

I LOVE YOU GOD, MY STRENGTH
Responsorial Song from Psalm 18 for Sunday 30A
for Psalmist (Cantor), Assembly & Descant
with Keyboard, Flute & Guitar

TONY BARR

*I love, you, God, my strength,
You raise me up, set me free.*

I love you, O God, the source of strength,
our constant help and defender.
Our rock are you, and our stronghold,
the source of joy and freedom.

I love you, O God, delight of souls,
our shield, our refuge and safety.
I sing the name of the Holy One,
preserve us from all evil.

I love you, O God, the Living One,
you call us out from oppression.
You bless the nation and make us prosper,
show your grace and favor.

I understand this psalm, associated with the re-Dedication of the Temple, as essentially a love song for God who will turn night into dawn, tears into joy, Exile into a great Victory. The psalm was sung at the purification of the Temple after its desecration in BC 168, as recorded in 1 Macc. 4:52 and 2 Macc. 10:1-8. Israel, especially after return from the Babylonian Exile in BC 538, took a long time to emerge from despondancy and rebuild their Temple. They connected with it in a much more deeply spiritual manner. When it was defiled by the Hellenistic King Antiochus IV Entiphanes who had occupied Jerusalem, the people revolted and overthrew him. Bilical commentaries also link this psalm with Is. 38 and Ps. 6.

The first person 'I' is obviously a personification of the entire assembly. I extended the refrain provided in the Lectionary to complete it, as found in verse 1 of the text. There is an unusually lengthy introduction, which weaves the trapestry of the gentle emotional and lyrical nature of the piece. The melody flows in the pattern of a measured alpha-rhythmic sine wave, to induce tranquility, and the energy flow connects each verse to the refrain in a continuum of delight. And so I wax eloquently!
- Tony Barr

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INTRO ♩ = ca. 140

Am Dm Gm Am
Dm Gm Dm C

First time: Psalmist (Cantor) *at the ambo*

I love, you, God, my strength, you
F Gm Am C
raised me set me free.
Gm C Bb/C C

REFRAIN

Flute on selected Refrains

Descant on selected Refrains

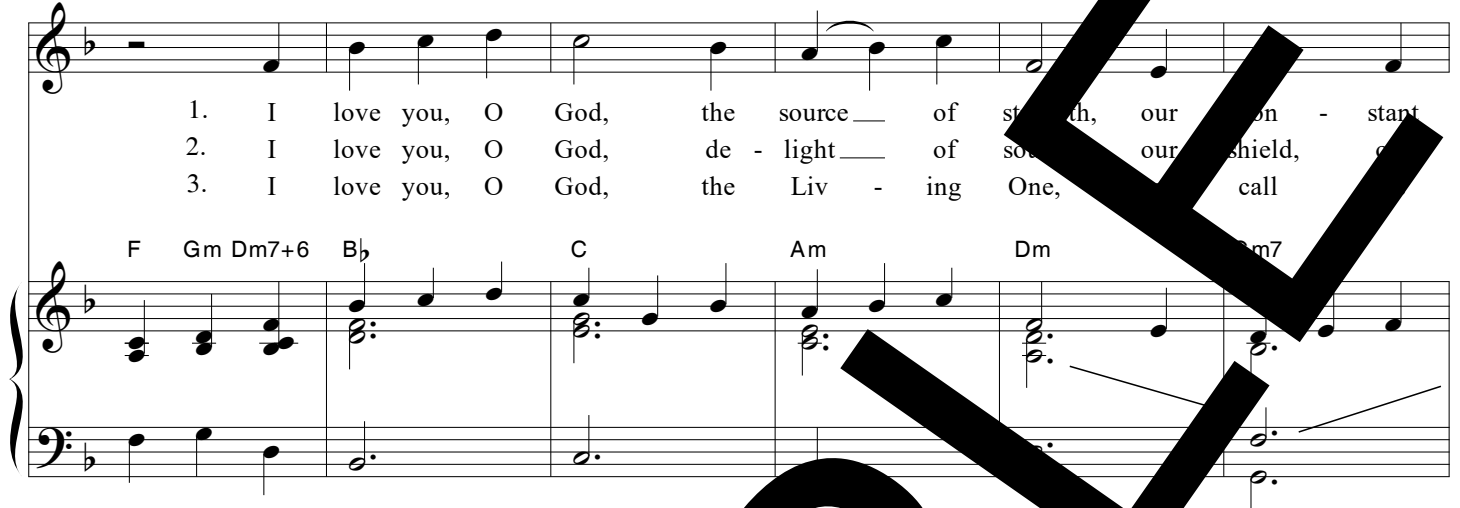
love, — you, God, — my strength, — I love, — you,
All
I love, — you, God, — strength, — you
F B \flat F C

