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# GLOBAL

songs for worship



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songs for worship

CALVIN INSTITUTE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP  
*for the study and renewal of worship*

Grand Rapids, Michigan



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# Contents

*Preface* . . . . . page 4

Gathering and Celebration . . . . . 1-16

Confession and Grace . . . . . 17-23

Proclaiming the Word . . . . . 24-30

Faith and Prayer . . . . . 31-47

Baptism and the Lord's Supper . . . . . 48-54

Service and Sending . . . . . 55-57

## *Indexes*

Copyright Holders . . . . . page 89

Authors, Composers, and Sources . . . . . page 91

Scripture . . . . . page 92

Languages . . . . . page 93

Regions and Countries Represented . . . . . page 94

First Lines, Common Titles, and Original Language Titles. . . . . page 95

# Preface

It is no accident that Pentecost—the day the Christian Church became the Christian Church—was also a day of many tongues. It was a day of holy cacophony where God united people of many languages. Since that day, the Church has been multicultural in the deepest sense of the word.

It may seem as if singing songs from other cultures is a recent innovation, but it has been the norm throughout the life of the church. Whether we're singing the German carol "Silent Night," the Latin chant "Of the Father's Love Begotten," the Swedish hymn "How Great Thou Art," or the South African song "Siyahamba," our faith has always reverberated with the voices of the saints in all times and in all places.

However, the influence of nineteenth-century missions and twentieth-century popular media has often given Western Christians the loudest voice in the Church's chorus. This may be changing in the twenty-first century as the Southern and Eastern parts of the church become more confident of their voice, as music and people travel more easily, and as Western Christians realize they need to hear others' voices for complete harmony.

By including songs from all over the world in many different music styles, this songbook is a small part of the musical sharing that is happening all over the globe. It embraces the songs that sound authentically foreign to Western ears and songs that are influenced by Western pop music and hymnody. Some are songs that have circulated widely in Western churches and some have never appeared in print previously.

We hope congregations can hear the unique voice of each culture represented in this songbook, but we also pray that all the songs will be accessible even to those churches that don't have specialized skills in world music styles. To facilitate learning, a CD recording of many of the songs included in this book is available through Faith Alive Christian Resources at [www.faithaliveresources.org](http://www.faithaliveresources.org). In addition, many of the songs are available for download at [www.hymnary.org](http://www.hymnary.org).

The voices of the songs in this book are stronger and clearer because of the contributions of Kevin Anderson, Emily Brink, Robin Harris, Michael Hawn, Swee Hong Lim, Jorge Lockward, Joel Navarro, Paul Neeley, Norma de Waal Malefyt, David Peacock, Bert Polman, Linda Strouf, John Witvliet, and Anne Emile Zaki, all of whom provided valuable feedback as the songbook developed. Their contributions made the project a little taste of the unity and diversity that took place on the day of Pentecost—a unity and diversity that this collection attempts to capture musically. We are also grateful for the copyright work of Cindy DeBoer, Diane Dykgraaf, Rachel Katje, and Bethany Vrieland as well as the able editorial and administrative assistance of the staff at both the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship and Faith Alive Christian Resources.

The day of Pentecost was, of course, more than just a day of many languages. It was also the day the Holy Spirit filled the Church—a blaze that continues to burn today. May that same Spirit use this humble collection of songs to build and unite the Church of Jesus Christ until people from every tribe and nation gather around God's throne to sing their grand finale of praise.

Greg Scheer, editor  
Calvin Institute of Christian Worship

Joyce Berger, series editor  
Faith Alive Christian Resources

# 4 Psalm 113: Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Praise the Name of the LORD

*Refrain*  
Em

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, praise the name of the

LORD, our God. Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah

*Fine*  
Am7 B7 Em (last time) Em

praise the LORD, our God. Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le -

lu - jah, praise the name of the LORD, our God. Hal - le -

lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah praise the LORD, our God.

Words: Boulos Boshra, Egypt © 2002 *Songs of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Egypt*, Synod of the Nile, Council of Pastoral Work and Evangelism, admin. by Faith Alive Christian Resources; tr. Anne Emile Zaki © 2009 Faith Alive Christian Resources; vers. Emily Brink © 2009 Faith Alive Christian Resources.

