***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.**