Psalms of Desiring God

Prayers, reflections, new hymns, and scripture for public worship and personal devotions

from the series:
Fresh Views of
Timeless Truths

Ken Bible

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(NASB)

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night.

He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

The wicked are not so,
But they are like chaff which the wind drives away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
But the way of the wicked will perish.

Reflection on Psalm 1

```
O Father, how blessed and wonderful are
      Your words to us!
Through them You freely share
      Your deeds,
      Your ways,
      Your character, and
      Your heart.
As I read, meditate, and pray over them,
      You fill my mind and heart with Yourself,
      O magnificent Father!
As I turn to You and
      trust You day by day,
Your unbounded life courses through me and
      keeps me fruitful and alive in You.
Without You, I am chaff -
      dry,
      lifeless,
      worthless,
      temporary,
      quickly driven away by the winds of
             trouble and
             time.
With You and
in You
      I am nourished by Your Spirit.
      I am known and loved
             as Your child.
```

Praise to You, my Father!

TUNE: On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand (adapted)



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CCLI Song #7111424. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.

(NASB)

Give ear to my words, O Lord,

Consider my groaning.

Heed the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God,

For to You I pray.

In the morning, O Lord, You will hear my voice;

In the morning I will order my prayer to You and eagerly watch.

For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness;

No evil dwells with You.

The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes;

You hate all who do iniquity.

You destroy those who speak falsehood;

The Lord abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.

But as for me, by Your abundant lovingkindness I will enter Your house,

At Your holy temple I will bow in reverence for You.

O Lord, lead me in Your righteousness because of my foes;

Make Your way straight before me.

There is nothing reliable in what they say;

Their inward part is destruction itself.

Their throat is an open grave;

They flatter with their tongue.

Hold them guilty, O God;

By their own devices let them fall!

In the multitude of their transgressions thrust them out,

For they are rebellious against You.

But let all who take refuge in You be glad,

Let them ever sing for joy;

And may You shelter them,

That those who love Your name may exult in You.

For it is You who blesses the righteous man, O Lord,

You surround him with favor as with a shield.

Reflection on Psalm 5

Father, I awake this morning needing You, seeking You.
Hear my words, hear my heart as I turn to You first of all.

As I rise, I am on the battlefield against evil.
As I face the morning sun,
I face the darkness.

Even in this silence, the noise of sin begins.

I know that in time, You will make this world entirely like Yourself.

But today, Lord, make **me** like Yourself.

Make me loving and

joyful, trusting You and focused on You.

Make me holy, Father.

That's what I want for today:

Keep me living wholeheartedly unto You, fully and naturally, every moment.

Today, Father, keep me in You.



WORD & MUSIC: Ken Bible

MORNING HYMN 7.3.7.3.D.

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(NASB)

To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in You I trust,
Do not let me be ashamed;
Do not let my enemies exult over me.
Indeed, none of those who wait for You will be ashamed;
Those who deal treacherously without cause will be ashamed.

Make me know Your ways, O Lord;

Teach me Your paths.

Lead me in Your truth and teach me,

For You are the God of my salvation;

For You I wait all the day.

Remember, O Lord, Your compassion and Your lovingkindnesses,

For they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

According to Your lovingkindness remember me,

For Your goodness sake, O Lord.

Good and upright is the Lord;

Therefore He instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in justice,

And He teaches the humble His way.

All the paths of the Lord are lovingkindness and truth

To those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

For Your name's sake, O Lord,

Pardon my iniquity, for it is great.

Who is the man who fears the Lord?

He will instruct him in the way he should choose.

His soul will abide in prosperity,

And his descendants will inherit the land.

The secret of the Lord is for those who fear Him.

And He will make them know His covenant.

My eyes are continually toward the Lord,

For He will pluck my feet out of the net.

Turn to me and be gracious to me,

For I am lonely and afflicted.

The troubles of my heart are enlarged;

Bring me out of my distresses.

Look upon my affliction and my trouble,
And forgive all my sins.
Look upon my enemies, for they are many,
And they hate me with violent hatred.
Guard my soul and deliver me;
Do not let me be ashamed, for I take refuge in You.
Let integrity and uprightness preserve me,
For I wait for You.
Redeem Israel, O God,
Out of all his troubles.

Reflection on Psalm 25

Almighty Father, I lift my entire being up to You! I desire You! I need You!

I cannot make myself who I need to be.

Have mercy on me!

Teach me.

Lead me.

Forgive me.

