

# O LORD, I Love You, God, My Strength

From Psalm 18:1-19

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 8/7. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the staff, with line numbers 1 through 19 indicating the corresponding lines of the text. The lyrics are in English and German. The English lyrics are: 1. O LORD, I love You, God, my strength, 2. You are my rock and for-tress, 3. Sor-rows of death en-com-passed me, 4. The snares of death came af-ter. 5. He bowed the hea-vens down as well; He came, and walked on dark-ness, 6. The LORD has thun-dered out His voice, The High-est spoke and shat-tered 7. God sent His ho-ly help to me; He drew me from the wa-ters, 8. In You I trust, sal-va-tion's horn, My buck-ler and high tow-er. 9. In my dis-tress, I called to God; His tem-ple heard my fal-t'ring. 10. His steed, a cher-ub, wings of wind, 11. And dark-ness His pa-vil-ion. 12. All earth with hail and coals of fire, 13. His ar-rows fell as light-ning, 14. God saved me from my en-e-mies, Whose strength was far be-yond me. 15. I call on the LORD; His worth I will praise; I call on my God. 16. Earth trem-bled and shook, God's wrath came a-live 17. And then smoke and fire 18. Dark wa-ters, thick clouds, 19. And bright-ness and fire All passed be-fore God. 20. He scat-tered all those Who hat-ed His voice, He scat-tered their lies; 21. The e-vil day brought Their mis-chief to life But GOD was my stay 22. From en-e-mies a-round My God saves and de-liv-ers. 23. Came forth, His nos-trils flared And fier-y coals were kin-dled. 24. These coals of fire and hail And clouds, all praised His glo-ry. 25. And riv-er-beds re-veal The earth's foun-da-tions dried up. 26. He brought me out to life And light, for I de-light Him.

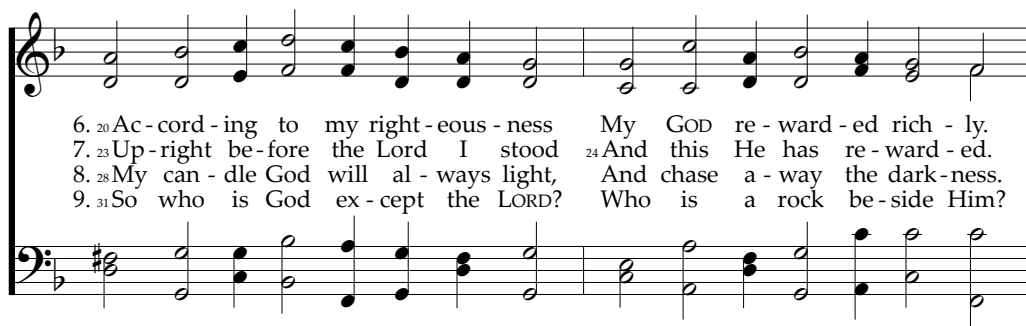
1. <sup>1</sup>O LORD, I love You, God, my strength, <sup>2</sup>You are my rock and for-tress,  
2. <sup>4</sup>Sor-rows of death en-com-passed me, <sup>5</sup>The snares of death came af-ter.  
3. <sup>9</sup>He bowed the hea-vens down as well; He came, and walked on dark-ness,  
4. <sup>13</sup>The LORD has thun-dered out His voice, The High-est spoke and shat-tered  
5. <sup>16</sup>God sent His ho-ly help to me; He drew me from the wa-ters,  
6. In You I trust, sal-va-tion's horn, My buck-ler and high tow-er.  
7. In my dis-tress, I called to God; His tem-ple heard my fal-t'ring.  
8. <sup>10</sup>His steed, a cher-ub, wings of wind, <sup>11</sup>And dark-ness His pa-vil-ion.  
9. All earth with hail and coals of fire, <sup>14</sup>His ar-rows fell as light-ning,  
10. <sup>17</sup>God saved me from my en-e-mies, Whose strength was far be-yond me.  
11. I call on the LORD; His worth I will praise; I call on my God.  
12. <sup>7</sup>Earth trem-bled and shook, God's wrath came a-live <sup>8</sup>And then smoke and fire  
13. Dark wa-ters, thick clouds, <sup>12</sup>And bright-ness and fire All passed be-fore God.  
14. He scat-tered all those Who hat-ed His voice, He scat-tered their lies;  
15. <sup>18</sup>The e-vil day brought Their mis-chief to life But GOD was my stay  
16. From en-e-mies a-round My God saves and de-liv-ers.  
17. Came forth, His nos-trils flared And fier-y coals were kin-dled.  
18. These coals of fire and hail And clouds, all praised His glo-ry.  
19. <sup>15</sup>And riv-er-beds re-veal The earth's foun-da-tions dried up.  
20. <sup>19</sup>He brought me out to life And light, for I de-light Him.

