

Eyt HaZamir (The Time for Singing)

The blossoms have appeared in the land,
The time of singing has come;
The song of the turtledove
Is heard in our land.

“O my dove, in the cranny of the rocks,
Hidden by the cliff,
Let me see your face,
Let me hear your voice;
For your voice is sweet
And your face is beautiful.”

The LORD is my strength and my music;
He has been my deliverance.

Rouse yourself! Rouse yourself!
Your light is coming, rise up and shine.
Awaken! Awaken! utter a song,
The glory of the Lord is revealed upon you.

-from *Lekha Dodi* by Shlomo Alkabetz, Song of Songs 2, and Psalm 118

This Descent into Solitude

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made.
Sing Him a new song;
Play sweetly with shouts of joy.
Amen.

-Psalm 33

Hegyon Libi (The Meditation of My Heart)

May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart find favor before You, God, who is
always with me and who always saves me.

-Psalm 19

Halleluyah

Praise the LORD, O my soul!
I will praise the LORD all my life,
I will sing hymns to my God while I exist.
Put not your trust in the great,
in mortal man who cannot save.
His breath departs;
he returns to the dust;
on that day his plans come to nothing.
Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help,
whose hope is in the LORD his God,
maker of heaven and earth,
the sea and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;
who secures justice for those who are wronged,
gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets prisoners free;
The LORD restores sight to the blind;
the LORD makes those who are bent stand straight;
the LORD loves the righteous;
The LORD watches over the stranger;
He gives courage to the orphan and widow,
but makes the path of the wicked tortuous.
The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Halleluyah.
- Psalm 146

Uri Tsafon (Awake, O North Wind)

Awake, O north wind,
and come, O south wind!
Blow upon my garden,
let its spices flow forth.
Let my beloved come into his garden
and eat his pleasant fruit.
-Song of Songs 4:16

Sim Shalom (Grant Peace)

Grant peace, goodness, blessing, grace, compassion and mercy
on us and on all Your people Israel.
Bless us, our Father, all as one in the light of Your countenance.
For in the light of Your countenance,

You have granted us, O LORD, our God,
the teachings of life, compassionate love,
righteousness, blessing, mercy, life and peace.
May You see fit to bless with peace Your people Israel,
along with all the nations, in every season and in every hour.
Blessed are You, O LORD, the Creator of peace. Amen.
-liturgy

Geographical Fugue

Tel Aviv, and the big Mississippi
and the town Honolulu and the Lake Titicaca.
The city Acapulco isn't in Canada, rather in Mexico.
Sachneh, Deganya, Kineret, Afulah. Yes!
Eilat, Herzeliyah, Nahariyah.
Canada, Malaga, Rimini, Brindisi.
-Ernest Toch (arr. Stanly Sperber)

Hazamir (Anthem)

Sing, brothers and sisters, sing!
With song we will rouse the people,
and we will rouse the people's hearts,
and in their hearts — an exalted sentiment.
Then the people will arise and become enlightened,
and their lives will be changed.
Come, brothers and sisters, let us sing:
Long life to the Zamir Chorale!
-Jacob Fichman

Psalm 42

For the leader. A *maskil* of the Korahites.
Like a hind crying for water,
my soul cries for You, O God;
my soul thirsts for God, the living God;
O when will I come to appear before God!
My tears have been my food day and night;
I am always taunted with, "Where is your God?"
When I think of this, I pour out my soul:
how I walked with the crowd, moved with them,
the festive throng, to the House of God
with joyous shouts of praise.
Why so downcast, my soul,

why disquieted within me?
Have hope in God;
I will yet praise God
for His saving presence.
O my God, my soul is downcast;
therefore I think of You
in this land of Jordan and Hermon,
in Mount Mizar,
where deep calls to deep
in the roar of Your torrents;
all Your breakers and billows have swept over me.
By day may the LORD vouchsafe His faithful care,
so that at night a song to Him may be with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.
I say to God, my Rock,
“Why have You forgotten me,
why must I walk in gloom,
oppressed by my enemy?”
Crushing my bones,
my foes revile me,
taunting me always with, “Where is your God?”
Why so downcast, my soul,
why disquieted within me?
Have hope in God;
I will yet praise Him,
my ever-present help, my God.
-Psalm 42

Anu Sharim (We Sing)

We sing.
When sadness mounts, we sing.
When tears stream from our eyes, we sing.
When rage grows, we sing.
When, from the ashes, a flower blooms, we sing.
When children laugh, we sing.
Forever Sun.
Forever Moon.
Forever Light.
Forever Life — Forever Now.
We Sing.
- Nick Page

Hayah Ish (There Was a Man)

After my death, eulogize for me this way:
There was a man. And look: he is no more.
This man died before his time,
The music of his life was interrupted.
Sad! He had still one more song.
But now that song is lost forever,
Lost forever!

How very sad! He had a harp,
A vital eloquent soul,
When the poet in him would speak,
Telling him all his heart's secrets,
His hand plucked all the strings.
But he kept one secret hidden in his heart.
Though his fingers danced round and round,
One string remained mute,
Remained mute to this day!

How very, very sad!
All her days that string trembled,
Softly trembled, softly quivered
For her song, her lover, her redeemer.
Yearned, thirsted, grieved, longed,
As only a heart can grieve for her mate.
And though he tarried, she waited each day,
And with a hidden whimper cried for him—
But he tarried. He never came,
He never came!

And the ache is very, very great!
There was a man. And look: he is no more.
The song of his life was interrupted.
He had one more song,
But now that song is lost forever,
Lost forever!

- Chaim Nachman Bialik

Hodu (Praise)

Praise the LORD, for He is good,
His steadfast love is eternal.
Let Israel declare,
"His steadfast love is eternal."

Let the house of Aaron declare,
"His steadfast love is eternal."
Let those who are in awe of the LORD declare,
"His steadfast love is eternal."
-Psalm 118

Break forth into Joy

Break forth into joy, sing together;
for the Lord hath comforted his people,
He hath redeemed Jerusalem.
Awake, awake, stand up, O Jerusalem.
Awake, stand up: put on thy strength, O Zion;
put on thy beautiful garments:
shake thyself from the dust.
The mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Come ye, come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord;
He will teach us of his ways and we will walk in His paths.
Let us walk in the light of the Lord.
-Isaiah 2, 51, 52, 55

Hineh Mah Tov

How good and how pleasant it is
When we dwell in togetherness.
-Psalm 133