

for Richard

My Soul is Thirsting for You

Text based on Psalm 63

Beth McElhone

Lovingly

C G/B Am Em/G

p

pedal freely

Fm/D Gsus4 Fm6/G C

REFRAIN:

C G/B Am Em/G

Cantor, then all repeat:

My soul is thirst - ing for you, _____

Descant/Harmony:

My soul is thirst - ing for you, _____

The musical score is written in 3/4 time and consists of three systems. The first system is a piano introduction with a treble clef and a bass clef. The melody is in the treble clef, starting with a quarter rest followed by eighth notes. The bass line has a half note in the first measure, followed by quarter notes. The second system continues the piano introduction with a treble clef and a bass clef. The melody is in the treble clef, starting with a quarter note, followed by eighth notes. The bass line has a half note in the first measure, followed by quarter notes. The third system is the refrain, with a treble clef and a bass clef. The melody is in the treble clef, starting with a quarter note, followed by eighth notes. The bass line has a half note in the first measure, followed by quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the melody.

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Fm/D Gsus4 Fm6/G C

thirst - ing for you, my God! _____ (4. In the)

thirst - ing for you, my God! _____

The first system contains two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal staves have lyrics: "thirst - ing for you, my God! _____ (4. In the)" and "thirst - ing for you, my God! _____". The piano accompaniment features a treble and bass clef with various notes and rests.

Verse 1:
Am Em F Em

Cantor:

1. God, you are my God whom I seek; for

mp

The second system includes a vocal line for the Cantor and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are "1. God, you are my God whom I seek; for". The piano part is marked *mp* and features a treble and bass clef with various notes and rests.

Fm Fm/D Gsus4 G

you _____ my bo - dy aches. _____ My

The third system includes a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are "you _____ my bo - dy aches. _____ My". The piano part features a treble and bass clef with various notes and rests.

Am Em F Em

soul _____ thirsts for you _____ like the

Fm/D Fm/Ab G (repeat refrain)

earth, parch'd and life - less and dry. _____

(repeat refrain)

Verse 2:
Am Em F

Cantor:

2. I have gazed toward you _____ to

Fm/D C

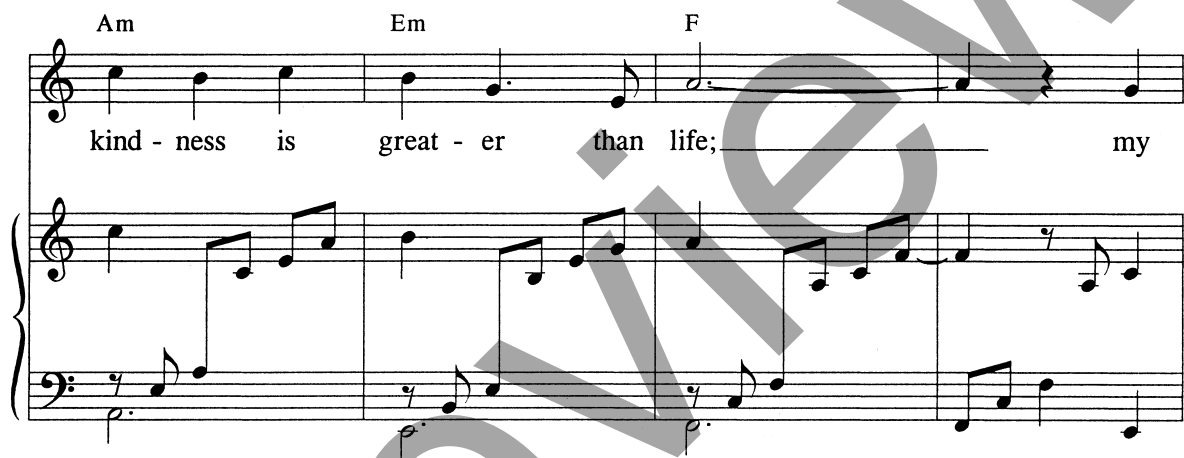
see your glo - ry and strength! Your



The first system of music features a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in grand staff. The vocal line begins with a half note 'see' followed by quarter notes 'your', 'glo - ry', and 'and', then a half note 'strength!' with a fermata. The piano accompaniment consists of eighth notes in the right hand and quarter notes in the left hand, with a piano dynamic marking.