Recreate me.

O wise and loving Father, give me

Your wisdom,

Your holiness,

Your strength of heart,

Your truth, and

Your unfailing love.

You are my deliverance from evil.
You are my only protection from
the vicious enemies of my soul.

You are the only source of all that I need.

You are my only hope.

O God,

my eyes are continually fixed on You!



WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Traditional Folk Song and Ken Bible
PSALM 25
C.M.

Alt. tunes: AMAZING GRACE; AZMON; ST. ANNE (without repeating last line)
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(NASB)

The Lord is my light and my salvation;

Whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the defense of my life;

Whom shall I dread?

When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh,

My adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell.

Though a host encamp against me,

My heart will not fear;

Though war arise against me,

In spite of this I shall be confident.

One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek:

That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

To behold the beauty of the Lord

And to meditate in His temple.

For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle;

In the secret place of His tent He will hide me;

He will lift me up on a rock.

And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me,

And I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;

I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice,

And be gracious to me and answer me.

When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You,

"Your face, O Lord, I shall seek."

Do not hide Your face from me,

Do not turn Your servant away in anger;

You have been my help;

Do not abandon me nor forsake me,

O God of my salvation!

For my father and my mother have forsaken me,

But the Lord will take me up.

Teach me Your way, O Lord,

And lead me in a level path because of my foes.

Do not deliver me over to the desire of my adversaries,

For false witnesses have risen against me,

And such as breathe out violence.

I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord

In the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord;
Be strong and let your heart take courage;
Yes, wait for the Lord.

Reflection on Psalm 27

```
Eternal God, perfect in
      power,
      wisdom, and
      love,
You are
      my light,
      my salvation,
      my defense.
I seek You.
I hide in You.
I praise You.
I pray to You.
You never, ever abandon me.
When the closest human relationships prove inadequate,
      You come even closer.
So, God of wisdom and love,
      teach me Your ways.
Lead me on the right path.
No matter what threats surround me,
Your unfailing goodness is
      my confidence,
      my anchor,
      my joy.
I am strong in You.
I am courageous in You.
I wait and hope in You!
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CCLI Song #7113231. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.

(NASB)

My soul waits in silence for God only; From Him is my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be greatly shaken.

How long will you assail a man,
That you may murder him, all of you,
Like a leaning wall, like a tottering fence?
They have counseled only to thrust him down from his high position;
They delight in falsehood;
They bless with their mouth,
But inwardly they curse.

My soul, wait in silence for God only,
For my hope is from Him.
He only is my rock and my salvation,
My stronghold; I shall not be shaken.
On God my salvation and my glory rest;
The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God.
Trust in Him at all times, O people;
Pour out your heart before Him;
God is a refuge for us.

Men of low degree are only vanity and men of rank are a lie; In the balances they go up;
They are together lighter than breath.
Do not trust in oppression
And do not vainly hope in robbery;
If riches increase, do not set your heart upon them.

Once God has spoken; Twice I have heard this: That power belongs to God; And lovingkindness is Yours, O Lord, For You recompense a man according to his work.

In the Silence

Psalm 62

