shame, ~ I might it well abide:
Because there is from all their blame, ~ a place where I could hide:
- 14 But you it was, my ally dear, ~ who friendship did pretend:
Who did my secret counsel hear ~ as a familiar friend;
- 15 With whom I had enjoyed to talk ~ in secret and abroad:
And we together oft did walk ~ unto the house of God.
- 16 Let death in haste upon them fall, ~ and send them quick to hell:
For mischief doth abide in all ~ the places where they dwell.
- 17 But I unto my God will cry, ~ to him for aid I flee:
The Lord will help me speedily, ~ and he will succour me,
- 18 At morning, noon, and ev'ning tide, ~ unto the Lord I'll pray:
When I so constantly have cried, ~ he did not say me nay.
- 19 To peace he shall restore me yet, ~ though war be now at hand:
Although the number be so great ~ that do against me stand.
- 20 The Lord that first and last doth reign, ~ both now and evermore:
Will hear when I to him complain, ~ and punish them full sore.

- 21 For sure there is no hope that they ~ to turn will give accord;
For why? they will not God obey, ~ nor fear the living Lord.
- 22 Upon their friends they laid their hands, ~ who were in cov'nant knit:
For to neglect their friendship's bands, ~ they do not care one whit.
- 23 While they have war within their hearts, ~ as butter are their words:
And though they be as soft as oil, ~ they cut as sharp as swords.
- 25 So cast your care upon the Lord, ~ and you shall nourished be:
For in no way shall he accord ~ the just in thrall to see.
- 25 But God shall cast them deep in pit ~ who thirst for blood always:
The guilefull soul he'll not permit ~ to live out half their days.
- 26 Though such be quite destroyed and gone, ~ on God is all my stay:
I will depend his grace upon ~ with all my heart always.

Psalm 56 (Ra) CM

This has been altered fairly considerably to bring the grammar more into line with modern usage. The Scottish psalter doesn't recommend any specific tune.

1. Show mercy, Lord, to me, for some ~ would swallow me outright;
Me they oppress while all day long ~ against my hand they fight.
2. All day they gasp to conquer me ~ that hate me spitefully;
For there are many folk that fight ~ against me, O most High.
- 3/4 When I'm afraid, I'll trust in God. ~ In faith I'll praise his word;
I will not fear what flesh can do, ~ my trust is in the Lord.
- 5 Each day they wrest my words; their thoughts ~ 'gainst me are all for ill.
6 They meet. They lurk. They mark my steps, ~ waiting my soul to kill.
- 7 But shall they by their evil, Lord ~ escape your judgements true?
In anger Lord cast them all down ~ that your goodness eschew.
- 8 You count my wand'rings, all they've been. ~ My groans you measure took;
Into your bottle put my tears: ~ are they not in your book?
9. When I call out, my foes turn back ~ I know God stands by me.
The Lord I worship and his word; ~ to God's word praises be.

- 11 In God I trust; I will not fear ~ what flesh can do to me.
 12 My vows are heavy on me, Lord: ~ my thank off'ring you'll see.
- 13 You have rescued my soul from death, ~ my feet kept from falling:
 To walk before my God within ~ the light of the living.

Psalm 57 (TBa) LM

This has only been altered so as to update thou to you. There is a west gallery tune called Rachel's for this psalm. This is unusual with the rhyming in pairs instead of interlaced.

- 1 Your mercy, Lord, to me extend, ~ on your protection I depend:
 And to your wing for shelter haste, ~ till this outrageous storm is past.
- 2 To your tribunal, Lord, I fly, ~ O sov'reign Judge and God most high:
 Who wonders has for me begun, ~ and will not leave your work undone.
- 3 From heav'n protect me by your arm, ~ and shame all those who seek
my harm:
 To my relief your mercy send, ~ and truth, on which my hopes depend.
- 4 For I with savage folk converse, ~ like hungry lions wild and fierce:
 With those whose teeth are spears, their words ~ envenomed darts and
two edged swords.
- 5 *Be you, O God, exalted high; ~ and, as your glory fills the sky:
 So let it be on earth displayed, ~ till you are here, as there, obeyed.*
- 6 To take me they, their net prepared ~ and had almost my soul ensnared,
 But fell themselves, by just decree, ~ into the pit they made for me.
- 7 O God, my heart is fixed, 'tis bent, ~ its thankful tribute to present:
 And with my heart my voice I'll raise ~ to you, my God, in songs of praise.
- 8 Awake, my glory, harp and lute, ~ no longer let your strings be mute:
 And I, my tuneful part to take, ~ will with the early dawn awake.
- 9 Your praises, Lord, I will resound ~ to all the list'ning nations round:
 10 Your mercy highest heav'n transcends, ~ your truth beyond the clouds
extends.