Am Em F

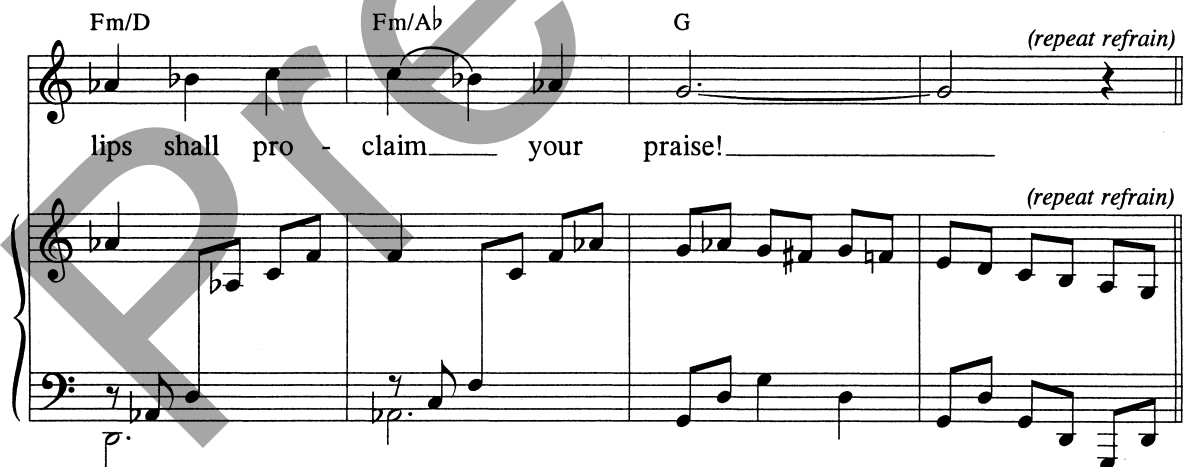
kind - ness is great - er than life; my



The second system continues the vocal line with a half note 'kind - ness', quarter notes 'is' and 'great - er', a half note 'than life;', and a half note 'my'. The piano accompaniment continues with eighth notes in the right hand and quarter notes in the left hand, maintaining the piano dynamic.

Fm/D Fm/Ab G (repeat refrain)

lips shall pro - claim your praise! (repeat refrain)



The third system concludes the vocal line with a half note 'lips', quarter notes 'shall' and 'pro - claim', a half note 'your', and a half note 'praise!' with a fermata. The piano accompaniment continues with eighth notes in the right hand and quarter notes in the left hand, ending with a piano dynamic marking.

Verse 3:

Cantor:

Am Em F C

3. Lift - ing my hands, I call on your name;

Fm/D Fm/Ab Gsus4 G

I will bless you while I live, _____ for

F Em Dm G *(repeat refrain)*

you have been my help. _____ *(repeat refrain)*

Verse 4:

Am Em F Dm
Cantor:
4. shade of your wings I re - joice; my soul clings to

G C Am
you, my God! Your right

Em F Fm/D
hand holds me fast; my lips shall ex -

Fm/Ab G

alt you with praise! _____

This system contains the first two staves of music. The vocal line is on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 7/4 time signature. The lyrics are "alt you with praise!". The piano accompaniment is on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The first measure of the piano part features a half note chord in the bass clef, corresponding to the Fm/Ab chord indicated above. The melody in the right hand starts with a quarter rest followed by eighth notes.

C G/B Am Am/G

My soul is thirst - ing for you, _____

My soul is thirst - ing for you, _____

This system contains the next two staves of music. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "My soul is thirst - ing for you,". The piano accompaniment continues with a similar rhythmic pattern. The second measure of the piano part features a half note chord in the bass clef, corresponding to the G/B chord indicated above. A large, semi-transparent watermark "PREVIEW" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Fm/D G Fm6/G C

thirst - ing for you, my God! _____

thirst - ing for you, my God! _____

This system contains the final two staves of music on the page. The vocal line concludes with the lyrics "thirst - ing for you, my God!". The piano accompaniment concludes with a half note chord in the bass clef, corresponding to the C chord indicated above. The system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

BACKGROUND / PERFORMANCE NOTES:

My Soul is Thirsting for You is based on psalm 63, one of the common psalms for Ordinary Time. It is the specific psalm of the day for 22nd Sunday, Year A; 32nd Sunday, Year A and the 12th Sunday, Year C. It is also the psalm for other celebrations in the Church year including the celebration of Christian Initiation apart from Easter Vigil, Funeral liturgies and Morning Prayer.

I find a very simple accompaniment works best - piano and flute; or piano and guitar. The musical setting of these words attempts to faithfully evoke the deep feelings of someone longing for God.