```
Father, I live in the endless, all-enveloping noise of
       my plans and my desires,
       my success and my failures,
       my health and my comfort,
       my time and my obligations,
       my money and my possessions,
       my ambitions and my problems,
       my job,
       my relationships, and
       my satisfaction.
All these desperately, perpetually cry for attention,
shouting their
       empty threats and
       empty promises.
All are too small and too shallow to
       harm or
       fulfill
my life in You.
Father, I turn from them and
turn to You,
       the All-encompassing One,
       the All-sufficient,
      the All-in-all.
In the quietness, I find You to be
       all joy,
       all hope,
       all truth,
       all goodness, and
       all peace -
       all I could ever want or need.
So in this endless, all-enveloping silence
      I wait and hope,
      I move and rest
in You.
```



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MUSIC: Ken Bible, inspired by a Traditional Folk Tune

8.6.8.6.6.5.8.6.

(NASB)

O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and weary land where there is no water. Thus I have seen You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips will praise You. So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth offers praises with joyful lips.

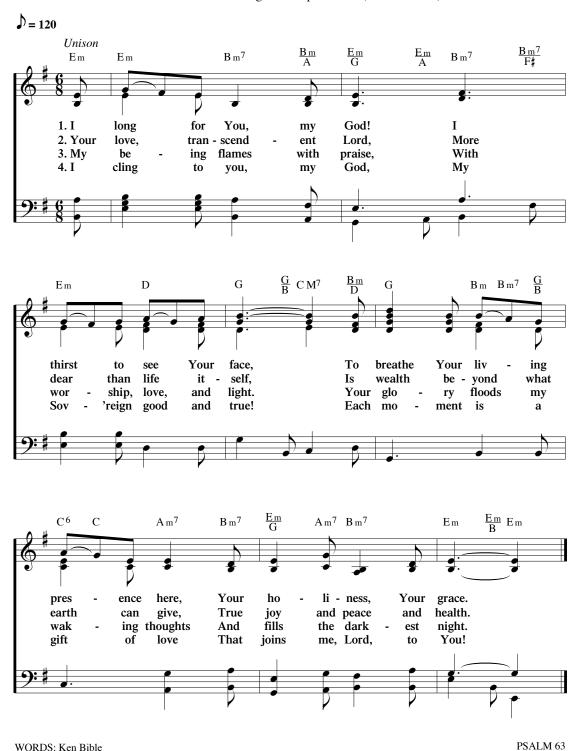
When I remember You on my bed,
I meditate on You in the night watches,
For You have been my help,
And in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy.
My soul clings to You;
Your right hand upholds me.

But those who seek my life to destroy it,
Will go into the depths of the earth.
They will be delivered over to the power of the sword;
They will be prey for foxes.
But the king will rejoice in God;
Everyone who swears by Him will glory,
For the mouths of those who speak lies will be stopped.

I Hunger for You

```
My God,
      my Creator,
      my Father,
You are all I hunger for.
In a world full of
      broken cisterns and
      empty promises,
You are the spring of living water.
You are rich, eternal food for all I am, for
      heart and
      mind and
      spirit.
You are
      holiness,
      rightness,
      life,
      joy, and
      constant, complete sufficiency.
You are surely, eternally making me
      more than I ever dreamed I could be.
O God,
my God,
      I long for You!
```

ALT. TUNE: "A Charge to Keep I Have" (BOYLSTON)



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WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: Ken Bible, inspired by a traditional folk tune

CCLI Song #7104294. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.

S.M.

(NASB)

In You, O Lord, I have taken refuge;

Let me never be ashamed.

In Your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;

Incline Your ear to me and save me.

Be to me a rock of habitation to which I may continually come;

You have given commandment to save me,

For You are my rock and my fortress.

Rescue me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked,

Out of the grasp of the wrongdoer and ruthless man,

For You are my hope;

O Lord God, You are my confidence from my youth.

By You I have been sustained from my birth;

You are He who took me from my mother's womb;

My praise is continually of You.

I have become a marvel to many,

For You are my strong refuge.

My mouth is filled with Your praise

And with Your glory all day long.

Do not cast me off in the time of old age;

Do not forsake me when my strength fails.

For my enemies have spoken against me;

And those who watch for my life have consulted together,

Saying, "God has forsaken him;

Pursue and seize him, for there is no one to deliver."

O God, do not be far from me;

O my God, hasten to my help!

Let those who are adversaries of my soul be ashamed and consumed;

Let them be covered with reproach and dishonor, who seek to injure me.

But as for me, I will hope continually,

And will praise You yet more and more.

My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness

And of Your salvation all day long;

For I do not know the sum of them.

I will come with the mighty deeds of the Lord God:

I will make mention of Your righteousness, Yours alone.

O God, You have taught me from my youth,

And I still declare Your wondrous deeds.

And even when I am old and gray, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to all who are to come.
For Your righteousness, O God, reaches to the heavens, You who have done great things;
O God, who is like You?
You who have shown me many troubles and distresses Will revive me again,
And will bring me up again from the depths of the earth.
May You increase my greatness
And turn to comfort me.

I will also praise You with a harp,
Even Your truth, O my God;
To You I will sing praises with the lyre,
O Holy One of Israel.
My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to You;
And my soul, which You have redeemed.
My tongue also will utter Your righteousness all day long;
For they are ashamed, for they are humiliated who seek my hurt.

Reflection on Psalm 71

Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were born

Or You gave birth to the earth and the world,

Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. (Psalm 90:1-2, NASB)

Sovereign God, You are
without beginning and
without end,
from everlasting to everlasting.
Unchanging fullness,
unchanging perfection,
You will always be who You have always been:
pure love forever overflowing,
forever right and good and faithful,
at peace in Your perfect well-being.

My brief life is

framed in You and

immersed in You.

You knit me together in my mother's womb.

You were there to deliver me at my birth.

You have been with me

every day, every step,

through every need and

every moment of my life.

And now that I am aging,

now that I sense

weakness and

physical decay

dogging my steps,

I am still immersed in You.

You still cradle me in Your arms,

vulnerable and helpless as I am.

And You are still

pure love,

pure joy, and

perfect peace.

Sickness or health,

