***Psalm 68***

***Refrain:*** *Sing to God, sing praises to his name.*

1Let God arise and let his enemies be scattered; *♦*  
let those that hate him flee before him.

2As the smoke vanishes, so may they vanish away; *♦*  
as wax melts at the fire,  
so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

3But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; *♦*  
let them make merry with gladness.

4Sing to God, sing praises to his name;  
exalt him who rides on the clouds. *♦*  
The Lord is his name; rejoice before him.

5Father of the fatherless, defender of widows, *♦*  
God in his holy habitation!

6God gives the solitary a home  
and brings forth prisoners to songs of welcome, *♦*  
but the rebellious inhabit a burning desert. *R*

7O God, when you went forth before your people, *♦*  
when you marched through the wilderness,

8The earth shook and the heavens dropped down rain,  
at the presence of God, the Lord of Sinai, *♦*  
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

9You sent down a gracious rain, O God; *♦*  
you refreshed your inheritance when it was weary.

10Your people came to dwell there; *♦*  
in your goodness, O God, you provide for the poor. *R*

11The Lord gave the word;  
great was the company of women who bore the tidings: *♦*  
‘Kings and their armies they flee, they flee!’  
and women at home are dividing the spoil.

12Though you stayed among the sheepfolds, *♦*  
see now a dove’s wings covered with silver  
and its feathers with green gold.

13When the Almighty scattered the kings, *♦*  
it was like snowflakes falling on Zalmon. *R*

14You mighty mountain, great mountain of Bashan! *♦*  
You towering mountain, great mountain of Bashan!

15Why look with envy, you towering mountains,  
at the mount which God has desired for his dwelling, *♦*  
the place where the Lord will dwell for ever?

16The chariots of God are twice ten thousand,  
even thousands upon thousands; *♦*  
the Lord is among them, the Lord of Sinai in holy power.

17You have gone up on high and led captivity captive; *♦*  
you have received tribute,  
even from those who rebelled,  
that you may reign as Lord and God. *R*

18Blessed be the Lord who bears our burdens day by day, *♦*  
for God is our salvation.

19God is for us the God of our salvation; *♦*  
God is the Lord who can deliver from death.

20God will smite the head of his enemies, *♦*  
the hairy scalp of those who walk in wickedness.

21The Lord has said, ‘From the heights of Bashan, *♦*  
from the depths of the sea will I bring them back,

22‘Till you dip your foot in blood *♦*  
and the tongue of your dogs has a taste of your enemies.’ *R*

23We see your solemn processions, O God, *♦*  
your processions into the sanctuary, my God and my King.

24The singers go before, the musicians follow after, *♦*  
in the midst of maidens playing on timbrels.

25In your companies, bless your God; *♦*  
bless the Lord, you that are of the fount of Israel.

26At the head there is Benjamin, least of the tribes,  
the princes of Judah in joyful company, *♦*  
the princes of Zebulun and Naphtali. *R*

27Send forth your strength, O God; *♦*  
establish, O God, what you have wrought in us.

28For your temple’s sake in Jerusalem *♦*  
kings shall bring their gifts to you.

29Drive back with your word the wild beast of the reeds, *♦*  
the herd of the bull-like, the brutish hordes.

30Trample down those who lust after silver; *♦*  
scatter the peoples that delight in war.

31Vessels of bronze shall be brought from Egypt; *♦*  
Ethiopia will stretch out her hands to God. *R*

32Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth; *♦*  
make music in praise of the Lord;

33He rides on the ancient heaven of heavens *♦*  
and sends forth his voice, a mighty voice.

34Ascribe power to God, whose splendour is over Israel, *♦*  
whose power is above the clouds.

35How terrible is God in his holy sanctuary, *♦*  
the God of Israel, who gives power and strength to his people!  
Blessed be God.

***Refrain:*** *Sing to God, sing praises to his name.*

***All* Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**