

My Soul Thirsts

Psalm 63

Dan Schutte
Keyboard accompaniment by Tom Kendzia

INTRO: *Gently, flowing* (♩ = 76)

Capo 3: (D) F (D/C#) F/E (G/B) B♭/D (A) C (D) F (D/C#) F/E

Keyboard *mp*

REFRAIN:

(Em) Gm (A) C (D) F (D/C#) F/E (G/B) B♭/D (A) C

rit. *mp* *a tempo*

My soul thirsts for you, Lord, _____ like the

rit. *a tempo*

(D) F (D/C#) F/E (Em) Gm (A) C (Em) Gm (A) C

des - ert thirsts for rain. _____ It is your face I

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(D) F (D/C#) F/E (Em) Gm (A) C 1-3 (D) F

long for; — you a - lone are life to me.

Final (D) F (Em) Gm *rit.* (A) C (D) F *Fine*

me.

Final *Fine*

VERSES 1 & 2:

(Em) Gm (A) C (D) F (D/C#) F/E (Em) Gm (A) C (D) F

1. I have walked in your tem - ple, — and seen your might - y deeds. Your
 2. I can count on your mer - cy — to feed my hun - gry heart, for

(C#7) E7 (F#m) Am (Em) Gm (G) Bb (A7) C7

rit. *molto rit.* *D.S.*

1. love, O Lord, means more to me, than all my days of life. My
 2. when I lift my hands in need, a ban - quet you pro - vide.

rit. *molto rit.* *D.S.*

VERSE 3:

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

f *f*

Soprano/Melody
 Alto
 Tenor
 Bass

3. I will ___ make my dwell - ing ___ in the

(Em) (A) (D) (G) (A)
Gm C F B \flat C

shel - ter of your wings. Your hand, O Lord, will

(Em) (Bm) (Em) (G) (A7)
Gm Dm Gm B \flat C7
mp *p* *rit.* *molto rit.* *D.S.*

keep me safe through dark - est night and day. My

mp *p* *rit.* *molto rit.* *D.S.*

Performance Notes

This setting of Psalm 63 works well as a scripture response, but may work equally as well at other times. Because of its theme of hungering for God, one might find use for it during the liturgical seasons of Advent and Lent, as well as for anointing liturgies.

Even with its theme of longing and hunger for God, the mood of this piece is gentle and comforting. It is a song born from the heart of one who aches for intimacy with the beloved, rather than the anguished cry of a soul in desperation.

In keeping with this mood, the piece should be performed with an air of gentleness. The third verse is stronger than the others, except for the final phrase which becomes quieter to prepare for the Refrain. In addition, the *ritardando* at the end of each Verse is important to set up an expectation for the entry of the Refrain. The Refrain should not just come bounding in without any slowing.

The Verses are best performed by a soloist, except for Verse 3 which may be done by a choir or small group to give it added strength.


—D.S.

Assembly Edition

MY SOUL THIRSTS

Dan Schutte

REFRAIN:



My soul thirsts for you, Lord, _____ like the
des - ert thirsts for rain. _____ It is your face I
long for; _____ you a - lone are life to me.

VERSES:

1. I have walked in your temple,
and seen your mighty deeds.
Your love, O Lord, means more to me,
than all my days of life. **(to Refrain)**
2. I can count on your mercy
to feed my hungry heart,
for when I lift my hands in need,
a banquet you provide. **(to Refrain)**
3. I will make my dwelling
in the shelter of your wings.
Your hand, O Lord, will keep me safe
through darkest night and day. **(to Refrain)**

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