```
now and every moment,
You are still

my sure and certain hope,
my deep, unfailing joy,
my life,
my strength,
my Father, and
my everlasting God.
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Psalm 71; 2 Corinthians 4:16-17

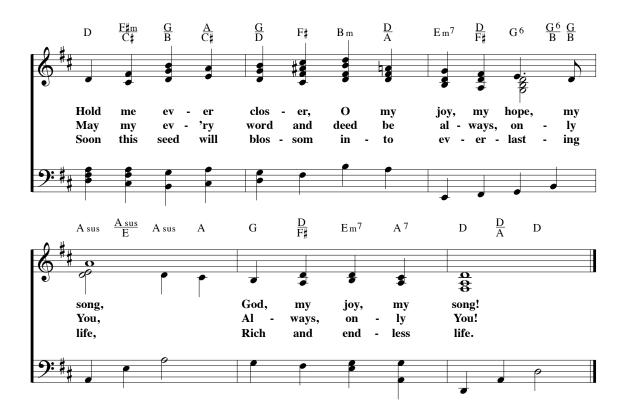


WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

LOVE IN EPHESIANS 5.6.13.5.6.13.5.

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(NASB)

How lovely are Your dwelling places,

O Lord of hosts!

My soul longed and even yearned for the courts of the Lord;

My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

The bird also has found a house.

And the swallow a nest for herself, where she my lay her young,

Even Your altars, O Lord of hosts,

My King and my God.

How blessed are those who dwell in Your house!

They are ever praising You.

How blessed is the man whose strength is in You,

In whose heart are the highways to Zion!

Passing through the valley of Baca they make it a spring;

The early rain also covers it with blessings.

They go from strength to strength,

Every one of them appears before God in Zion.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;

Give ear, O God of Jacob!

Behold our shield, O God,

And look upon the face of Your anointed.

For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand outside.

I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God

Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

For the Lord God is a sun and shield;

The Lord gives grace and glory;

No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

O Lord of hosts.

How blessed is the man who trusts in You!

The Joy of Your Presence

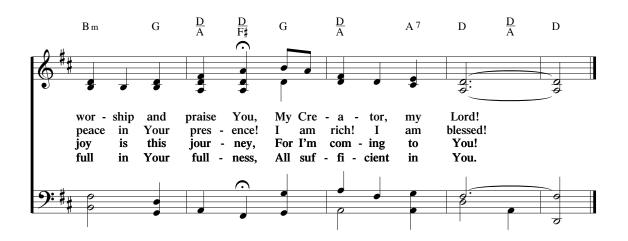
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O Father, how I love being in Your presence!
When I realize that I am with You,
all I am sings for joy,
      body,
      mind, and
      spirit.
You are infinitely above me
      in excellence.
      in power, and
      in holiness.
Yet when I am with You, I sense that
      this is where I belong.
I know a freedom,
      a rightness,
      a rest in You.
This life is not easy, Father.
The needs never end.
There is weariness.
      darkness, and
      deep sorrow.
But when I realize that all of life is a journey to You,
      everything changes!
Weariness turns to praise.
Darkness shines with Your unfailing goodness.
Sorrow is matched with an inexpressible joy.
Your presence lights my pathway every day.
But what is more.
      You Yourself are the heaven toward which I travel.
O Father, absorb my
      every thought and
      every desire.
You are my joy,
      now and forever!
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WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible LORD RANDAL 2 7.6.7.6.6.6.7.6.

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CCLI Song #7083787. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.



(NASB)

Praise the Lord!
How blessed is the man who fears the Lord,
Who greatly delights in His commandments.
His descendants will be mighty on earth;
The generation of the upright will be blessed.
Wealth and riches are in his house,
And his righteousness endures forever.
Light arises in the darkness for the upright;
He is gracious and compassionate and righteous.
It is well with the man who is gracious and lends;
He will maintain his cause in judgment.
For he will never be shaken;
The righteous will be remembered forever.

