

PSALM 24: WHO IS THE KING OF GLORY

Ephrem Feeley

With energy (♩. = 60)

Trumpet in B♭

Organ

REFRAIN:

B♭ Tpt.

(tacet until after verse 1)

Descant:

Who is the king of glo - ry? It is the Lord of Hosts!

Assembly/ Choir:

Who is the king of glo - ry? It is the Lord of Hosts!

Org.

To Verses,
last time to Coda

VERSE 1:

8 **Cantor:**

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; grow high - er, an - cient

8 **Org.** *mf*

11 **B \flat Tpt.**

doors. Let him en - ter, the king of glo - ry!

11 **Org.**

To Refrain

VERSE 2:

15 **Cantor:**

Who is the king of glo - - - ry? The Lord, the migh - ty, the

15 **Org.** *mf*

18

B \flat Tpt.

18

Org.

val - iant, the Lord, the va - liant in war.

To Refrain

VERSE 3:

Cantor:

22

Org.

mf

Who is the king of glo - - - ry? He, the Lord of

25

B \flat Tpt.

25

Org.

ar - mies. He is the king of glo - ry!

To Refrain

CODA:

The musical score for the CODA section consists of two staves. The top staff is for the B♭ Trumpet (B♭ Tpt.) and the bottom staff is for the Organ (Org.). Both staves begin at measure 29. The B♭ Trumpet part features a melodic line with a dotted quarter note followed by eighth notes, and a final measure with a half note and a fermata. The Organ part is in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and features a rhythmic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. It includes dynamic markings of *ff* (fortissimo) and *fff* (fortississimo), and a hairpin crescendo leading to the final *fff* marking. The organ part concludes with a final chord and a fermata.

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Composer's Notes:

Psalm 24 is a good example of an enthronement psalm, sung at ceremonies in the temple of Jerusalem where God was acclaimed as king of Israel. The cry to open the gates to let the King of Glory enter demonstrates that the Ark of the Covenant was carried in procession around the temple for all to see. The link between the earthly king and the heavenly king was clear: God was the heavenly king, who favoured his people Israel, who caused their king to be victorious in battle, and so was the Lord of armies who fought in the cause of right.

The militaristic nature of this psalm does not preclude its use in Christian liturgy today: it is used for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, and is a good common psalm for the Feast of Christ the King and throughout the season of Advent. The psalm should be understood in the context of spiritual warfare: in the struggle against evil and injustice, both personally and in the world, God's goodness will prevail.

The tempo marking is for a broad *Andante*, but with clear diction and crisp articulation in the accompaniment, there should still be plenty of energy. The trumpet part is optional, but adds a sense of occasion to the piece.