

# Psalms in Season

*Music for the psalms in Catholic life*



**Advent**

**Year B**

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**First Sunday in Advent  
Year B**

Bring us back, O God;  
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.

*Lectionary No. 2*

Psalm 80(79):2ac,3b, 15-16. 18-19. R. 4

Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.

Omit for verse 1 | Verse 2 only

1/. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth.  
Rouse up your might and come to save us.

2/. God of hosts, turn again, we implore;  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the stock your right hand has planted,  
the son you have claimed for yourself.

3/. May your hand be on the man at your right hand,  
the son of man you have confirmed as your own.  
And we shall never forsake you again;  
give us life that we may call upon your name.

**Second Sunday in Advent  
Year B**

Show us, O LORD, your mercy,  
and grant us your salvation.

*Lectionary No. 5*

Psalm 85(84):9ab,10. 11-12. 13-14. R. 8

Show us, O LORD, your mer - cy, and grant us your sal - va - tion...

1/. I will hear what the LORD God speaks;  
he speaks of peace for his people and his faithful.  
His salvation is near for those who fear him,  
and his glory will dwell in our land.

2/. Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have kissed.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth,  
and justice look down from heaven.

3/. The LORD will bestow his bounty,  
and our earth shall yield its increase.  
Righteousness will march before him,  
and guide his steps on the way.

**Third Sunday in Advent**  
**Year B**

My soul shall exult in my God.

*Lectionary No. 8*

Luke 1:46-48. 49-50. 53-54. R. Isaiah 61:10b

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of two systems of music. The first system features a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The vocal line begins with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a quarter note B-flat4, and a quarter note C5. A slur covers the next two measures: a half note D5 and a half note E5. The vocal line concludes with a quarter note F5, a quarter note G5, and a quarter note A5. The piano accompaniment provides a harmonic foundation with chords and moving lines in both hands. The second system continues the piano accompaniment with more complex chordal textures and rhythmic patterns.

1/. My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
 and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
 for he has looked upon his handmaid  
in her lowliness;  
 for behold, from this day forward, all generations  
 will call me blessed.

2/. For the Almighty has done great things for me,  
 and holy is his name.  
 His mercy is from age to age  
 for those who fear him.

3/. He has filled the hungry with good things,  
 and has sent the rich away empty.  
 He has helped his servant Israel,  
 mindful of his mercy.

**Fourth Sunday in Advent**  
**Year B**

I will sing for ever of your mercies, O LORD

*Lectionary No. 11*

Psalm 89(88):2-3. 4-5. 27, 29. R. 2a

I will sing for ev - er of your mer-cies, O LORD.

- 1/. I will sing for ever of your mercies, O LORD;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your fidelity.  
I have declared your mercy is established for ever;  
your fidelity stands firm as the heavens.
  
- 2/. ‘With my chosen one I have made a covenant;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your descendants for ever,  
and set up your throne through all ages.’
  
- 3/. ‘He will call out to me: “You are my father,  
my God, the rock of my salvation”.  
I will keep my faithful love for him always;  
with him my covenant shall last.’