11 *Be you, O God, exalted high; ~ and, as your glory fills the sky:
So let it be on earth displayed, ~ till you are here, as there, obeyed.*

Psalm 58 (SHa) CM

This has had some alteration. There is no tune particularly associated with this psalm.

- 1 Ye great ones are you silent ~ to judge of wrong and right?
 Are you just in your judgement, ~ regarding no one's might?
 - 2 No. In your hearts you daily muse ~ what mischief to consent:
 And where you should true justice use, ~ your hands round bribes are bent.
 - 3 The bad err from their natal days; ~ they've wandered in this wise:
 And from their mother's womb always ~ have used their craft and lies.
 - 4 In them the venom and the breath ~ of poisonous snakes appear:
 Just like the adder that is deaf ~ and fast stops up its ear;
 - 5 The serpent will not heed the chant ~ of those that charm it well:
 Nor to their whisperings favour grant ~ nor answer cunning spell.
 - 6 The teeth O Lord, which fast are set ~ their wide jaws round about:
 The fangs of lion cubs sharp and great, ~ O Lord, break them all out.
 - 7 Let them consume and waste away, ~ as water flows from sight:
 The arrow shafts they shoot in haste, ~ let them be broke in flight.
 - 8 As snail that wastes within its shell, ~ and into slime has run:
 As birth before its time that fell, ~ and never saw the sun.
 - 9 Before their pots feel any heat ~ from green or crackling thorns:
 As with a whirlwind, he shall mete ~ erasure, anger, scorn.
 - 10 The just rejoice; it does them good ~ to see God vengeance take:
 And they shall wash their feet in blood ~ of those that him forsake.
 - 11 Gladly the people shall proclaim ~ that just souls harvest true:
 And God there is, of mighty name ~ to judge the wide earth too.
-

Psalm 59 (SH&TBa) CM

For this psalm, both SH and TB have stronger and weaker verses,. So unusually, this is a compound of both with additional material as well. There is no tune particularly linked with this psalm. There are 'Selas' before the two 'dog' verses, 6 and 14. The part division seems to be designed solely so as to provide blocks of a reasonable number of verses and can be ignored.

- 1 Deliver me, O Lord my God, ~ from all my spiteful foes;
In my defence set up your pow'r ~ to theirs, who me oppose.
- 2 O Lord, preserve me from all those ~ who work what is not good:
Rescue me safe and sure from those ~ that live their lives by blood.
- 3 They lie in wait to seize my soul; ~ they rage against me still.
Implacable, yet Lord you know ~ I never did them ill.
- 4 In haste they run about, and watch ~ my guiltless life to take:
Look down, O Lord, on my distress, ~ and to my help awake!
- 5 O Lord of hosts and Israel's God ~ awake, with nations deal;
And those that treachery conspire, ~ spare not, nor let appeal.
- 6 At evening to beset my house ~ like snarling curs they meet;
While others through the city range, ~ and ransack every street.
- 7 Their throats envenomed slander breathe, ~ their tongues are sharpened
swords;
"Who hears", they say, "or, hearing, dares ~ reprove our lawless words?"
- 8 But you, O Lord, at nations mock ~ you laugh, their pride devour.
- 9 I watch for you my strength, my praise ~ for God is my strong tower.
- 10 My God of steadfast love will meet ~ and go ahead of me.
For God shall let me gaze upon ~ my every enemy.

Part 2

- 11 Do not destroy them utterly ~ lest my people forget.
Oh Lord our shield scatter them wide ~ and by your power upset.
- 12 For sins of mouth and lying lips ~ confound them in their pride;
For cursing oaths, and lies may they ~ be devoured, cast aside.
- 13 Consume them in your wrath, O Lord ~ that nought of them remains
And all may know to earth's far ends, ~ the God of Jacob reigns.

- 14 At evening let them still return ~ like snarling curs to meet,
Still ranging all the city round, ~ to ransack every street.
- 15 They forage round about for food ~ and growl if they're not filled.
16 Yet with each dawn, I praise your strength ~ your steadfast love revealed.
- 17 For you have been my sure defence ~ in day of my distress
Your steadfast love, O God, I sing ~ my strength and my fortress.

Psalm 60 (DBT) (10,10,10,10)

This is the same metre as Abide with me. A possible tune for this is Gibbons' Song 22.

1. O God, you've cast off, cracked and shattered us:
Out of your anger turn to us again.
2. You shook the earth. You broke and tore it thus:
Heal its wounds as it shudders at the pain.
3. You've rubbed our noses deep in bitterness:
And made us drink the wine of staggering.
4. Raising a flag among the fleeing press,
You rally truth against the archer's string.
5. In order to rescue your beloved,
Save by your right hand; answer without fail.
6. In holiness and joy our God has said:
"Shechem I split and mete out Succoth's vale."
7. "Gilead is mine and mine Manasseh too:
Ephraim my helmet, Judah my mace he,
8. Moab my washpot and I throw my shoe
O'er Edom, while Philistia salutes me".
9. Who will lead me within the strong city:
Or guide me into Edom's hidden way?
10. Have you rejected us in enmity,
No more to lead our troops into the fray?
11. Help us our many evil foes subdue:
For human help is vain; worthless it is.
12. Through God, we many valiant deeds shall do:

Who shall tread underfoot our enemies.