raised — set me
raised — me set me free.
F Gm7 C B \flat /C C

VERSES Psalmist (Cantor) *at the ambo*

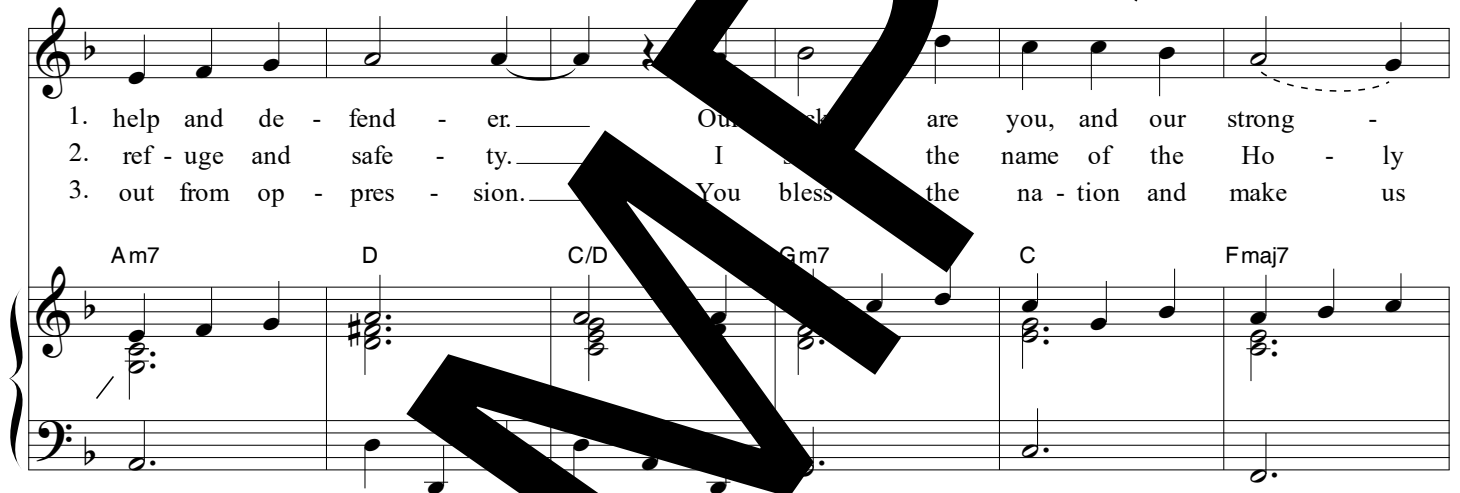
1. I love you, O God, the source of strength, our on - start
2. I love you, O God, de - light of soul, our shield,
3. I love you, O God, the Liv - ing One, call

F Gm Dm7+6 Bb C Am Dm Gm7



1. help and de - fend - er. Our strength are you, and our strong -
2. ref - uge and safe - ty. I call on the name of the Ho - ly
3. out from op - pres - sion. You bless the na - tion and make us


Am7 D C/D Gm7 C Fmaj7



REFRAIN *D.S.*
All + Descant

1. hold, the source of joy and free - dom.
2. One, pre - serve us from all ev - il. I
3. pros - per, show grace and fa - vor.

Gm/Bb C D C Bb C



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Descant on selected Refrains

I love, _____ you, God, _____ my strength, I love, _____ you,
 All
 I love, _____ you, God _____ strength _____ you
 raised _____ me up, set me
 raised _____ me up, set me

VERSES Psalmist (Cantor) *at the ambo*

1. I love you, O _____ the source _____ of strength, our con - stant
 2. I love you, O God de - light _____ of souls, our shield, our
 3. I love you, O God, _____ Liv - ing One, you call us
 1. help and de - fence _____ er. Our rock are you, and our strong -
 2. ref - uge and safe - ty. I sing the name of the Ho - ly
 3. op - pres - sion. You bless the na - tion and make us

REFRAIN D.S.
All + Descant

1. hold, the source of joy _____ and free - dom. _____
 2. One, pre - serve us from _____ all ev - il. _____ I
 3. pros - perity _____ your grace _____ and fa - vor. _____