



**I LOVE YOU GOD, MY STRENGTH**  
Responsorial Song from Psalm 18 for Sunday 30A  
for Psalmist (Cantor), Assembly & Descant  
with Keyboard, Flute & Guitar

**TONY BARR**

*I love, you, God, my strength,  
You raise me up, set me free.*

I love you, O God, the source of strength,  
our constant help and defender.  
Our rock are you, and our stronghold,  
the source of joy and freedom.

I love you, O God, delight of souls,  
our shield, our refuge and safety.  
I sing the name of the Holy One,  
preserve us from all evil.

I love you, O God, the Living One,  
you call us out from oppression.  
You bless the nation and make us prosper,  
show your grace and favor.

I understand this psalm, associated with the re-Dedication of the Temple, as essentially a love song for God who will turn night into dawn, tears into joy, Exile into a great Victory. The psalm was sung at the purification of the Temple after its desecration in BC 168, as recorded in 1 Macc. 4:52 and 2 Macc. 10:1-8. Israel, especially after return from the Babylonian Exile in BC 538, took a long time to emerge from despondancy and rebuild their Temple. They connected with it in a much more deeply spiritual manner. When it was defiled by the Hellenistic King Antiochus IV Entiphanes who had occupied Jerusalem, the people revolted and overthrew him. Bilical commentaries also link this psalm with Is. 38 and Ps. 6.

The first person 'I' is obviously a personification of the entire assembly. I extended the refrain provided in the Lectionary to complete it, as found in verse 1 of the text. There is an unusually lengthy introduction, which weaves the trapestry of the gentle emotional and lyrical nature of the piece. The melody flows in the pattern of a measured alpha-rhythmic sine wave, to induce tranquility, and the energy flow connects each verse to the refrain in a continuum of delight. And so I wax eloquently!  
*- Tony Barr*

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**JM 667**

# I Love You, God My Strength

Responsorial Song from Psalm 18 for Sunday 30

INTRO ♩ = ca. 140

Music & text from Ps. 18 Tony Barr

Musical notation for the Intro section, featuring piano accompaniment in 3/4 time. The chords are Am, Dm, Gm, and C.

First time: Psalmist (Cantor) *at the ambo*

Musical notation for the vocal line and piano accompaniment, including lyrics: "I love, you, God, my strength, you raise me set me free." The piano accompaniment includes chords F, Gm, Am, C, Gm, C, B/C, and C.

**REFRAIN**

*Flute on selected Refrains*

*Descant on selected Refrains*

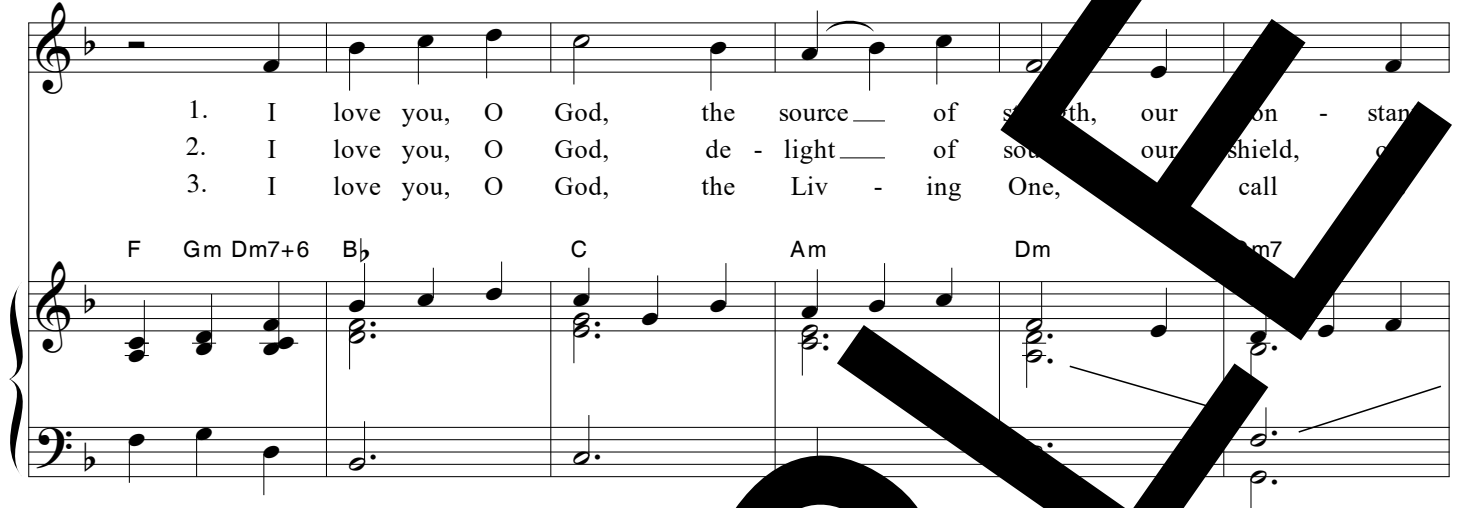
love, — you, God, — my strength, — I love, — you,  
All  
I love, — you, God, — strength, — you  
F B $\flat$  F C