*To God, our Father, and to God the Son
And God the Spirit let all glory be.
We worship ever three and ever one
As was, and is till all eternity.*

Ps 61 (SHa) CM

This has hardly been altered at all. Playford provides a really excellent tune in Emi DCM, which unfortunately has not survived into modern hymn books.

- 1 Regard, O Lord, for I complain; ~ to you I make my plea:
 May my words not return in vain; ~ so give your ear to me.
- 2 Out of the coasts and utmost parts ~ of the wide earth I cry,
 With grief and anguish in my heart, ~ to you, O God, most high.
- 3 Upon the rock of your great pow'r ~ my woeful mind repose:
 You are my hope, my fort, and tow'r, ~ my fence against my foes.
- 4 Within your tent I long to dwell, ~ there ever to abide:
 Under your wings I know full well ~ I shall in safety hide.
- 5 You, Lord, will my desire regard; ~ you will fulfil the same:
 With great riches will you reward ~ all those that fear your Name.
- 6 You will the king, in health maintain ~ and so prolong his days:
 That he, from age to age may reign ~ in honour held always;
- 7 That he may have a dwelling place ~ before the Lord always:
 O let your mercy, truth, and grace, ~ defend him from decay.
- 8 And then, O Lord, I ever will ~ sing praises to your Name:
 That all my vows I may fulfil, ~ and daily pay the same.

Psalm 62 (DBT) (CM & LM)

This is in LM with a CM chorus.

- 1-2 *Solely for God my soul is still ~
 My Saviour he has proved:
 Only salvation, rock and tower ~
 So shall I not be moved.*

3-4 How long will you beat down a soul ~
Like tottering fence or bowing wall:
To bring him down your mouths disperse ~
Good gifts but in your hearts you curse.

5-6 *Chorus*

7-8 God is my safety, glory, fame, ~
My rock of refuge and my home:
So trust in Him, ye human race, ~
Pour out your hearts before His face.

9-10 Vain is the mob, the great ones lie. ~
In scales they show less than a sigh:
So do not trust in theft or stealth, ~
Or even honest garnered wealth.

11-12 One thing God said and two I've heard, ~
That He is power and speaks His word:
In steadfast love towards everyone, ~
And so rewards us as we've done.

Chorus

Psalm 63 (SHa)

This has seen some changes to fit modern usage. Playford suggests Martyrs as a suitable tune. Verses 1-8 of this psalm are prescribed by CW for Saturday morning, CCP vv 1-8 only..

1. Oh God, my God, I early seek ~ to come to you in haste:
And why? My soul and body both ~ thirst for your freshening taste,
2. For in this barren wilderness ~ where water there is none:
My flesh is parched for thought of you ~ for you I yearn alone,
3. That I might see yet once again ~ your glory, strength and might:
Might come into your holy place ~ and hold you in my sight.
4. Your mercies are far better than ~ my life and all my days:
And so my lips shall give to you ~ their honour, love and praise.
5. For while I live, I will not fail ~ to worship you each day:

And to your name I will lift up ~ my hands when'er I pray.

6. My soul, it rests, replete, content ~ with fat and marrow stilled:
And so my mouth shall voice its praise ~ my lips with joy are filled.
7. When in my bed I think of you ~ and in the wakeful night:
Beneath the spread of your wings, I ~ rejoice with great delight.
8. My soul, it closely clings to you ~ your right hand is my power:
All those that seek my soul to slay ~ the earth shall soon devour.
9. Let them upon the sword's edge fall; ~ let them the jackals feed:
So shall the king in God rejoice ~ at this be glad indeed.
10. All those shall then commended be ~ who swear by God's own word:
For liars' mouths shall be stopped up ~ and all their ways abhorred.

Ps 64 (TBa) CM

This has hardly been altered. There is no tune particularly associated with this psalm.

- 1 Lord hear the voice of my complaint, ~ to my request give ear:
Preserve my life from cruel foes ~ and save my soul from fear
- 2 O hide me with your tend'rest care ~ in some secure retreat:
From sinners that against me rise ~ and all their plots defeat,
- 3 See how, intent to work my harm, ~ they whet their tongues like swords:
And bend their bows to shoot their darts, ~ sharp lies and bitter words.
- 4 Lurking in private, at the just ~ they take their secret aim:
And suddenly at such they shoot, ~ devoid of fear and shame.
- 5 To carry on their ill designs ~ they mutually agree:
They speak of laying private snares ~ and think that none shall see.
- 6 With utmost diligence and care ~ their wicked plots they lay:
The deep designs of all their hearts ~ are only to betray.
- 7 But God, to anger justly moved, ~ his awesome bow shall bend:
And on his flying arrow's point ~ shall swift destruction send.
- 8 Those slanders, which their mouths did vent, ~ upon themselves shall fall:

Their crimes disclosed, shall make them be ~ despised and shunned by all.

