



THIS DAY A NEW LIGHT WILL SHINE

CHRISTMAS NIGHT ALLELUIA

Responsorial Song from Psalm 96 for Christmas Dawn
and News Of Great Joy
for Church Assembly and Desert
Keyboard, Flute, Oboe, French Horn, Trumpet & Guitar

*Today a Savior has been born for us,
who is Christ the Lord
(or the Long-promised One!)*

Sing now a new song of wonder!
All Creation, resound with joy!
Thrill to the music, the Word now among us

Sing of the One now appearing,
bearing justice for every land.
Proclaim the Good News to all who are watching

Heavens, be glad, earth be dancing!
And you coastlands and seas under praise!
Be now attentive, you forests and woods!

Welcome the One born of promise,
Welcome justice and peace for the world.
Come now, restore us to grace and good fortune

Allelu, Alleluia! Allelu, Alleluia!

Good news! News of great joy!

Today is born for us
our long-awaited hope.
Yes! Jesus our Messiah
has come for us this day!

Psalms 96, 97 and 98 belong to the group of the Coronation Psalms. Each celebrates the Kingship of Y'hw'h. Their setting was the Feast of Tabernacles, which had developed from a primitive New Year Festival. The temple editors regarded them as the Psalms of David. After the return from Exile in BC 721, there was a tremendous level of hope and expectation that the new, rebuilt Temple would eventually become the house of prayer for all peoples.

Psalm 96 reflects the post-Exilic period. It is also found in 1Chronicles 16 as part of a composite hymn sung by the Levites as the Ark of the Covenant was carried up to Jerusalem. Chronicles reinterprets the period from David (BC 1000) to the beginning of the monarchy, although it was written around BC 300 to describe the restoration of Temple worship as the center of Jewish life. Although a post-Exilic psalm, its origins are ancient. It echoes earlier psalms, such as Isaiah 40-66, to affirm the worthlessness of idols, God's greatness visible throughout Creation, Nature's invitation to give praise, and the conviction that all nations will one day worship the Lord.

This psalm follows the pattern of the hymn, and is in fact a compilation of two hymns each with its own introduction and conclusion.

- Tony Barr

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SAMPLE

Today, A Savior Has Been Born For Us

Responsorial Song from Psalm 96 for Christmas Night

music & text from Psalm 96 Tony Barr

INTRO ♩ = 60 *gently swaying*

Flute

Oboe

or:

Bb Trumpet

French Horn

The musical score consists of several staves. The top four staves are for woodwinds: Flute, Oboe, Bb Trumpet, and French Horn. The bottom two staves are for piano accompaniment. The piano part includes chords: Dm, Am7, F/D, Dm. The score is marked 'a.t.' and 'Cantor'. The music is in 6/8 time and features a gentle, swaying melody.

TODAY, A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN FOR US - Ps 96, cont. (4)

Oboe

Flute

Trumpet

Horn

Descant

All

day a Sa - vior has been born for us, who is Christ the Lord
or: the long - prom - ised One.

Dm C/D F/D Dm7 Am G Dm Am7



Flute

Oboe

Trumpet

Horn

Descant

All

To Sa - vior has been born for us, who is Christ the
or: the long - prom - ised

day a Sa - vior has been born for us, who is Christ the
or: the long - prom - ised

Dm C/D F/C Dm7 Am G



1-3. to Verses

Lord.
One.

Lord.
One.

A B \flat A F/D Em/D

The musical score consists of several staves. The top three staves are vocal lines with lyrics. The fourth staff is a piano accompaniment line with chords. The fifth and sixth staves are additional piano accompaniment lines. The score includes a repeat sign with first, second, and third endings. The key signature is one flat (Bb). The tempo and style are indicated by the '1-3.' marking. The score concludes with the instruction 'to Verses'.

SAMPLE

Final

Fine

Lord.
One.

Lord.
One.

A G A 7 Em7 G A

SAMPLE

VERSES Cantor

1. Sing now a new song of won - der! All Cre -
 2. Sing of the One now ap - pear - ing far - ing
 3. Heav - ens, be glad, earth be danc - ing And you
 4. Wel - come the One born of prom - Wel - com

Dm Em/G Dm7

1. a - tion, re - sound with Thrill to the
 2. jus - tice for ev - 'ry lan Pro - claim the
 3. coast - lands and seas, thun - der prais Be now at -
 4. jus - tice and peace for wor Come now, re -

Gm7 Am7 D G

Flute *D.S.*
 Oboe
or:
 Trumpet *D.S.*
 Horn

us - ic the Word now a - mong us!
 food to all who stand watch - ing!
 ten you for - ests and mead - ows!
 to grace and good for - tune!

