

Psalm 49 I&II

Psalm Tone: Adapted from Russian Troparion Tone 4 by S. Rolando



Psalm 49

Emptiness of riches

It is difficult for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 19:23).

I

Hear this, all you peo-ples,
give heed, all who dwell in the world,
men both low and high,
rich and poor alike!

My lips will speak words of wis-dom.
My heart is full of in-sight.
I will turn my mind to a parable,
with the harp I will solve my prob-lem.

Why should I fear in evil days
the malice of the foes who sur-round me,
men who trust in their wealth,
and boast of the vastness of their riches?

For no man can buy his own ransom,
or pay a price to God for his life.
The ransom of his soul is be-yond him.
He cannot buy life with-out end,
nor avoid coming to the grave.

He knows that wise men and fools must both perish
and leave their wealth to o-thers.
Their graves are their homes for ev-er,
their dwelling place from age to age,
though their names spread wide through the land.

In his riches, man lacks wis-dom : ①
he is like the beasts that are destroyed. ④

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, ①
and to the Ho-ly Spirit. ④

As it was in the be-gin-ning, ①
is now, and will be for ev-er. A - men. ④

Grail Psalmody

Psalm 49 used: EP Tue. WkII

II

This is the lot of those who trust in themselves,
who have others at their beck and call.
Like sheep they are driven to the grave,
where death shall be their shepherd
and the just shall be-come their rulers.

With the morning their outward show van-ishes
and the grave becomes their home.
But God will ransom me from death
and take my soul to himself.

Then do not fear when a man grows rich,
when the glory of his house in-creases.
He takes nothing with him when he dies,
his glory does not follow him below.

Though he flattered himself while he lived:
"Men will praise me for all my suc-cess,"
yet he will go to join his fathers,
who will never see the light a-ny more.

In his riches, man lacks wis-dom : ①
he is like the beasts that are destroyed. ④

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, ①
and to the Ho-ly Spirit. ④

As it was in the be-gin-ning, ①
is now, and will be for ev-er. A - men. ④