9 The world shall then God's pow'r confess, ~ and nations trembling stand:
Convinced that 'tis the mighty work ~ of his avenging hand.

10 Whilst righteous folk, whom God secures, ~ in him shall gladly trust:
And all the list'ning earth shall hear ~ loud triumphs of the just.

Psalm 65 SHa CM

This psalm was sung in the second temple at First Fruits, i.e. Weeks, or Pentecost, and is linked with harvest. In the early nineteenth century, NV vv 9-13 became linked to harvest, even though at that time, when England was still a largely agricultural country, Harvest Festival in the modern sense had not developed. As a complete psalm, the NV version being Long Metre, does not really work. So 9-13 are suggested as an extra Harvest psalm. There are a number of tunes linked with the TB version. P&G suggests St Pancras. Gibbon's Angels Song 'Forth in thy name, Oh Lord I go' is also linked with it and works well. The SH version has some changes.

1. On God in Zion shall praise attend. ~ To you shall vows be paid:
You hear our prayers and answer send; ~ on you all flesh is laid.
2. Iniquity my life exceeds. ~ It rules my ways within:
But you forgive our foul misdeeds ~ and purge away our sin
3. Happy the one, the one you choose ~ within your courts to dwell:
Your house and temple, such shall use ~ with pleasures that excel.
4. In awesome justice, answer God ~ of our salvation, true:
The trust of all the earth abroad ~ and farthest sea-coasts too.
5. By strength you put the peaks in place: ~ with power girded about:
6. You still the roaring waves apace: ~ and peoples' clam'rous shout.
7. Those dwelling at earth's furthest end ~ tremble your signs to view:
The gates of dawn and dusk commend ~ their joyful praise to you.
8. You come, the earth to irrigate, ~ and enrich plenteously.
9. The flood of God is in full spate ~ to give grain gen'rously.
10. With rain do you her furrows fill, ~ you soften them with showers:
You ridges set, the ground to till, ~ blessing the grain that flowers.
11. You crown the earth with your good gifts: ~ Your tracks with fatness drop.

- 12 Watering where wasteland pasture lifts: ~ Joy wreathes their very tops.
13. The fields with lambing flocks are clad; ~ the valleys swoon with grain:
Shouting in triumph great and glad; ~ they sing, and sing again.

Psalm 65 vv 9-13 TBa - Harvest Psalm

9. From out of your abundant store ~ your rain relieves the thirsty ground;
Makes lands, that barren were before, ~ with corn and useful fruits abound.
10. On rising ridges down it pours, ~ and ev'ry furrowed valley fills;
You make them soft with gentle showers, ~ in which a blest increase distils.
11. Your goodness does the circling year ~ with fresh returns of plenty crown:
And, where your glorious paths appear, ~ your fruitful clouds drop
fatness down.
12. They drop on barren forests, changed ~ by them to pastures fresh and
green;
The hills about in order ranged ~ in beauteous robes of joy are seen.
13. Large flocks with fleecy wool adorn ~ the cheerful downs; the valley bring
A plenteous crop of full eared corn, ~ And seem for joy to shout and sing.

Psalm 66 (DBT)

This notionally derives from S&H but the original has been altered so much that all that's left of it is the double rhyming scheme. So it's hardly fair to attribute it as such. There's no tune particularly associated with this psalm. Verses 12-18 works well to tune Strathcarro.

1. Shout out to God. O earth rejoice. ~ Sing out his glory's name:
Make his praise glorious with your voice. ~ Tell out to God the same.
- 2 Tell him how fearful are his deeds: ~ Your foes fawn on your fame.
3. The whole world worships, sings, and cedes ~ its reverence to your name.
4. Come, see the works of God, revere ~ in terror before them:
For awesome are his doings here ~ with those of Adam's stem.
- 5 He drew the sea in heaps on high; ~ through it a way they had:
To pass the flood with feet full dry; ~ at this their hearts were glad.

