

Keyboard/Vocal

The
Living
Church
Acclaims

*Contemporary
Responsorial Psalms and
Gospel Acclamations
for the Church Year*

2026

THE LIVING CHURCH ACCLAIMS, 2026

Responsorial Psalms and Gospel Acclamations for the Church Year
for use with the Second Typical Edition of the *Lectionary for Mass*
Year C: December 1, 2024 – November 29, 2025
Musical settings by Scot Crandal

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INTRODUCTION

The Living Church Acclaims (TLCA) serves as a comprehensive, annual songbook of Responsorial Psalms and Gospel Acclamations that employs 100% verbatim texts from *The Lectionary for Mass*. It combines a contemporary style with easy, yet lasting melodies. Accompaniments have been arranged to be friendly for keyboardists and guitarists. Comfortable vocal ranges for congregations, cantors, and choirs are maintained and 3-part harmony is included with each setting. Reprintable refrains for the assembly/congregation are available online at zealmusicpublishing.com/tlca-extras. Recordings are also available at the website through the online edition.

TLCA serves equally well as a primary Responsorial Psalm and Gospel Acclamation resource or as a supplement to existing repertoire. Our hope is that these musical settings will contribute meaningfully to your valuable work.

Singing the Responses and Acclamations

Responses and Acclamations may be played once through as an introduction. Shorter introductions are possible as well: 1) Play the first or last musical phrase, or 2) Give the cantor the first note and start together.

Refrains may be sung twice at the beginning, once by cantor or choir and then by everyone. Sometimes it may feel right to sing the refrain twice at the end. Another idea is to occasionally play and sing the final refrain in a key one whole step higher.

A *molto rit.* may be used at the end of the final refrain to give the psalm a solid ending. Playing a rit. at the end of each verse, especially the final verse, also tends to work well.

The 3-part harmony is intended to be sung with sopranos and basses singing the melody, tenors singing the higher harmony part and altos singing the lower harmony. Because there are such a variety of vocal combinations, modify as needed.

Singing the Verses

Verses have been composed with particular attention paid to speech-rhythm for natural-sounding proclamation by the cantor: To help with sight-reading and short preparation time-frames, the verses do not need to be sung in rhythm—they can be chanted, with the accompanying instruments playing chords following the cantor's free-rhythm, going back into measured rhythm at the refrains. Also, when the verses are sung in rhythm, as written, the cantor doesn't need to sing the music exactly as notated—both rhythm and notes may be modified as desired to reflect a free, improvisational sensibility. If it helps, the verses may be sung at a slightly slower tempo than the refrain.

More Information

Feedback from users is a significant factor in the development of *The Living Church Acclaims*. As we prepare next year's edition, we hope to continue this practice. Please email your feedback to:

withzeal@zealmusicpublishing.com

Sincerely,
Scot Crandal, composer

www.zealmusicpublishing.com/tlca
www.ocp.org/tlca

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Recordings, OneLicense links with downloadable refrains for the congregation,
and more, available at:

zealmusicpublishing.com/tlca

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 7, 2025

Keyboard

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (4)

The Living Church Acclaims

RESPONSE Warmly, not too fast (♩ = ca. 78) 1st time: Cantor; All repeat

Melody

Tenor (8vb)

Harmony

Alto

Keyboard

Jus-tice shall flour-ish in his time, and full-ness of peace for ev-er.

C G/B Am C/G F C/E Dm/G C

VERSE 1

O God, with your judg-ment en-dow the king, and with your

F G/F C/E

jus-tice, the king's son; he shall gov-ern your peo-ple with jus-tice

F G/F

and your af - flic - ted ones with judg - ment. *D.C.*

Am F Dm7 G *D.C.*

VERSE 2

Jus - tice shall flow - er in his days, and pro - found peace, till the

F G/F C/E

moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea,

F G/F

and from the Riv - er to the ends of the earth. *D.C.*

Am F Dm7 G *D.C.*

VERSE 3

For he shall res - cue the poor _____ when he cries out, _____

_____ and the af - flic - ted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pit - y for the

low - ly and the poor; the lives of the poor _____ he shall save. _____

D.C.

