

PSALM 29: THE LORD WILL BLESS HIS PEOPLE

Ephrem Feeley

(♩. = 54)

Piano

p

The piano introduction consists of six measures. The right hand starts with a whole rest, followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note G4, and a half note G4-A4-B4. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment: G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2.

OSTINATO REFRAIN

Choir / Assembly:

7

A **B**

The Lord will bless his peo-ple with peace, the Lord will bless us with peace. —

Pno.

mp

The piano accompaniment for the ostinato refrain consists of six measures. The right hand plays a melodic line: G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment: G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2.

12

1. O give the Lord, — you chil-dren of God, — give the Lord glo - ry and power. —

The musical notation for the first line of the ostinato refrain consists of six measures. The right hand plays a melodic line: G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment: G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2.

17

— Give the Lord the glo-ry of his name. A - dore the Lord. —

The musical notation for the second line of the ostinato refrain consists of six measures. The right hand plays a melodic line: G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment: G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2.

22

2. The voice of the Lord on the wa - ters; — the God of glo - ry thun - ders. —

The musical notation for the third line of the ostinato refrain consists of six measures. The right hand plays a melodic line: G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment: G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2.

27

The voice of the Lord — in po - wer, — the voice of the Lord in splen - dour. —

The musical notation for the fourth line of the ostinato refrain consists of six measures. The right hand plays a melodic line: G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4, G4-A4-B4. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment: G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2, G2-A2-B2.

32

3.The God of glo - ry thun - ders. In his tem - ple they all cry "Glo - ry!"

37

The Lord sat en - throned a - bove the flood; the Lord sits as King for - e - ver.

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Composer's Notes:

Psalm 29 details the power that God has over all creation. There is an eschatological dimension to the psalm, with references to the origins of the world in Genesis: "the voice of the Lord on the waters"; through to the establishment of his people and the foundation of temple worship, to the permanence of his glory "as king forever". The last two lines of the psalm however show that this power is one of infinite goodness: "The Lord will give strength to his people, the Lord will bless his people with peace." This psalm for the Feast of the Holy Family, is also suitable for weddings and as a common psalm in Advent and throughout Ordinary Time. The ostinato refrain can be sung as a round, with two sides of the assembly (or choir) entering at the places marked A and B in the score. This enables a sense of build-up, discord and drama which heightens the drama of the words; a caution must be exercised however that the words of the verses, sung by cantor, must be clearly heard - while these are sung, the assembly and choir could hum their melody, and return to singing words once the cantor has reached the of the verse.