- 6 He rules the nations by his might. ~ His eyes all things survey.
Let not the rebel in his sight, ~ defy his sovereign sway.
7. O people, bless our God, and let ~ his voice of praise be heard.
8. He keeps our souls alive and sets ~ our feet safely secured.
9. Us, you have proved and examined, ~ tried us as silver's tried.
10. You've caught us in a net. You've pinned, ~ and pressed us on each side.

d^M

- 11 You let people ride o'er our heads. ~ Through fire and flood we passed.
But you have brought us to, in stead ~ where plenty is surpassed.
- 12 Burnt offerings to your house, I'll bring, ~ of peace, my vows to pay:
Which lips let slip or mouth did spring ~ when in tight straits I lay.
- 13 I'll raise burnt offerings to you, ~ fatlings and ram's sweet smoke:
I'll offer oxen, he-goats too, ~ with thanks, my praise to cloak.
14. Come, hear, all who fear God, I'll tell ~ what he's done for my soul.
15. My mouth cried to him, prayers to spell: ~ Him did my tongue extol.
- 16 If I store sin within my heart ~ the Lord will not hear me.
17. But God has heard me from his part, ~ heeded my spoken plea.
18. So blessed be God, who's not returned ~ nor rejected my prayer :
Nor withdrawn from me, unconcerned, ~ his steadfast love and care.

Psalm 67 (DBT) (CM)

This Psalm was set in the old prayer book as an alternative to the Nunc Dimittis for Evening Prayer. CW has it for Thursday mornings. The SM version is linked to at least two tunes, Reuben and Fish Street. 'Join' was formerly pronounced 'jine'. Isaac Watts provided a version that starts with the line "Shine, mighty God, on Britain shine,"!

- 1 May God be merciful to us ~ and shower us with his grace
Causing to shine upon his sheep ~ the beauty of his face.
- 2 Make known your saving way on earth ~ your path the whole world
through.
Lord, let all peoples praise your name, ~ their praises bring to you.
- 3 Nations rejoice. You judge and guide ~ the earth and keep it true.

Lord let all peoples praise your name, ~ their praises bring to you.

- 4 The land has brought her produce forth. ~ a blessing God bestows.
God blesses and earth's farthest end ~ his majesty shall know.

Psalm 67 TBa SM

- 1 To bless your chosen race, ~ in mercy, Lord, incline;
And cause the brightness of your face ~ on all your saints to shine.
- 2 So that your wondrous ways ~ may through the world be known,
While distant lands their tribute pay, ~ and your salvation own.
- 3 *Let diff'ring nations join ~ to celebrate your fame;*
Let all the world, O Lord, combine ~ to praise your glorious Name.
- 4 O let them shout and sing ~ with joy and holy mirth,
For you, the righteous Judge and King, ~ shall govern all the earth.
- 5 *Let diff'ring nations join ~ to celebrate your fame;*
Let all the world, O Lord, combine ~ to praise your glorious Name.
- 6 Then shall the teeming ground ~ a large increase disclose; ·
And we with plenty shall be crowned, ~ which God, our God, bestows.
- 7 Then God upon our land ~ shall constant blessings show'r,
And all the world in awe shall stand ~ of his resistless pow'r.

Psalm 68 SHa DCM

This Psalm, with its first words "Let God arise" is linked with the Resurrection. It is the Psalm that the armies sang before the battles of the Civil War, though it is possible that some of the Parliamentary units may have sung the Rous version. To share some of that experience, it has an excellent DCM tune, stately, but with a certain element of menace. Unfortunately, it is not in most modern hymn books, though it is in Scottish 'stable door' psalters.

The original words are very vigorous. Who could forget "Puissant kings, for all their pow'r, ~ shall flee and take the foil.?" However, this psalm is difficult to translate. There are rather too many points where the original words no longer scan well in modern English or fit its manner of expression. What follows therefore, unfortunately has been altered to meet this.

1. Let God arise and let his foes ~ be scattered, put to flight:

- Let those that hate him, flee his face, ~ his presence and his sight.
2. And as wax melts before the fire, ~ as smoke is blown away:
So let them melt, be blown, and die ~ before God's face, his day.
3. Yet still the righteous before God ~ shall heartily rejoice:
They shall be glad and merry all, ~ exultant in their voice.
4. Sing praise, sing praises to the Lord, ~ who rides upon the sky:
Extol the great Jehovah's Name, ~ his presence magnify.
5. He is the one who dwells above, ~ within his holy place:
Who Father is of fatherless, ~ and Judge of widows' cause.
6. Homes, families and kin he gives ~ to those who are alone:
He brings the prisoners from their chains, ~ rebels to arid stone.
7. When you marched forth before your folk ~ through wastes both wide
and broad:
8. Earth shook, heav'ns spoke before the God ~ of Sinai, Israel's Lord.
9. You graced with rain your tired estate, ~ furnished it from your store:
10. Your people pitch there. You provide ~ your goodness for the poor.