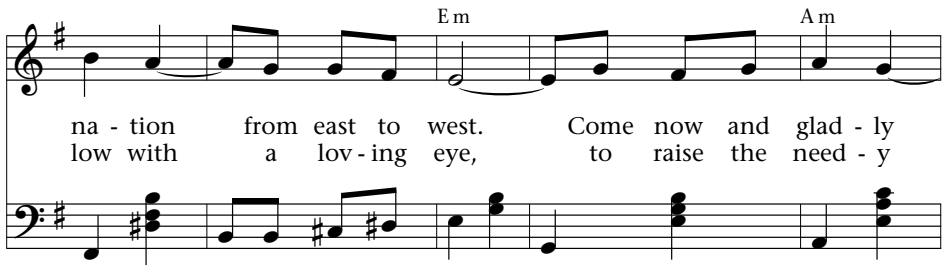
Music: Boulos Boshra, Egypt © 2002 *Songs of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Egypt*, Synod of the Nile, Council of Pastoral Work and Evangelism, admin. by Faith Alive Christian Resources



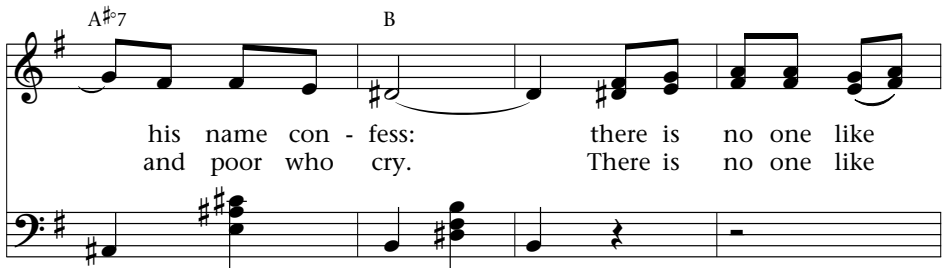
*Stanzas*




1 The name of God be for - ev - er blest by ev - ery  
 2 God is ex - alt - ed; he reigns on high, but looks be -



na - tion from east to west. Come now and glad - ly  
 low with a lov - ing eye, to raise the need - y



his name con - fess: there is no one like  
 and poor who cry. There is no one like



1, 3 *Repeat Stanzas* 2, 4 *D.S.*  
 our God. our God! Hal - le -

The written piano accompaniment in this dance-like setting of Psalm 113 easily translates to a band of bass, drums, and guitar. Add tambourine, doumbek, and handclaps for more Middle Eastern flavor. Make sure the melody is led well so the congregation can hear the chromatic twists and turns.

# 19 Soorp Astvatz / Holy God

C Fm G7 C

Armenian Soorp Ast-vatz, soorp yev he - zor, soorp yev an - mah,  
 English Ho - ly God, Ho - ly, might - y, and im-mor-tal God:

Fm C Fm G7 C G7 C G7 C Fm G

vor kha - che - tsar va - sen mer, vo - ghor-mia mez,  
 Christ cru - ci - fied for sin - ners, have mer - cy on us.

C Fm G7 C

Soorp Ast - vatz, soorp yev he - zor, soorp yev an - mah,  
 Ho - ly God, Ho - ly, might - y, and im-mor-tal God:

Fm C Fm G7 C G7 C G7 C Fm C

vor kha - che - tsar va - sen mer, vo - ghor-mia mez.  
 Christ cru - ci - fied for sin - ners, have mer - cy on us.

Words: Armenian; tr. Bishop Nareg Alemezian © 2009 Bishop Nareg Alemezian of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church  
 Music: Armenian

The Trisagion is one of the oldest texts of the Church's worship. Bring out the character of this Orthodox chant by following the pacing of the text rather than strictly following the meter.

# Languages

Arabic . . . . . 16, 37, 44  
Armenian . . . . . 19  
Bengali . . . . . 20  
Dutch . . . . . 7  
French . . . . . 1, 11  
Hebrew . . . . . 7  
Indonesian . . . . . 5, 38  
Japanese . . . . . 26  
Korean . . . . . 50  
Latin . . . . . 12  
Mandarin . . . . . 56  
Maori . . . . . 23  
Pashto . . . . . 17  
Portuguese . . . . . 24, 43  
Shona . . . . . 3  
Spanish . . . 1, 8, 12, 14, 29, 35, 46, 47, 48, 51, 53  
Swahili . . . . . 9, 30, 34  
Twi . . . . . 10  
Yoruba . . . . . 42

# Regions and Countries Represented

Argentina . . . . .	29, 35
Batak . . . . .	5
Bicol . . . . .	52
Brazil . . . . .	24, 43
China . . . . .	56
Egypt . . . . .	36, 37, 45
France . . . . .	12, 46
Ghana . . . . .	10
Guatemala . . . . .	8
Hong Kong . . . . .	31
Hungary . . . . .	57
Indonesia . . . . .	38
Japan . . . . .	26
Kalinga . . . . .	28
Kenya . . . . .	34
Korea . . . . .	50
Latvia . . . . .	41
Lebanon . . . . .	44
Mongolia . . . . .	22
New Zealand . . . . .	23
Pakistan . . . . .	17
Peru . . . . .	14
Philippines . . . . .	28, 32, 52, 55
Punjab . . . . .	40
Russia . . . . .	18, 21
Rwanda . . . . .	6
Sierra Leone . . . . .	49
South Africa . . . . .	9, 27
Spain . . . . .	51
Sudan . . . . .	16
Tanzania . . . . .	30
United Kingdom . . . . .	54
Yoruba . . . . .	13, 15, 42
Zimbabwe . . . . .	3