He will not fear evil tidings;
His heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord,
His heart is upheld, he will not fear,
Until he looks with satisfaction on his adversaries.
He has given freely to the poor,
His righteousness endures forever;
His horn will be exalted in honor.

The wicked will see it and be vexed, He will gnash his teeth and melt away; The desire of the wicked will perish.

Reflection on Psalm 112

O Father, I bow to You.

I worship You,

I love You, and

I fear You.

I know that You are

all You say You are,

so I trust You and

obey You

in reverence and

deep humility.

As I do, what blessings You pour out on me every day:

the wealth of Your magnificent presence;

Your rich provision for all my physical and spiritual needs;

Your light for my darkness;

Your wisdom for my ignorance.

You lavish on me and

nurture within me

Your rightness,

Your holiness,

Your peace,

Your love for other people.

Because I fear You,

I need fear nothing and no one else.

My heart is steadfast,

trusting in You.

ALT. TUNE: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (OLD 100TH)

See also the hymn "Psalm 111," written as an optional prequel to this hymn, sung to the same tune.



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WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: Ken Bible, inspired by The Sacred Harp, 1844

EALES

L.M.

Psalm 42:1-2

(NASB)

As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?

Psalm 123:1-3a

(NIV)

I lift up my eyes to you, to you who sit enthroned in heaven.
As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a female slave look to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till he shows us his mercy.
Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us.

Psalm 131:1-2

(NASB)

O Lord, my heart is not proud, nor my eyes haughty; Nor do I involve myself in great matters, Or in things too difficult for me. Surely I have composed and quieted my soul; Like a weaned child rests against his mother, My soul is like a weaned child within me.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd,
I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside quiet waters.
He restores my soul;
He guides me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

You have anointed my head with oil;

My cup overflows.

Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Rest

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28, NIV)

Father, I've turned everywhere else.
I've sought relaxation instead of rest.
I've substituted comfort for peace.
The shell of security I've tried to build only weighs me down with anxiety.

I hear Your words of love:

In quietness and trust is your strength. (Isaiah 30:15, NIV)

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Matthew 11:29, NIV)

O God of fervent love, passionately jealous for my best good, I turn to You now.

What if I could truly know You not just know *about* You, but know *You*?

What if by simple trust I could realize Your personal presence with me, moment by moment?

If in that presence I could know

Your gentleness, Your power, Your faithfulness, Your love?

If trust could become a personal relationship between us, not an abstract concept?

What if I could simply know You, and know You always with me?

Would Your rest then reign in me?
Would it fill
my mind,
my emotions, and
the desires of my heart?

Would it put me at peace with the past, at peace with the present, and eagerly anticipating a glorious future in You?

Would it reconcile me to myself, to each person in my life, and to You?

Could I go to bed in it, get up in it, work, have fun, and face adversity in it without getting it wrinkled?

Would I then share Your deep peace—
that wholeness and harmony
You enjoy within Yourself,
that is found in You alone?

Come to me...and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28, NIV)

Father, I want to know You.

I want to rest in Your presence.

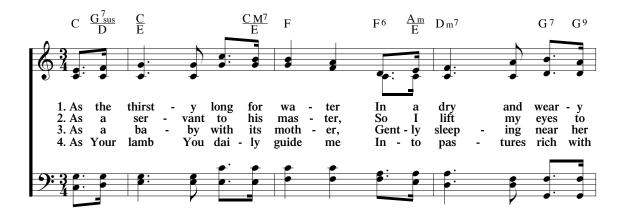
I come to You now.

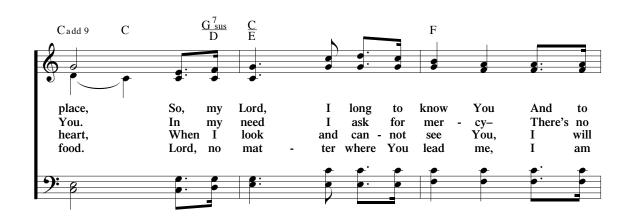
Hymn recording: Psalm of Trust

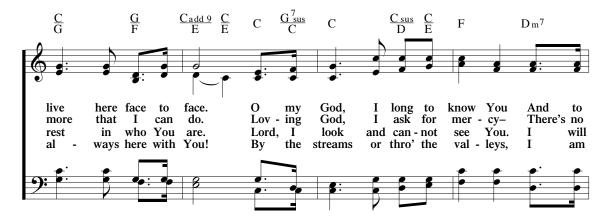
Psalm of Trust

Psalm 42; 123; 131; 23









WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

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