Part 2

11. The Lord gave out his word. He spoke, ~ a great host to enthuse:
Of women mustered to announce ~ and publish the good news.
Puissant kings, for all their pow'r, ~ shall flee and take the foil:
And women who remain at home ~ shall help divide the spoil.
12. And though you lay among the pots, ~ you shall be as the dove:
Whose wings and feathers are clad with ~ silver and gold above.
13. When God Almighty scatters kings ~ abroad, both high and low:
They are as bones on Salmon's peak ~ as white as is the snow.
14. The hill of God as Bashan is, ~ a mighty hill and bleak:
As Bashan's mountain lofty stands ~ a high and rounded peak
15. Why leap you thus, you hills so high ~ why enviously swell?
This is the peak the Lord desires, ~ where God will ever dwell.
16. The myriad chariots of God ~ are forty thousand strong:
The Lord rides forth in holiness ~ from Sinai with his throng.
17. You have ascended Lord on high. ~ You have gone up again:
Captivity, you captive led ~ with captives in your train.
- Gifts you've received from humankind, ~ even those that rebel:
So that the Lord, Almighty God ~ among them now might dwell.

18 So blessed be the Lord who bears ~ our burden day by day:
Of our salvation, he is God ~ our health, our hope, our stay.

Part 3

19 God is for us our rescuer, ~ a God of saving deeds:
For God is Lord of that exit, ~ the way that from death leads.
20 And he shall smite the heads of all ~ his enemies, his foes:
The hairy scalp of any that ~ in wickedness still goes.

21 Thus says the Lord, "I'll bring them back ~ from Bashan's mountains steep:
I'll fetch them from the ocean floor, ~ and draw them from the deep.
22 So you may dip your foot in blood, ~ the blood of enemies:
And the tongues of your dogs also ~ may lap it up likewise."

23 Your steps, they see O Lord, my God, ~ your cavalcade, my king:
Coming into your holy place ~ an awesome processing.
24 The singers go before with joy, ~ the band brings up the rear:
And in the midst the damsels do ~ with timbrels charm the ear.

25 In the assembly bless the Lord; ~ there praise our God, our well:
Bless him, you who are of God's spring, ~ fountain of Israel.
26 The chief is little Benjamin ~ with Judah's leaders fair:
And Zebulon and Naphtali ~ all princes gathered there.

27 Your God has sent forth strength for you, ~ O God, make firm and sure:
Whatever you have wrought in us ~ for ever to endure:
28 Then for your temple's sake will kings ~ give gifts to you, O Lord:
And in your own Jerusalem ~ praise you with one accord.

Part 4

29 Rebuke the beast of the reedbeds, ~ the herds of bulls and steers:
30 May nation bow and silver pay ~ to show how it reveres.
31 Disperse such as delight in war. ~ Let Egypt's envoys come:
And Ethiopia stretch a hand, ~ reach for our God of doom.

32 So sing ye kingdoms of the earth, ~ in praise unto the Lord;
Sing psalms to God repeatedly ~ praise him with one accord,
33 He rides the heaven of heavens above ~ though ancient they may be:
His voice he utters forth, a voice ~ in power and strength, mighty.

34 Ascribe to God strength, majesty; ~ his presence, glory shrouds:
His highness arches Israel ~ his strength is in the clouds.
35 O God how terrible you are ~ out of your sanctuary:

To Israël, his stock, he gives ~ might, strength. Blesséd be He.

Psalm 69 (Sha) CM

Like Psalm 22, this Psalm is linked with the Crucifixion. The text has been altered quite considerably to bring it into line with modern usage. In some verses, only the rhyming scheme remains. There is no tune particularly associated with this Psalm, which needs one.

- 1 Save me O God, the waters rise; ~ they overwhelm my breath:
They swamp my soul, and reach my eyes, ~ bring me to brink of death.
- 2 I sink in depths of mire and clay, ~ where I can feel no ground:
And in deep waters, where I may ~ be swept away and drowned.
- 3 With crying I am weary; 1o, ~ my throat is hoarse and dry:
My eyesight fails, looking also ~ for help to God on high,
- 4 My foes, who without cause oppress ~ my soul, with hate are led:
In number they are more, no less, ~ than hairs upon my head.
- 5 Those who'd destroy me, vex me sore, ~ they prosper and are glad:
Can they compel me to restore ~ the things I never had?
- 6 What I through my simplicity ~ have done, Lord, you can tell:
And all my faults in privacy ~ you know them all too well.
- 7 O God of hosts, let not know shame ~ all such as trust in you:
Or any who has sought your name ~ be thrown by what I do.
- 8 It is for you and for your sake ~ that I have carried blame:
Reproach I've borne enough to make ~ me hide my face for shame.
- 9 My mother's children, brethren all, ~ reject me in disgrace:
And as a stranger me they call, ~ and will not know my face.
- 10 Zeal for your house has eaten me ~ consumed me utterly:
The scorn of those, who scorned hourly ~ your presence, falls on me.

Part 2

- 11 I wept and fasted in my soul: ~ they taunted my good name:
- 12 In sackcloth clad, in tears to roll ~ a byword I became.

