

Commissioned for the Mass celebrated by His Holiness Pope John Paul II  
in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Missouri, January, 1999

## Psalm 34

Assembly, Cantor, SATB Choir, and Organ,  
with opt. Strings, Woodwinds, Timpani, Suspended Cymbal, and Handbells

Psalm 34 (NAB)

James Chepponis

### Optional Introduction/Coda\*

**Lyrically** (♩ = 76)

	To Refrain	Last time
Cantor	(2)	(2)
Soprano	(2)	(2)
Alto	(2)	(2)
Tenor	(2)	(2)
Bass	(2)	(2)
Organ	C G Am G C G F Em Fmaj <sup>7</sup> /G	G sus <sup>4</sup> G C sus <sup>2</sup> C

*mp* *rit.*

Man. Ped.

\*May be used as both an introduction to the psalm (using "To Refrain" ending) as well as a coda after the last refrain (using "Last time" ending).

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Available editions: Full Score MSM-80-848  
Choir Score MSM-80-848A  
Instrumental Parts MSM-80-848B

Reproducible congregational part included in Full Score on page 13.

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# Refrain A\*

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord

*mf* (+ Assembly) To Verse

Taste and see the good-ness of the Lord.

*mf* To Verse

O taste and see the good-ness of the Lord.

*mf* To Verse

C F/G C F/G C F/G C

*mf* To Verse

Ped.

# Refrain B\*

I will bless the Lord at all times

*mf* (+ Assembly) To Verse

I will bless the Lord at all times, at all \_\_\_\_\_ times.

*mf* To Verse

I will bless the Lord at all times, \_\_\_\_\_ at all \_\_\_\_\_ times. \_\_\_\_\_

*mf* To Verse

I will bless the Lord at all \_\_\_\_\_ times.

C F/G C Em Dm<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup> C To Verse

*mf* To Verse

Ped.

\*Initially, refrain is sung first by cantor with organ only, then repeated by all.

## Verses

## Verse 1 (Vss. 2-3)\*

Cantor

1. I will bless the Lord at all times; his

S  
A

Choir

T  
B

Organ

*mp*

C Fmaj<sup>7</sup> C Fmaj<sup>7</sup> C Dm<sup>7</sup> Em<sup>7</sup>

Man.

praise shall be ev - er in my mouth. Let my soul glo - ry, glo - ry in the

*p*

Ah,

*p*

F Em F G C Dm<sup>7</sup> C G Am Dm<sup>7</sup> G

\*The numbers in parentheses refer to the verses of the psalm text itself. Additional verses for the cantor are found on pp. 8-11, all of which are compatible with the accompaniment/choral parts given here with Verse 1.

The musical score is arranged in four systems. The first system shows a vocal line with the lyrics "Lord; the low - ly will hear me and be glad." and a piano accompaniment. The second system features a vocal line with a long note and the word "ah." and a piano accompaniment. The third system includes guitar chords (C, G, F, Em, Fmaj7/G, C) and a piano accompaniment. The fourth system shows a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, notes, rests, and dynamic markings like "Ped." (Pedal). The phrase "To Refrain" appears at the end of the first, second, and fourth systems.

### NOTES

Psalm 34 is a song of thanksgiving, expressing themes of wisdom literature. It has many uses in the liturgy. The 23 verses of the psalm are set to 13 musical verses, and four different refrains are provided. The appointed uses for Psalm 34 in the *Lectionary for Mass*, Volume I (for Sundays, Solemnities, Feasts of the Lord and the Saints, 1998 revision) are as follows:

- 4th Sunday of Lent, Cycle C (Lect. #33): Refrain A, verses 1, 2, 3.
- 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B (Lect. #116): Refrain A, verses 1, 2, 3, 4.
- 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B (Lect. #119): Refrain A, verses 1, 2, 3.
- 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B (Lect. #122): Refrain A, verses 1, 8, 10, 12.
- 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C (Lect. #150): Refrain C, verses 1, 9, 11.
- Common psalm during Ordinary Time (Lect. #174, 16): Either Refrain A or B, verses 1, 2, 3, 4.
- June 29: SS. Peter and Paul, apostles, Mass During the Day (Lect. #591): Refrain D, verses 1, 2, 3, 4.

Other appointed uses of Psalm 34 include Common of Martyrs, Common of Saints, Marriage, Holy Eucharist, and Sacred Heart. The Psalm is often used on weekdays, as well as during the Liturgy of the Hours. Psalm 34 is always an appropriate choice during the communion procession at Mass, particularly with Refrain A.

Musically, the setting may simply be performed with only assembly, cantor, and keyboard. Although organ is preferred, the keyboard part may be played on the piano, and guitar chords are provided to allow the setting to be used with "contemporary ensembles." The optional instrumentation and choir parts provide an added dimension. If instrumentation is used, creativity is encouraged by varying the musical texture, as all instruments do not have to be used each time a refrain or verse is sung.