raised — set me free.  
raised — me set me free.  
Gm7 C B $\flat$ /C C

VERSES Psalmist (Cantor) *at the ambo*

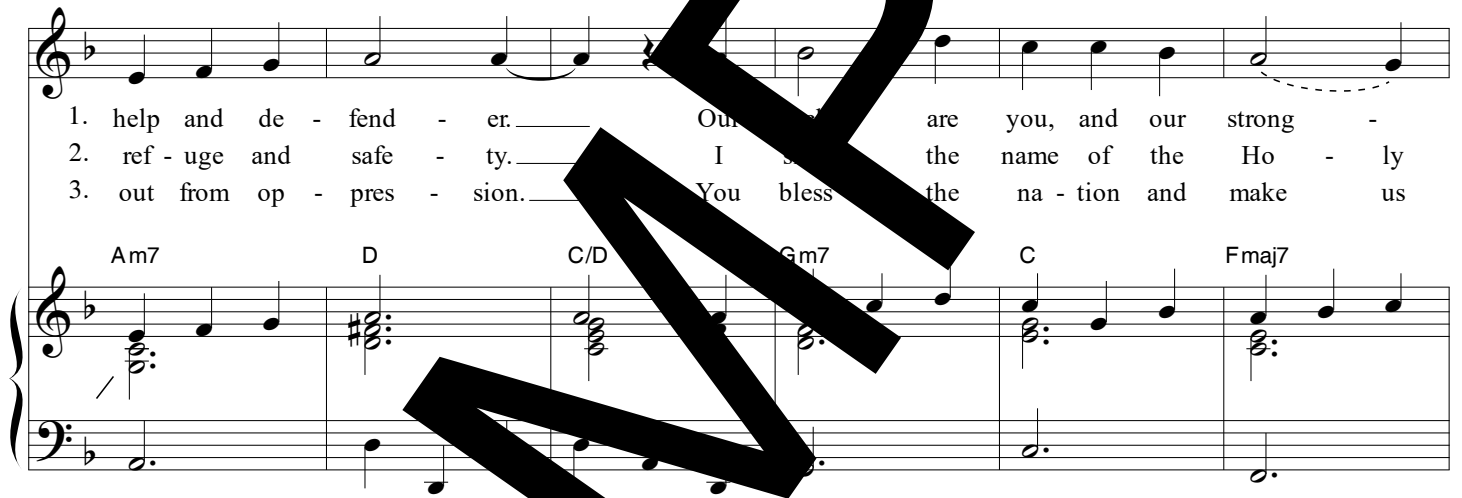
1. I love you, O God, the source of strength, our on - stan  
2. I love you, O God, de - light of soul, our shield,  
3. I love you, O God, the Liv - ing One, call

F Gm Dm7+6 Bb C Am Dm Dm7



1. help and de - fend - er. Our are you, and our strong -  
2. ref - uge and safe - ty. I the name of the Ho - ly  
3. out from op - pres - sion. You bless the na - tion and make us

Am7 D C/D Gm7 C Fmaj7



REFRAIN *D.S.*  
All + Descant

1. hold, the source of joy and free - dom.  
2. One, pre - serve us from all ev - il. I  
3. pros - per, show grace and fa - vor.

Gm/Bb C D C Bb C



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REFRAIN ♩ = ca. 140

Music & text from Ps. 18 Tony Barr

Descant on selected Refrains

I love, \_\_\_\_\_ you, God, \_\_\_\_\_ my strength, I love, \_\_\_\_\_ you,  
 All  
 I love, \_\_\_\_\_ you, G\_\_\_\_\_ strength, \_\_\_\_\_ you  
 raised \_\_\_\_\_ me up, set me  
 raised \_\_\_\_\_ me up, set

VERSES Psalmist (Cantor) *at the ambo*

1. I love you, O \_\_\_\_\_ the source \_\_\_\_\_ of strength, our con - stant  
 2. I love you, O God de - light \_\_\_\_\_ of souls, our shield, our  
 3. I \_\_\_\_\_ you, O God, \_\_\_\_\_ Liv - ing One, you call us  
 1. help and de - fence \_\_\_\_\_ er. Our rock are you, and our strong -  
 2. refuge and safe - ty. I sing the name of the Ho - ly  
 3. \_\_\_\_\_ op - pres \_\_\_\_\_ sion. You bless the na - tion and make us

REFRAIN D.S.  
All + Descant

1. \_\_\_\_\_ the source of joy \_\_\_\_\_ and free - dom. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. One, pre - serve us from \_\_\_\_\_ all ev - il. \_\_\_\_\_ I  
 3. pros - \_\_\_\_\_ your grace \_\_\_\_\_ and fa - vor. \_\_\_\_\_