- 13 Those that within the gate do sit ~ insult me with their tongue:
And drunkards bibulously pit ~ their wits at me in song.
- 14 But as for me, Lord, this I pray ~ that when it pleases you:
15 Your saving mercy as my stay ~ shall be mine, sure and true.
- 16 So pluck my feet out of the mire, ~ my life from drowning keep:
From such as wish me ill and ire, ~ and from the waters deep.
- 17 Let not the watery floods me drown ~ or deep, my soul devour:
Nor let the pit gulp my life down ~ or shut me in its pow'r.
- 18 O Lord give ear to me for you ~ are loving, good and kind:
In tender mercy, warm and true ~ hold me firm in your mind.
- 19 And do not from your servant hide, ~ nor turn your face away:
I am oppressed on every side, ~ in haste give ear, I pray.
- 20 O Lord, come near my soul, draw nigh, ~ redeem and rescue it:
21 Ransom me from my enemy ~ and from my foes acquit.

Part 3

- 21 You know my reproach, and my shame, ~ dishonour, ignomies:
Before you, all who hate my name ~ stand as adversaries
- 22 Insults weighed down and broke my heart ~ I looked for help, pity:
I find no friends to ease my smart ~ nor one to comfort me.
- 23 For food they gave me bitter gall: ~ for my thirst vinegar:
24 So let their table trap them all: ~ their safety be a snare.
- 25 Let their dark eyes be dimmed so that ~ they can no longer see:
And let their loins tremble thereat ~ and shake continually.
- 26 Pour out on them your fiery wrath: ~ let ire them overtake:
27 Let desolation be their cloth: ~ their dwellings empty make.
- 28 The one you struck, they persecute; ~ slanders they have rehearsed:
To spread the pain and ill repute ~ of one that you have pierced.
- 29 Lay charge on charge of every kind ~ let guilt them overreach:
May vindication, they not find, ~ your justice never reach.

- 30 Blot them completely from your book ~ of living souls august:
That for them, there, one should not look ~ as numbered with the just.

Part 4

31. Though poor and sad, God's salvation ~ shall lift me up on high.
32. I'll praise his name with elation: ~ in thanks, God magnify.
33. This shall God please by so much more ~ that any ox yet born:
Far more than any calf brought for ~ a gift of hoof and horn.
- 34 The humble see this and rejoice: ~ seek God and your heart lives.
35 For God both hears the beggar's voice: ~ nor spurns his bound captives.
- 36 Praise him the heavens, earth, and sea ~ and all that in it teams:
For God will save Zion for he ~ delivers and redeems.
- 37 Not only will he Zion save ~ but Judah's towns rebuild:
People will live there, holdings have, ~ her streets and houses filled.
- 38 His servant's seed shall have the same, ~ their heritage assigned:
And there all they that love his Name ~ a dwelling place shall find.

Psalm 70 (DBT) SM

There is no tune particularly associated with this little Psalm. These words are new but both SH and R use Short Metre. Ich Halte treulich still (for ever with the Lord, Bach) would go well.

1. Make haste to save me Lord: ~ come quickly to my aid.
2. May those who seek to take my life: ~ be thwarted and dismayed.
- May those who wish me ill: ~ be thrown back in disgrace.
3. And those who mock, and laugh at me: ~ in shame avert their face.
4. But those who seek you yet; ~ may they with joy applaud.
And those who your salvation love ~ proclaim, "great is the Lord".
5. For I am poor and weak: ~ God, quickly come to me.
You are my aid and rescuer : ~ Oh Lord do not delay.

Psalm 71 (TBa) CM

This has had some alterations to fit modern grammar, and also because in places (e.g. v 16) the original translation was loose. There are a number of tunes associated with this Psalm. PG has a complex tune, Ashley, with a chorus and recommends a number of others as alternatives.

- 1,2 In you I put my steadfast trust, ~ defend me, Lord, from shame:
Incline your ear, and save my soul, ~ for righteous is your Name.
- 3 Oh be my strong abiding place, ~ to which I may resort:
'Tis your decree that keeps me safe; ~ you are my rock and fort.
- 4,5 From vicious clutches, rescue me ~ from vile and cruel too.
For, from my earliest youth till now, ~ my hope has been in you
- 6 Your constant care did safely guard ~ my tender infant days:
You took me from my mother's womb ~ to sing your constant praise.
- 7,8 While some with wonder gaze on me, ~ your hand supports me still:
And with your beauty and your praise ~ my mouth shall always fill.
- 9 Do not reject your servant, Lord, ~ when I with age decay:
Forsake me not when, worn with years, ~ my vigour fades away.
- 10 My foes against my fame and me ~ with crafty malice speak:
Against my soul they lay their snares, ~ and mutual counsel take.
- 11 "His God", they say, "forsakes him now, ~ on whom he did rely:
Pursue and take him, whilst no hope ~ of help or aid is nigh."
- 12 But God, O be not far from me: ~ make haste to help, I call.
13 To shame and ruin, bring my foes, ~ that seek to work my fall
- 14 But I shall hope continually ~ my trust in you sustain:
And multiply my praises still, ~ again and yet again.

