

Alleluia, alleluia; blessèd are they

Psalm 112

Words and music: David Lee

With a light swing

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature alternates between 6/8, 3/4, and 4/4. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the piano accompaniment in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the staff, with two verses of text provided for each line of music.

1. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia; Bless - èd are they who fear you,
2. Great is the boun-ty they shall find, Hal-lowed in right-eous-ness each

Lord, Che-rish-ing close - ly all your law, Di - li - gent
day. In - to their dark - ness light will shine, Jus-tice and

in your liv - ing word. Ends of the earth through them are
peace will pave their way. Keep-ing their word of ho - nour,

blest Find - ing through them God ma - ni - fest.
they Lend from that boun - ty gra-cious - ly.

Although the alternating time signature may look worrying, its underlying pulse is similar to that in Leonard Bernstein's "America" (West Side Story).

CODA



- 1 Alleluia, alleluia;
 Blessèd are they who fear you, Lord,
 Cherishing closely all your law,
 Diligent in your living word.
 Ends of the earth through them are blest
 Finding through them God manifest.
- 2 Great is the bounty they shall find,
 Hallowed in righteousness each day.
 Into their darkness light will shine,
 Justice and peace will pave their way.
 Keeping their word of honour, they
 Lend from that bounty graciously.
- 3 Many their blessings down the years,
 Never will their foundations move.
 Of grievous news they need no fears,
 Putting their trust, O Lord, in you,
 Quietly confident through strife,
 Rising above the storms of life.
- 4 Sharing their gifts with those in need,
 They live their life at God's right hand.
 Unlike them, though, the wicked seem
 Vexed as they see the righteous stand;
 Wasting away to naught, as they
 eXclude themselves from God's own way.

Coda

You are our God! We evermore
 Zealously sing: alleluia.

*The Hebrew text is alphabetic acrostic, 22 lines,
 reflecting a complete, all-encompassing trust.
 That same "A to Z" principle is conserved in this
 close paraphrase into our alphabet of 26 letters.
 (Alas, a viable X-word is a stretch too far.)*