HYMNS FOR THE ORTHODOX LITURGY

PRAISE THE NAME OF THE LORD

(POLYELEOS) Psalms 135—136

The Very Reverend Sergei Glagolev (b. 1927) has been a serious student of music since earliest childhood. He studied at Oberlin and Julliard Conservatories of Music, St. Vladimir's Theological Seminary, and holds a degree from New York University. A pioneer in setting Orthodox hymns in English, Fr. Glagolev has a great sensitivity to various idioms and styles used in Orthodox liturgical music.

The present setting of *Praise the Name of the Lord* was composed in 1980 for the Summer Liturgical Institute of Music and Pastoral Practice held at St. Vladimir's Seminary in New York. One of the topics pursued at the Institute was the restoration of psalmody in Orthodox worship.

Many of the ideas employed by Fr. Glagolev in setting this text were derived from his research into Ancient Hebraic psalmody and various types of Christian psalmody. Both the melody and the rhythm of the work flow out of the natural textual inflections within each psalm verse. This technique recaptures the original method of performing psalmody, whereby the entire psalm was sung antiphonally to a simple melody that was able to accommodate any given verse of the text.

The Greek term "Polyeleos" refers to the lighting of many lights in the church during the singing of these psalms. In a play on words the term also makes reference to the "many mercies" mentioned repeatedly in the text. The present setting restores some of the psalm verses that have fallen from current use, focusing on those that conclude with the words "for His mercy endures forever."

Rev. SERGEI GLAGOLEV
(1980)

2

AL - LE - LU - IA, AL - LE - LU - IA, ___ AL - LE - LU - IA.

2.

PRAISE THE LORD, FOR THE LORD IS GOOD; SING TO HIS NAME, FOR HE ___ IS GRA-CIOUS!

FOR THE LORD HAS CHO-SEN JA-COB FOR HIM-SELF, IS-RA-EL AS HIS

OWN. POS-SES-SION. AL-LE-LU - IA, AL-LE-LU - IA, ___ AL-LE-LU - IA.

3.

O HOUSE OF IS - RA-EL, BLESS. THE LORD! O HOUSE OF AA-RON, BLESS. THE LORD! ___

4

5.

mp

O GIVE THANKS TO THE GOD OF GODS,   FOR HIS MER-CY EN-DURES.FOR-EV-ER!

mp

mf

O GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD OF LORDS,   FOR HIS MER-CY EN-DURES. FOR-

mf

p

-EV - ER! AL-LE-LU - IA, AL-LE-LU - IA,   AL-LE-LU - IA.

p

6.

mp

IT IS HE WHO RE-MEM-BERED US IN OUR LOW ES-TATE,   FOR HIS

mp

mf

MER-CY EN-DURES FOR-EV-ER!   AND   RES-CUED US FROM OUR FOES,

mf

O HOUSE OF LE - VI, BLESS THE LORD! YOU THAT FEAR THE LORD, BLESS THE LORD!

AL - LE - LU - IA, AL - LE - LU - IA, AL - LE - LU - IA.

4.

BLESS - ED BE THE LORD FROM ZI - ON, HE WHO DWELLS IN JE - RU - SA - LEM!

O GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD, FOR HIS MER - CY EN - DURES FOR -

EV - ER! AL - LE - LU - IA, AL - LE - LU - IA, AL - LE - LU - IA.

FOR HIS MER-CY EN-DURES FOR-EV - ER! AL - LE - LU - IA, AL - LE - LU -

7.

- IA, ___ AL - LE - LU - IA. HE WHO GIVES FOOD TO ALL FLESH,

FOR HIS MER-CY EN-DURES FOR-EV - ER! O GIVE THANKS TO THE

GOD OF HEAV-EN FOR HIS MER-CY EN-DURES FOR-EV - ER!

poco rit.

AL - LE - LU - IA, AL - LE - LU - IA, ___ AL - LE - LU - IA.