

The Lord Is Kind and Merciful (Psalm 103)

Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11

Timothy R. Smith

REFRAIN: (♩ = ca. 69) 1st time: Cantor, All repeat; thereafter: All

Soprano
The Lord is kind and mer-ci-ful. The Lord is kind and

Alto
The Lord is kind and mer-ci-ful. The Lord is kind and

Tenor

Keyboard
F C/E F/C B♭ F/A

1, 6 to Verses Final rit. Fine

mer-ci-ful. mer-ci-ful. mer-ci-ful.

mer-ci-ful. mer-ci-ful. mer-ci-ful.

1, 6 Gm7 Csus4 C 2-5 Gm7 Csus4 to Verses Final Gm7 Csus4 rit. Fine

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Note: Play Refrain as an Intro.

Parts for Violin I, II are available online from the publisher. Please visit ocp.org.

VERSE 1: Cantor

1. Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all my be-ing, — bless his —

F C/E B♭/D F/C B♭ F/A

1. — ho - ly name. Bless the LORD O my

Gm7 C Csus4 Dm Am/C

1. soul, and for - get not all — his — ben - e - fits. *D.C.*

B♭sus2 F/A Gm7 B♭ Csus4 C *D.C.*

VERSE 2

Melody/Cantor

2. He par-dons all your in - i - ui - ty and heals all your ills. He re -

Harmony

B♭sus2 F/A Gm7 F

2. deems your life — from de-struction, he crowns you with kind-ness and com-pas-sion. *D.C.*

*E*bsus2 *B*b/D *G*m7 *F*/A *B*bmaj7 *C*sus4 *C* *D.C.*

VERSE 3

3. The LORD se-cures — jus-tice for the rights of all the op-pressed. He has

Melody/Cantor

Harmony

*B*b *F*/A *G*m7 *F*

3. made known his ways to Mo-ses, and his deeds to the chil-dren of Is-ra-el. — *a tempo D.C.*

poco rit. *a tempo*

*E*bsus2 *B*b/D *G*m7 *F*/A *B*b sus2 *C* sus4 *C* *D.C.*

poco rit. *a tempo*

VERSE 4

Melody/Cantor

4. Mer-ci - ful and gra-cious is the LORD, slow to an-ger and a-bound-ing in

Harmony

F C/E B \flat C B \flat F/A

4. kind - ness. For as the heav-en are high a-bove the earth,

Gm7 Csus4 Dm Am/C B \flat sus2

4. so sur-pass-ing is his kind-ness toward those who fear him. *D.C.*

F/A Gm7 F/A B \flat Csus4 C *D.C.*

The musical score is written in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line for the Cantor, a piano accompaniment, and a line of lyrics. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand. The lyrics are: '4. Mer-ci - ful and gra-cious is the LORD, slow to an-ger and a-bound-ing in kind - ness. For as the heav-en are high a-bove the earth, so sur-pass-ing is his kind-ness toward those who fear him.' The score includes various musical notations such as triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings like 'D.C.' (Da Capo). Chord symbols are provided below the piano accompaniment: F, C/E, B-flat, C, B-flat, F/A, Gm7, Csus4, Dm, Am/C, B-flat sus2, F/A, Gm7, F/A, B-flat, Csus4, and C.

(Em7) Gm7 (D/F#) F/A (Gmaj7) Bbmaj7 (Asus4) Csus4 (A) C D.C.

2. crowns you with kind - ness and com - pas - sion.

VERSE 3: Cantor

(G) Bb (D/F#) F/A (Em7) Gm7

3. The LORD se - cures _____ and the rights of all the op -

(D) F (Csus2) Ebsus2 (G/B) Bb/D

3. pressed. He has made known his ways to Mo - ses, and his

(Em7) Gm7 (D/F#) F/A (Csus2) Ebsus2 (Asus4) Csus4 (A) C D.C.

3. deeds to the chil - dren of Is - ra - el.

VERSE 4: Cantor

(D) F (A/C#) C/E (G/B) Bb/D (D/A) F/C

4. Mer - ci - ful and gra - cious is the LORD, _____ slow to

(G) Bb (D/F#) F/A (Em7) Gm7 (Asus4) Csus4

4. an - ger and a - bound - ing _____ in kind - ness. For as the

(Bm) Dm (F#m/A) Am/C (Csus2) Bbsus2 (D/F#) F/A

4. heav - ens are high a - bove _____ the earth, _____ so sur -


(Em7) Gm7 (D/F#) F/A (G) Bb (Asus4) Csus4 (A) C D.C.

4. pass - ing is his kind - ness toward _____ those who fear _____ him.

Assembly Edition

THE LORD IS KIND AND MERCIFUL (PSALM 103)

Timothy R. Smith



The Lord is kind and mer-ci-ful. The Lord is kind and mer-ci-ful.

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all my being, bless his ho-nor, Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.</p> <p>2. He pardons all your iniquities and heals all your ills. He redeems your life from destruction, he crowns you with kindness and compassion.</p> | <p>3. The LORD secures justice and the thoughts of all the oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, and his deeds to the children of Israel.</p> <p>4. Merciful and gracious is the LORD, slow to anger and abounding in kindness. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so sur-passing is his kindness toward those who fear him.</p> |
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Composer's Notes

This piece works well with any combination of piano, organ, guitar and optional violin. Harmonies can be added throughout the piece according to the liturgical application and setting.

This psalm hymn is used both in Lent and Easter and it can be a song of thanksgiving throughout the Church year. Consider its use on: 3rd Sunday of Lent (C); 7th Sunday of Easter (B); 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C); 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B); 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A); Sacred Heart (A); All Souls of the Faithful Departed and Reconciliation services. Additionally, it is a Common Psalm option for Ordinary Time.

—Timothy R. Smith