

melody

Ab Fm Eb

treble

bass

3 3

Praise the Lord Praise God in his sanctuar-y praise him in his mighty heavens

Db Eb Eb/G Ab

praise him for his acts of power praise him for his surpassing great- ness

Ab

praise him with the trumpet

Ab/C

praise him with the harp and lyre

Db

praise him with tamborine

Db/Eb

praise him with dancing

This system contains a vocal line and two piano accompaniment staves. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The vocal line begins with a whole note chord of Db/Eb, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note Bb4. The piano accompaniment staves are empty.

Fm

praise him with- the strings

This system contains a vocal line and two piano accompaniment staves. The key signature is three flats. The vocal line begins with a whole note chord of Fm, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note Bb4. The piano accompaniment staves are empty.

Cm

praise him with the flute-

This system contains a vocal line and two piano accompaniment staves. The key signature is three flats. The vocal line begins with a whole note chord of Cm, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note Bb4. The piano accompaniment staves are empty.

Db

praise him with the cymbals

This system contains a vocal line and two piano accompaniment staves. The key signature is three flats. The vocal line begins with a whole note chord of Db, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note Bb4. The piano accompaniment staves are empty.

Db/Eb

praise him with resounding cymbals

This system contains a vocal line and two piano accompaniment staves. The key signature is three flats. The vocal line begins with a whole note chord of Db/Eb, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note Bb4. The piano accompaniment staves are empty.

Ab Ab/C Db Db/Eb Eb Ab

let every- thing that has breath praise the Lord

praise the Lord

Psalm 150

Praise the LORD.

Praise God in his sanctuary;

Praise him in his mighty heavens.

Praise him for his acts of power;

Praise him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,

Praise him with the harp and lyre,

Praise him with tambourine and dancing,

Praise him with the strings and flute,

Praise him with the clash of cymbals,

Praise him with resounding cymbals.

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD.

School of Grace

How do you praise God?

How do you treat someone who praises God differently?

While there have certainly been theological clashes that have caused great divisions between Christians, I've also seen even more battles fought over trivial things. Given that I'm a musician, music has been one area that I've focused on more than other arts.

I was a teenager. My friend was playing a special item in Church. Gounod's Ave Maria. She was studying flute, doing the AMEB classical grades, and I assume the piece was part of her studies. She played it beautifully and everyone seemed to enjoy it, and appreciated her effort. All except one. After the service finished an elderly lady came to her and told her she should never have played that song, that it was the "devil's music" and continued this tirade for 5 minutes. Before we jump to conclusions, this lady had lived in Europe and had had bad experiences with the Catholic Church at the time. When I saw my friend later that afternoon, she was in tears. All over a piece of music. I was at a different church [but same denomination] over a decade later where they played the same piece, in fact sung with a cello accompaniment, and as far as I know there was no such incident.

It seems that we spend more time worrying about how we should worship rather than actually doing it. At the end of the day, how different is it to worship with the Lutheran liturgy than with Catholic liturgy? A charismatic Pentecostal church from a conservative Adventist church?

I think it stems from the mistaken belief that we can control and change people. We want others to do what we want them to do. When they don't we expel them, excommunicate them, and pride ourselves on keeping our church 'holy'.

Each of us looks to different individuals and groups. If we like them, we embrace them. If not, we react against them. We can't accept the fact that there will be infinite possibilities for every single detail, for every action because we want to be 'right'. The trouble comes when we take a position on one of these and start making it a certainty. Eventually we find that it was false. It then throws our whole systems into chaos and causes people to stop trusting. In fact, after centuries of different groups doing it, including the Christian Church, trust in institutions is at an all time low. What we said were facts turned out to be false. What we said you needed turned out to be false mirages which we didn't need.

So we praise 'God', hoping he will give us the power. Give us the facts. Give us the details. Giving us the right to judge others.

But He never does that.

Because he needs to forgive us for everything we have done and will do.
We don't know all that much really, especially against the reality of a God who does.
We want to be in the centre of attention, being the one people go through to see God.

It is only when we stop and step back that we finally see what God does.

He doesn't endorse our ideas, our plans.

He comes to save us, to forgive us, to offer unconditional grace, freely offering mercy.

And so we cannot judge others by our incomplete lists.

Praise him.....