Cmaj7 Bbmaj7 Dm Am7

Today, A Savior Has Been Born For Us

Responsorial Song from Psalm 96 for Christmas Night

music set from Ps 96 Tony Barr

INTRO ♩ = ca. 60

To - day a Sa - vior has been born for us, who is Christ the Lord.

REFRAIN
Descant

To - day a Sa - vior has been born for us, who is Christ the Lord.

us, who is Christ the Lord. Lord. Lord.
or: the long prom - ised One. One. One.

VERSES Cantor

1. Sing now a new song of won - der! All Cre -
2. Sing of the One who ap - pear - ing, bear - ing
3. Heav - ens, be glad, be danc - ing! And you
4. Wel - come One born of prom - ise! Wel - come

1. a - tion, sound with joy! Thrill to the
2. jus - tice ev - 'ry land. Pro - claim the
3. clouds and seas, thun - der praise! Be now at -
4. grace and peace for the world! Come now, re -

to Refrain

1. ...ic, the Word now a - mong us!
2. Good News to all who stand watch - ing!
3. - ten - you for - ests and mead - ows!
4. - store us to grace and good for - tune!

Music & text of Psalm 96 © 1980, 2017, Tony Barr.

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Christmas Night Gospel Acclamation

News of Great Joy!

INTRO ♩ = ca. 66 *gently swaying*

music & text from *The Roman Lectionary* arr. **Tony Barr**

Flute

Oboe

or:

Bb Trumpet

French Horn

Dm Am7 F Dm Am7 F Dm

ALLELUIA ACCLAMATION

Cantor

Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia!

Dm Am7 Dm Bb C Am Dm Am7

Flute

Oboe

Bb Trumpet

French Horn

All

Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

B♭maj7 C F B♭ Gm Am

This section contains the musical notation for five parts: Flute, Oboe, Bb Trumpet, French Horn, and All. The Flute, Oboe, and Bb Trumpet parts have a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The French Horn part has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The 'All' part has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The piano accompaniment is shown in grand staff notation (treble and bass clefs). The lyrics 'Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the 'All' part. Chords B♭maj7, C, F, B♭, Gm, and Am are indicated below the lyrics.

VERSE 1 Cantor

Good news! Good news! News of great joy!

F Am B♭ Fmaj7 B♭maj7 C Fmaj7 Dm

This section contains the musical notation for the Verse 1 Cantor part. It has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics 'Good news! Good news! News of great joy!' are written below the staff. Chords F, Am, B♭, Fmaj7, B♭maj7, C, Fmaj7, and Dm are indicated below the lyrics.

ws gr joy!

D C Gm C

This section contains the musical notation for the end of the piece. It has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics 'ws gr joy!' are written below the staff. Chords D, C, Gm, and C are indicated below the lyrics.

INTERMEZZO

Flute

Oboe

Bb Trumpet

French Horn

Em Bm7 G Em Em Bm7 G Em

ALLELUIA ACCLAMATION

Cantor

Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia, le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia!

Em Bm G D Bm Em Bm

SAMPLE

Flute

Oboe

Bb Trumpet

French Horn

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le lu Al le lu - ia! Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - Al lu, Al - le - lu - ia!

C Bm G D Bm E

A \flat B \flat Ebmaj7 B \flat

SAMPLE

VERSE 2

The musical score is arranged in a grand staff format. It includes parts for Flute, Oboe, Bb Trumpet, French Horn, and Piano. The piano part is divided into a right-hand section with chords and a left-hand section with a bass line. The vocal parts are a Duet with lyrics: "For to-day is born for us our a-wait-ed hope. Yes!". The score is in the key of B-flat major and 4/4 time. A large, diagonal watermark reading "SAMPLE" is overlaid across the entire page.

SAMPLE

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Today, a Savior Has Been Born for Us'. It consists of eight staves. The top four staves are vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) with lyrics underneath. The bottom two staves are piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'Jes - us our Mes - si - ahs has come for us this' and 'Jes - us our Mes - si - ahs has come for us this'. The piano part includes chord symbols: Ab, Fm, Ebmaj7, Ab, Bb, and C. The score is in a key with two flats and a common time signature.