Music: Heinrich Schütz, 1628  
Text: Douglas Wilson, 2001 ©

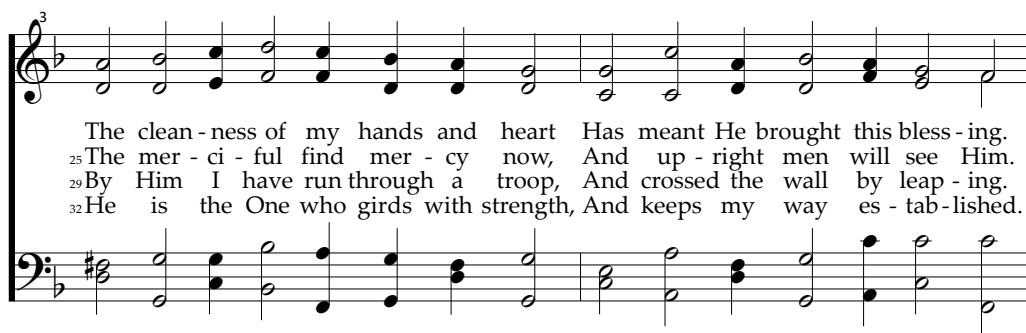
ICH LIEB DICH, HERR [BECKER 18]  
8 7. 8 7. 5 5. 5 6. 7.

# O LORD, I Love You, God, My Strength

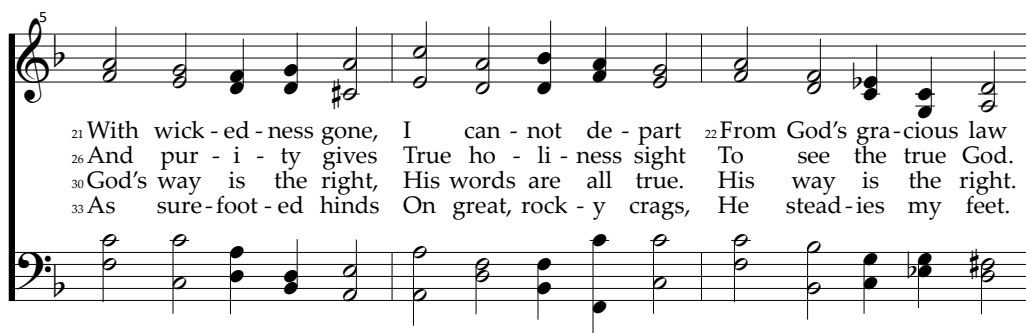
Cont'd, Psalm 18:20-34



6. <sup>20</sup>Ac-cord-ing to my right-eous-ness My GOD re-ward-ed rich-ly.  
7. <sup>23</sup>Up-right be-fore the Lord I stood <sup>24</sup>And this He has re-ward-ed.  
8. <sup>28</sup>My can-dle God will al-ways light, And chase a-way the dark-ness.  
9. <sup>31</sup>So who is God ex-cept the LORD? Who is a rock be-side Him?



The clean-ness of my hands and heart Has meant He brought this bless-ing.  
<sup>25</sup>The mer-ci-ful find mer-cy now, And up-right men will see Him.  
<sup>29</sup>By Him I have run through a troop, And crossed the wall by leap-ing.  
<sup>32</sup>He is the One who girds with strength, And keeps my way es-tab-lished.



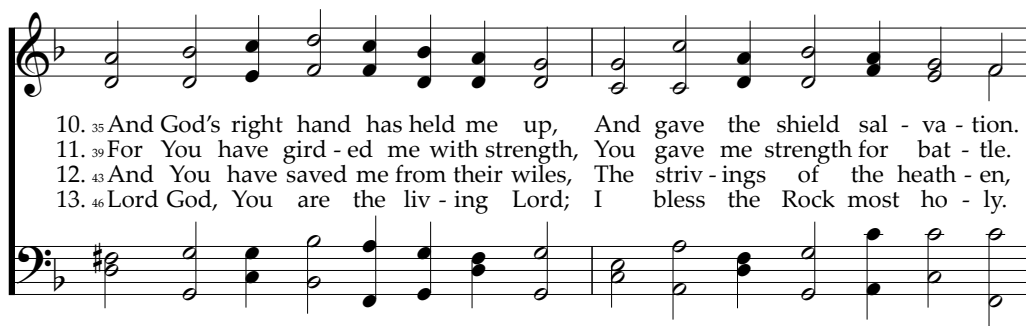
<sup>5</sup>  
<sup>21</sup>With wick-ed-ness gone, I can-not de-part <sup>22</sup>From God's gra-cious law  
<sup>26</sup>And pur-i-ty gives True ho-li-ness sight To see the true God.  
<sup>30</sup>God's way is the right, His words are all true. His way is the right.  
<sup>33</sup>As sure-foot-ed hinds On great, rock-y crags, He stead-ies my feet.



