

THE EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT

Owen Alstott

Responsorial Psalm (following Fourth Reading): Psalm 30:2, 4, 5–6, 11–12, 13 (41)

Response: (*Organ/SATB*)

Optional Descant

The musical score for the Response is written for SATB voices and organ. It begins with an 'Optional Descant' in G major, 2/4 time. The descant consists of a single melodic line in the soprano part. The main response is a three-part setting of the text 'I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.' The organ part provides harmonic support with chords G, Bm7/F#, Em, C, C/D, C/G, and G. The SATB parts are arranged in three staves, with the soprano part leading the melody and the alto and tenor parts providing harmonic support. The bass part provides a steady accompaniment.

I will praise, you have res - cued me.

I will praise you, Lord, for you have res - cued me. _____

I will praise you, Lord, for

Verses: (*Cantor or SATB*)

Em

The musical score for the first verse is written for a cantor or SATB. It begins with a single melodic line in the soprano part, set in E minor (Em) and 2/4 time. The text is divided into three lines, each corresponding to a measure of the melody. The text is: '1. I will extol you, O LORD, for you drew me clear; O LORD, you brought me up from the netherworld; 2. Sing praise to the LORD, you faithful ones, For his anger lasts but a moment; At nightfall, weeping en - ters in, 3. Hear, O LORD, and have pity on me; You changed my mourning in - to dancing;'. The melody is simple and easy to sing, with a clear emphasis on the words.

1. I will extol you, O LORD, for you drew me clear
O LORD, you brought me up from the netherworld;

2. Sing praise to the LORD, you faithful ones,
For his anger lasts but a moment;
At nightfall, weeping en - ters in,

3. Hear, O LORD, and have pity on me;
You changed my mourning in - to dancing;

Am D

The musical score for the second verse is written for a cantor or SATB. It begins with a single melodic line in the soprano part, set in A minor (Am) and 2/4 time. The text is divided into three lines, each corresponding to a measure of the melody. The text is: '1. And did not let my enemies rejoice o - ver me. You preserved me from among those going down in - to the pit. 2. And give thanks to his ho - ly name. A lifetime, his good will. But with the dawn, re - joicing. 3. O LORD, be my helper. O LORD, my God, forever will I give you thanks.' The melody is simple and easy to sing, with a clear emphasis on the words.

1. And did not let my enemies rejoice o - ver me.
You preserved me from among those going down in - to the pit.

2. And give thanks to his ho - ly name.
A lifetime, his good will.
But with the dawn, re - joicing.

3. O LORD, be my helper.
O LORD, my God, forever will I give you thanks.