SAMPLE

EW

INTERMEZZO

day!
day!

B \flat A \flat B \flat C \flat B \flat E \flat C \flat

The Intermezzo section consists of six systems of music. The first four systems are vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) with lyrics "day!". The fifth system is a piano accompaniment with lyrics "day!". The sixth system is a piano accompaniment with chords B \flat , A \flat , B \flat , C \flat , B \flat , E \flat , and C \flat .

ALLELUIA ACCLAMATION

Cantor

Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia!

C \flat G \flat F \flat A \flat B \flat G \flat C \flat G \flat 7

The Alleluia Acclamation section consists of two systems of music. The first system is a vocal line for the Cantor with lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia!". The second system is a piano accompaniment with chords C \flat , G \flat , F \flat , A \flat , B \flat , G \flat , C \flat , and G \flat 7.

The musical score is arranged in a multi-staff format. The top two staves are for Flute and Oboe, with their parts bracketed together. The next two staves are also for Flute and Oboe, also bracketed. The fifth staff is a Descant with the lyrics: "Al - le lu - ia! Al - le lu Al le lu - ia!". The sixth staff contains the vocal line with lyrics: "Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - lu, Al - le - lu - ia!". The seventh staff is the piano accompaniment, showing chords: Abmaj7, Bb, Eb, Fm, Gm, and C. The eighth staff is the CODA section with chords: Bb, Ab/F, Bb/C, and C. The final staff shows a piano accompaniment with a triplet of eighth notes and a C+2 chord.

Christmas Night Gospel Acclamation

News of Great Joy!

ACCLAMATION $\text{♩} = ca. 60$

music & text from the Roman Lectionary arr. **Tony Barr**

1. Cantor 2. All

Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia!

VERSE 1 Cantor

Good news! Good news! Good news! News of great joy! News of great joy!

ACCLAMATION

Cantor

Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia!

Descant

Al - le lu - ia! Al - le lu - ia! lu - ia!

All

Al - le - lu, Al - le - lu - ia!

VERSE 2 Duet

For born for us our long - a - wait - ed

For to - day born for us our long - a - wait - ed

hope. us our Mes - si - ah has come for us this day!

hope. Jes - us our Mes - si - ah has come for us this day!

D.S.

Analysis of Psalm 96

Hymn One

vv 1-3 Sing To The Lord

This Introduction invites all the people of God, ultimately all who inhabit the world, to sing a song of praise. To give praise means to name God as Savior who delivered Israel from Babylonian captivity. God's triumph in creating the world was also a sign of coming victory at the end-times.

vv 4-6 Who Alone Is Worthy Of Praise

God is great and to be feared, an awe-inspiring Deity, who filled the earth with terror but comforted the faithful with joy. This God was the greatest; all other gods were false, demonic, or were idols, not elihim (gods) but elilim (nobodies). *Y'hw'h alone made the earth* is an appeal to the fact that God's power reflects the myth of the combat of the gods. *Honor and majesty* are personifications, attendants waiting upon God as servants. *Strength and glory* are also personifications, used to describe not only the Ark but also the people of Israel. The *sanctuary* could refer to God's heavenly dwelling or the restored Temple.

Hymn Two

vv 7-9 The Universal Call To Worship

This renewed introduction exhorts all people to praise the Lord. This gateway ritual in the open Temple courts may have belonged to the ancient festival of the Lord's enthronement. The term offering refers to the gifts of tribute paid to the Lord (King). The Temple had several courts: the Court of the Gentiles, the Women's Court, the Court of the Priests, and the Priests' Court. In pre-Exilic times only the first of these courts was accessible to the people; but in the end times all had free run of the Temple. To tremble before the Lord may mean either to shake the earth or to spin and whirl in the sacred pilgrim dance.

vv 10-13 Yahweh Reigns

All of nature is invited to rejoice at the good news that Yahweh reigns. The Lord reigns was further elaborated in the Latin hymn *Domine regnavit a ligno* (the 'Lord has reigned from the tree'. This hymn prophesied triumph through the Cross, inspiring the 6th Century hymn *Vexilla regis prodeunt*, 'The royal standards forward go.' The new reign would see God judging in equity and fairness. All Creation, Heaven and Earth, the trees, the plants and the open fields, all dance for joy: the Lord is coming! Little wonder that this hymn has been chosen as the responsorial for the Christmas Night Scriptures.

Tony Barr