

# MY SONG\*

The psalmists call God Himself their Song. His greatness and salvation move His people to sing of Him.

SCRIPTURE†	MUSIC‡
<b>Exodus 14</b> <b>Exodus 15</b> Exodus 15:1-4 (2) Psalm 28:7 <b>Psalm 40</b> Psalm 40:1-3 (3) <b>Psalm 95</b> Psalm 95:1-6 <b>Psalm 149</b> <b>Psalm 150</b> <b>Isaiah 12 (2)</b>	All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name Come, Christians, Join to Sing Come, Thou Almighty King <b>How Can I Keep from Singing? (Courtney) SATB</b> I Love You, Lord I Will Sing of the Mercies In Christ Alone In My Life, Lord <b>O Come, Let Us Sing (Berry) SATB</b> O for a Thousand Tongues Rejoice, the Lord Is King Since I Have Been Redeemed Sing Praise to God When Morning Guilds the Skies Worthy of Worship



\* This term for God appears in more parts of Scripture than just the Psalms. The theme is intended to expand and include the commands to use vocal music in worship; God Himself is the theme of our songs. Theme still fits well in the **Psalms** series, in any order.

† Daily preparatory readings shown in **bold**.

‡ Published choral and vocal music shown in **bold**.

# PRESENTING & PROMOTING THIS THEME

## RED SEA

*Prepare a dramatic reading to look at Moses' song of praise in the historical context of the deliverance at the Red Sea. The Israelites must have believed that they were facing certain death when they were trapped at the Red Sea. Then God provided them with a miraculous but fearful escape, leading them through the sea itself when they never would have gone in otherwise. Finally, their enemies were completely destroyed, an event that was beyond their wildest imaginations. Their response to this incredible sequence of deliverance was a song. Many times only a song is sufficient to express the deepest gratitude and praise, and this song can only be rightfully directed toward God. Throughout the Bible, salvation is likened to the deliverance of the Exodus. If we have accepted God's gift of salvation, we have experienced the same type of deliverance that the Israelites did.*

“Mama, I see something – something in the wilderness behind us.”

“What is it, child?”

It was the unthinkable. Pharaoh had broken his promise to set the Israelites free, and now his army was advancing on God's people. With the expanse of the Red Sea before them and Pharaoh's horses and chariots hemming them in from behind, they were trapped, like animals caught in the snare of a skillful hunter. Had they escaped the bondage of slavery in Egypt only to die like this? But God was at work.

“Come, child. We are to go. Moses says to move forward.”

“Into the sea, Mama?”

“Yes, child, into the sea.”

It was their only choice. Never would they have gone in otherwise, but God miraculously divided the sea and opened a path of deliverance for the people He loved. They walked, not through shallow water or even on the muddy bottom, but on a dry path through the very heart of the Red Sea. They passed through in the darkness of night, the water towering on either side of them in two enormous walls. But still, God's work was not finished.

“They're coming, Mama! The Egyptians are coming after us into the water.”

“Yes, they won't give us up easily. Go quickly now, child.”

It was beyond their wildest imaginations. Enraged that the Israelites were escaping, Pharaoh's army pursued them into the Red Sea with their horses and chariots. But as morning dawned, God confused the Egyptians, broke their chariots' wheels, and brought the waters of the sea

crashing back on them, utterly destroying His people's enemies. God's incredible deliverance at the Red Sea was complete.

"Mama, I hear music."

"Sing, child! Sing to the LORD!"

It was the only sufficient response – a song. Moses and Miriam lifted their voices to Jehovah, and the people joined them, expressing their deep gratitude and praise: "I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea! The LORD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; my father's God, and I will exalt Him."

Throughout the Bible, salvation is repeatedly likened to the miraculous deliverance of the Exodus. If we have accepted God's gift of salvation, we have experienced the same type of amazing rescue that the Israelites did at the Red Sea. God works on our behalf. He will not forsake us to the traps of the enemy. He provides us with the only way of escape through His own Son, Jesus Christ. His deliverance culminates in the ultimate display of His power – a shameful cross and an empty tomb. No wonder the hymn writer exclaimed, "Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God!" Our natural response to the wonder of salvation echoes the Israelites in a joyful song. (Amy Tilson)

## WHAT WE SING ABOUT

**Promotional Post:** What song are you humming today? Why that song? And what mood has got you singing? We sing about the things that are meaningful to us; and we sing when our souls are feeling something deeply. This is precisely why God has ordained singing as one of the primary expressions of our worship.

In the Psalms and elsewhere in Scripture, God Himself is called our “Song.” Join us Sunday to sing of God in worship. These passages can help you prepare to worship: [Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]

**Exodus 15:2** | *What do we sing about? We sing about the things that are meaningful, that we delight in, even sad things that are important. The Psalmist calls God his song. He is what we take joy in, and He is the emotional focus of our worship. Our song isn't the church, the Christian life, or coming to church on Sunday; it is the Person. This is one of the reasons we don't call attention to people specifically after prepared (“special”) music. One of our pianists, Joanna Shumate, was going to be away for the summer on a ministry team. So Caleb asked Pastor Schaal about mentioning this as a “thank you” during the service, just before she played a piano solo. Pastor Schaal said “No.” The reason was that we want the music to be about offering worship to God, and not to call attention to the person. He is the reason we sing. He is our song.*



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