G/F *Am* *Dm7* *G* *D.C.*

VERSE 4

May his name ___ be blessed for - ev - er; as long as the sun ___ his

The first system of music for Verse 4 consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. The piano accompaniment is in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The chords indicated above the piano part are F, G/F, and C/E.

name shall re - main. In him shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed; ___ all the

The second system of music for Verse 4 continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line includes a fermata over the word "main". The piano accompaniment features chords F and G/F.

na - tions shall pro - claim ___ his hap - pi - ness. *D.C.*

The third system of music for Verse 4 concludes the verse. The vocal line includes a triplet of eighth notes and a fermata over the word "ness". The piano accompaniment features chords Am, F, and G. The system ends with a *D.C.* (Da Capo) marking.

Gospel Acclamation (VII): Luke 3:4, 6

The Living Church Acclaims

ACCLAMATION *Upbeat* (♩ = ca. 74) 1st time: Cantor, All repeat

Melody

Tenor (8vb) Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

Harmony

Alto

Keyboard

A E D/F# E/G# A

Final

al - le - lu - ia.

Final

D Bm A D/F# E/G# F#

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VERSE

Pre-pare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh

F#/A# Bm E/G#

shall see the sal - va - tion of God. *D.C.*

A F#m Bm7 Esus4 E *D.C.*

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026

Keyboard

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 & 17 (219)

The Living Church Acclaims

RESPONSE *Mournful* (♩ = ca. 94) 1st time: Cantor; All repeat

Melody

Tenor (8vb) Be mer - ci - ful, O Lord, for we have

Harmony

Alto Cm Ab/C Fm/D

Keyboard

sinned. Be mer - ci - ful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

G Ab F/A G7/B Cm

VERSE 1

Have — mer - cy on me, O God, in your good - ness; in the

Cm Bb/D Eb Fm/Eb Fm/Eb Eb

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great-ness of your com-pas-sion wipe out my of-fense. Thor-ough-ly

Bb/D Ab/C G/B Cm Ab

wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me.

Eb/G Fm G7 D.C.

VERSE 2

For I ack-nowl-edge my of-fense, and my sin is be-

Cm Bb/D Eb Fm/Eb Eb Bb/D

fore me al-ways: "A-against you on-ly have I sinned,

Ab/C G/B Cm Ab Eb/G

D.C.

and done what is e - vil in your sight.”

Fm G G7 *D.C.*

VERSE 3

A clean heart cre - ate for me, O God, and a stead - fast

Cm Bb/D Eb Fm/Eb Eb Bb/D

spir - it re - new with - in me. Cast me not out from your

Ab/C G/B Cm Ab

D.C.

pres - ence, and your Ho - ly Spir - it take not from me.

Eb/G Fm G G7 *D.C.*

VERSE 4

Give me back the joy of your sal - va - tion, and a will - ing

Cm Bb/D Eb Fm/Eb Fm/Eb Eb Bb/D

spir - it sus - tain in me. O Lord, o - pen my

Ab/C G/B Cm Ab

lips, and my mouth shall pro - claim your praise. *D.C.*

Eb/G Fm G G7 *D.C.*

Gospel Acclamation (IX): See Psalm 95:8

The Living Church Acclaims

ACCLAMATION *Andante* (♩ = ca. 92) 1st time: Cantor, All repeat

Melody

Tenor (8vb) *Praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, — King of end - less glo - ry!*

Harmony

Alto

Em Cmaj7 Em Bm7

Praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, — King of end - less glo - ry!

Cmaj7 Am7 B7sus4 Esus4 E

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VERSE

The musical score for the verse consists of two staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "If to-day you hear his voice, hard - en not your hearts." The bottom staff is a keyboard accompaniment in treble and bass clefs, also in the key of D major. The accompaniment includes the following chord markings: D/F#, Gsus4, G, Am7, B7, and #8. The piece concludes with a double bar line and the instruction "D.C." (Da Capo).

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