

PSALM 85: I WILL LISTEN TO THE LORD

Ephrem Feeley

Moderately, with expression (♩ = 80)

REFRAIN:

Descant:

I will lis - ten to the words of the Lord.

Assembly:

I will lis - ten to the Lord, for God's words are of peace.

Organ *mf*

* last time only

Detailed description: This section contains the Refrain. It features three staves. The top staff is a vocal line with a 'Descant' section. The middle staff is another vocal line with an 'Assembly' section. The bottom two staves are for the Organ, marked 'mf'. The music is in 3/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are: 'I will lis - ten to the words of the Lord.' and 'I will lis - ten to the Lord, for God's words are of peace.' There is an asterisk on the final note of the organ part with the note 'last time only' written below it.

VERSES 1, 2:

Cantor:

5

1. I will lis - ten to the words of the Lord, a voice that speaks of peace. His

2. Mer - cy has met with faith - ful - ness. Jus - tice and peace have em - braced.

5

Org. *mp*

Detailed description: This section contains Verses 1 and 2. It features three staves. The top staff is a vocal line for the Cantor, starting at measure 5. The middle staff is another vocal line. The bottom two staves are for the Organ, marked 'mp'. The music is in 3/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are: '1. I will lis - ten to the words of the Lord, a voice that speaks of peace. His' and '2. Mer - cy has met with faith - ful - ness. Jus - tice and peace have em - braced.' There is an asterisk on the final note of the organ part with the note 'last time only' written below it.

9

help is near for those who fear him, and his glo - ry will dwell in our land.

Spring - ing from earth there will be faith - ful - ness, and jus - tice shall look down from hea - ven.

Org.

To Refrain

VERSE 3:

13 **Cantor:**

3.The Lord will make us pros - per, and our earth shall yield its fruit.

Org.

mp

18

Jus - tice shall march be - fore the Lord, and peace shall fol - low God's steps.

Org.

To Refrain

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Composer's Notes:

Psalm 85 is an outline of God's plan, where justice, mercy, faithfulness, prosperity and peace come together in the Kingdom of God. The eschatological nature of the psalm makes it especially suitable as a common psalm for the season of Advent. When rehearsing this with the assembly, it may help to draw their attention to the three-note introduction to the refrain each time.