Part 2

- 15 Your righteous acts and saving deeds ~ my mouth shall tell all day:
Yet what their sum or number is ~ I cannot count or say.
- 16 I come in the strength of the Lord ~ his valour shall I own:
All other righteousness disclaim ~ and speak of his alone.
- 17 You, Lord, have taught me from my youth ~ to praise your glorious Name:

- And ever since your wondrous works ~ have been my constant theme.
- 18 So now forsake me not when I ~ am grey and feeble grown:
Till I've to these, and future times, ~ your mighty arm made known.
- 19 How high your justice soars, O God ! ~ How great and wondrous are
The mighty works which you have done! ~ Who may with you compare?
- 20 Me, whom your hand has sorely pressed, ~ your grace shall yet relieve:
And from earth's deep abyss of woe ~ with tender care retrieve.
- 21 Through you, my time to come shall be ~ with pow'r and greatness
crowned:
And me, who dismal years have passed, ~ your comforts shall surround.
- 22 Then I with harp and lyre, my God ~ your faithfulness will praise:
To you, O Israel's holy one ~ my voice with anthems raise.
- 23 Then joy shall swell my lips, and songs ~ employ my cheerful voice:
My grateful soul, by you redeemed, ~ shall in your strength rejoice.
- 24 My tongue your just and righteous acts ~ shall all the day proclaim:
Because you did confound my foes, ~ and brought them all to shame.

Psalm 72 (Tba) CM

This Psalm is attributed to Solomon. It likens the blessings a good king brings, to the blessings of God. It's had some amendment in the interests of accuracy. There's no tune particularly associated with this Psalm, although Bedford, Irish and Devizes have been used. Possibly because of v 10, it is associated with Epiphany.

- 1 Lord, let your just decrees, the king ~ in all his ways direct:
And let his son, throughout his reign, ~ your righteous laws respect.
- 2 So shall he still your people judge ~ with pure and upright mind:
Whilst all the helpless poor shall him ~ their just protector find.
- 3 Then hills and mountains shall bring forth ~ the happy fruits of peace:
Which all the land shall own to be ~ the work of righteousness;
- 4 Whilst he the poor and needy shall ~ adjudge with gentle sway:
And from their humble necks shall take ~ oppressive yokes away.

- 5 So in each heart your awful fear ~ shall firm be rooted fast:
As long as sun and moon endure, ~ or generations last.
- 6 He shall descend like rain that cheers ~ the meadows' second birth:
Or like warm showers, whose gentle drops ~ refresh the thirsty earth.
- 7 In his days, righteousness shall sprout ~ and burgeon from his store:
Prosperity and peace abound ~ till moon shall be no more.
- 8 His rule and his dominion shall ~ from sea to sea extend:
Begin at proud Euphrates' streams, ~ and at earth's limits end.
- 9 To him the desert tribes around ~ shall bow their knees and heads:
His vanquished foes shall lick the dust, ~ where he his conquest spreads.
- 10 The kings of Tarshish and the isles ~ shall costly presents bring:
From spicy Sheba gifts shall come, ~ and wealthy Saba's king.
- 11 To him shall every king on earth ~ his humble homage pay:
And all the nations gladly join ~ to own his righteous sway.
- 12 For he shall set the needy free ~ when they for succour cry,
Shall save the helpless and the poor, ~ and all their wants supply.

Part 2

- 13 He shall have pity on the poor ~ and those who are in need:
He saves the souls of those in want ~ their lives and health indeed.
- 14 From violence and oppression sore ~ their souls he shall redeem:
For prized and precious is their blood ~ in his sight and esteem.
- 15 Long may he live and Sheba's gold ~ be given him as praise:
Continual prayer be made for him ~ and blessings for all days.
- 16 May grain abound throughout the land ~ in plenty to appear:
A handful sown on mountain peaks ~ a waving crop shall bear.
- Its fruits flourish like Lebanon ~ as cedars are revealed:
The city too shall thrive, and vie ~ for plenty with the field.
- 17 The telling of his glorious Name ~ through endless years shall run:
His spotless fame shall shine as bright ~ and lasting as the sun.

In him the nations of the world ~ shall be completely blessed:
And his unbounded happiness ~ by every tongue confessed.

18 Then bless'd be God, the mighty Lord, ~ the God of Israël:
Who alone does marvellous things ~ and wondrous works can spell.

19 Let earth be with his glory filled, ~ and ever bless his Name:
Whilst to his praise the whole wide world ~ "Amen, Amen", proclaim.

28 xi 2009 amended Ps 42, 16 ix 2010, selections from Ps 50 added.