

Choral Readings from the Psalms (1)

Psalm 8

CHARACTERS: 2 readers & ALL

READER 1: LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

ALL: You have set your glory in the heavens.

READER 1: When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,

ALL: The moon and the stars, which you have set in place

READER 1: What is mankind that you are mindful of them?

ALL: Human beings that you care for us?

READER 2: You have made us a little lower than the angels

ALL: Crowned us with glory and honor.

READER 2: You made us rulers over the works of your hands;

ALL: You put everything under our feet:

READER 1: LORD, our Lord,

ALL: How majestic is your name in all the earth!

Psalm 133

CAST: A, B, Group A, Group B, ALL

A: My heart is not proud, LORD

GROUP A: my eyes are not haughty

B: I do not concern myself with great matters

GROUP B: or things too wonderful for me.

A: I have calmed and quieted myself

GROUP A: I am like a weaned child with its mother

ALL: like a weaned child I am content.

B: Israel, put your hope in the LORD

ALL: both now and forevermore.

Psalm 19 & 33

CHARACTERS: 2 readers & ALL

READER 1: The heavens declare the glory of God;

ALL: The skies proclaim the work of his hands.

READER 1: Day after day they pour forth speech;

READER 2: Night after night they reveal knowledge.

READER 1: They have no speech, they use no words;

ALL: No sound is heard from them.

READER 1: Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,

ALL: Their words to the ends of the world.

READER 2: In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.

READER 1: It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,

ALL: Like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

READER 1: It rises at one end of the heavens

READER 2: And makes its circuit to the other;

ALL: Nothing is deprived of its warmth.

READER 2: By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,

ALL: The starry host by the breath of his mouth.

Psalm 93

CAST: A, B, Group A, Group B, ALL

A: The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty

ALL: the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength

B: indeed, the world is established, firm and secure.

GROUP A: Your throne was established long ago

ALL: you are from all eternity.

B: The seas have lifted up, LORD

ALL: the seas have lifted up their voice

GROUP B: the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.

A: Mightier than the thunder of the great waters,

GROUP A: mightier than the breakers of the sea

ALL: the LORD on high is mighty.

B: Your statutes, LORD, stand firm

GROUP B: holiness adorns your house

ALL: for endless days.

Psalm 104:1-14

CAST: A, B, Group A, Group B, ALL

A: Praise the LORD, my soul.

B: LORD my God, you are very great

GROUP B: you are clothed with splendor and majesty.

A: The LORD wraps himself in light as with a garment

GROUP A: He stretches out the heavens like a tent

ALL: and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters.

B: He makes the clouds his chariot

GROUP B: and rides on the wings of the wind.

A: He makes winds his messengers

GROUP B: flames of fire his servants.

B: He set the earth on its foundations

ALL: it can never be moved.

GROUP B: You covered it with the watery depths as with a garment

ALL: the waters stood above the mountains.

A: But at your rebuke the waters fled

GROUP A: at the sound of your thunder they took to flight

ALL: they flowed over the mountains

A: they went down into the valleys

GROUP A: to the place you assigned for them.

B: You set a boundary they cannot cross

ALL: never again will they cover the earth.

A: God makes springs pour water into the ravines

ALL: it flows between the mountains.

B: They give water to all the beasts of the field

GROUP B: the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

B: The birds of the sky nest by the waters

ALL: they sing among the branches.

B: God waters the mountains from his upper chambers

GROUP B: the land is satisfied by the fruit of his work.

A: God makes grass grow for the cattle

GROUP A: and plants for people to cultivate

ALL: bringing forth food from the earth.