

How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place

Psalm 84:2-7,9,11-12

Michael Joncas

INTRO: *Gently* (♩ = ca. 116)

Keyboard

mf

Soprano (Melody)

Alto

Tenor

Bass

REFRAIN: 1st time: Cantor; thereafter: All

mf

How love - ly is your

mf

dwell - ing place, O Lord God of Hosts!

Fine

Fine

VERSE 1: Cantors/Choir

mp

1. My soul yearns and pines for the courts of the Lord, my heart and my

p

1. flesh — cry out; — e - ven the spar - row may

1. find — a home, the swal - low a nest for her young; —

rit. *D.S.*

1. — your al - tars, my king and my God! —

rit. *D.S.*

VERSE 2: Cantors/Choir

mp

2. How hap - py are they who may dwell in your courts, how hap - py when

p

2. you are their strength; _____ though they might go thru the

2. val - ley of death, they make it a place of springs. _____

mf *rit.* *D.S.*

2. _____ Your first rain will bring it to life. _____

mf *rit.* *D.S.*

VERSE 3: Cantors/Choir

mp

3. O Lord of Hosts, hear my cry, and hearken, O

p

3. God of Jacob; one day in your house is worth

3. much more to me than ten thousand anywhere else;

mf *rit.* *D.S.*

3. the Lord is my sun and my shield!

rit. *D.S.*

How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place

(Guitar/Vocal)

Psalm 84:2-7,9,11-12

Michael Joncas

INTRO: *Gently* (♩ = ca. 116)

Em Em/D# Em7/D Em6/C# C Am7 B7

mf

REFRAIN: 1st time: Cantor; thereafter: All

mf Em Em/D# Em7/D Em6/C# C Am7

How love - ly is your dwell - ing place, O Lord God of

VERSE 1: Cantor(s)/Choir

B7 *Fine mp* Em9 Em6 Em9

Hosts! _____ 1. My soul yearns and pines for the courts of the

Em6 F Em B7 Em9 *p*

1. Lord, my heart and my flesh cry out; _____ E - ven the

Em6 Em9 Em6 F

1. spar - row may find _____ a home, the swal - low a nest for her

Em F Em B7 *rit.* *D.S.*

1. young; _____ your al - tars, my king and my God! _____

VERSE 2: Cantor(s)/Choir

mp Em9 Em6 Em9 Em6 F

2. How hap - py are they who may dwell in your courts, how hap - py when

Em B7 Em9 Em6

2. you are their strength; _____ though they might go thru the

Em9 Em6 F Em

2. val - ley of death, they make it a place of springs. _____

mf F *rit.* Em B7 *D.S.*

2. _____ Your first rain will bring it to life. _____

VERSE 3: Cantor(s)/Choir

mp Em9 Em6 Em9 Em6 F

3. O Lord _____ of Hosts, hear _____ my cry, and heark - en, O

Em B7 *p* Em9 Em6

3. God of Ja - cob; _____ one day in your house is worth

Em9 Em6 F Em

3. much more to me than ten thou - sand an - y - where else; _____

mf F *rit.* Em B7 *D.S.*

3. _____ the Lord is my sun and my shield! _____

Assembly Edition

HOW LOVELY IS YOUR DWELLING PLACE

Michael Joncas



How love-ly is your dwell-ing place, O Lord God of Hosts!

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Performance Notes

How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place

Psalm 84 is surely one of the most splendid of all the psalms! It is the song sung by a pilgrim at the end of the journey. Like the rest of the crowd, the pilgrim had traveled far to behold Jerusalem, the city of the Lord and the capital of Judah. This longing to visit the great temple, to worship there, to celebrate with fellow country-folk, is the driving ambition in this pilgrim's life. Like a mother bird with her young, so is God with this pilgrim.

For Christians, this psalm has had deep meaning on several levels. On one hand, the temple is seen as the temple of the heavenly Jerusalem; the pilgrimage is that of life. Thus the psalm represents the joy of the Christian in reaching heaven. On another level, the psalm also reflects the joy of the Christian assembly gathered together to celebrate the holy mysteries in liturgy.

The refrain of this setting is taken from the first verse of the psalm. Verse one of "How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place" is adapted from verses 2–3 of the psalm; verse two, from verses 4–6 of the psalm; verse three, from verses 8, 10 and 11 of the psalm.

Psalm 84 is appointed as the responsorial psalm for Tuesday of the 5th Week in Ordinary Time (II), and Friday of the 34th Week (II). It is a good alternate psalm for those celebrations where Psalm 63 is the appointed psalm, but for which an appropriate musical setting might not be available.

This is a gentle piece, very lyrical. At no point should the dynamics become overly loud. I have used this piece as a responsorial song, during the preparation of the gifts, and as a reflection after communion.

At the discretion of the director, the refrain may be sung twice each time: once in unison, and then in harmony. Soloists may be employed on the verses.

—M.J.

How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place

(Optional Inclusive-Language Text)

REFRAIN: How lovely is your dwelling place,
The One God of Hosts!

1. My soul yearns and pines for the courts of my God,
my heart and my flesh cry out;
even the sparrow may find a home,
the swallow a nest for her young;
your altars, my hope and my God!

2. No changes

3. O God of Hosts, hear my cry,
and hearken, O God of Jacob;
one day in your house is worth much more to me
than ten thousand anywhere else;
God, you are my sun and my shield!