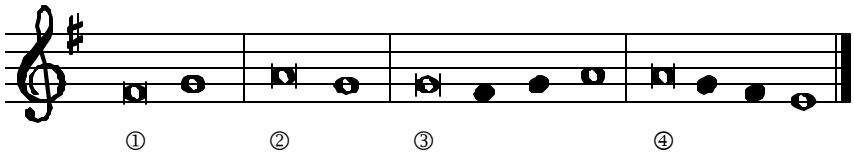
Psalm 49 I&II

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