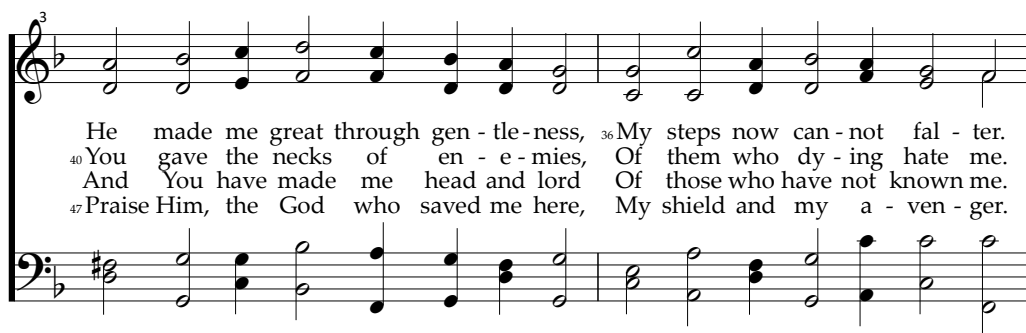
<sup>8</sup>  
For all His laws were held, My hand has held them tight-ly.  
Some think that He is hard; <sup>27</sup>Our God can break the haugh-ty.  
He is a buck-ler strong, A shield for those who trust Him.  
<sup>34</sup>As bows of steel are bent, He trains my hands for fight-ing.

# O LORD, I Love You, God, My Strength

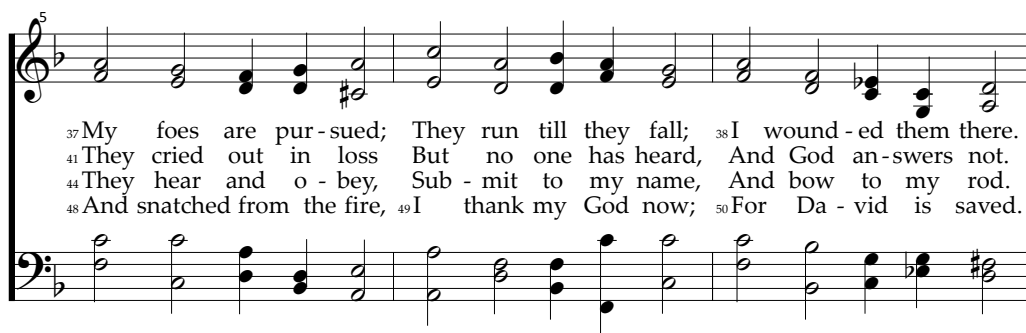
Cont'd, Psalm 18:35-50



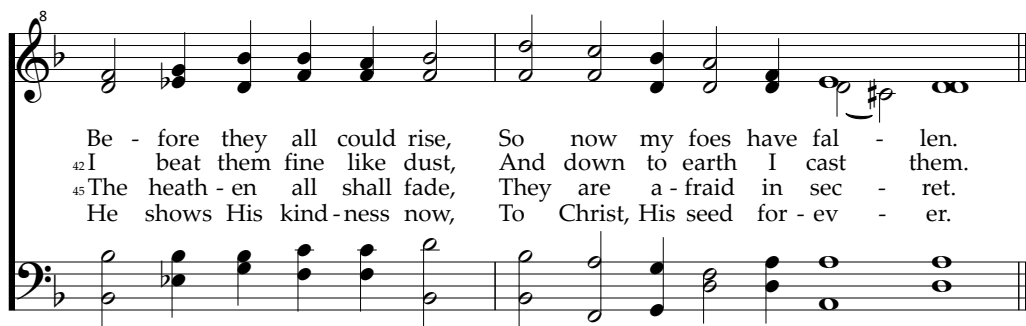
10. <sup>35</sup> And God's right hand has held me up, And gave the shield sal - va - tion.  
11. <sup>39</sup> For You have gird - ed me with strength, You gave me strength for bat - tle.  
12. <sup>43</sup> And You have saved me from their wiles, The striv - ings of the heath - en,  
13. <sup>46</sup> Lord God, You are the liv - ing Lord; I bless the Rock most ho - ly.



He made me great through gen - tle - ness, <sup>36</sup> My steps now can - not fal - ter.  
<sup>40</sup> You gave the necks of en - e - mies, Of them who dy - ing hate me.  
And You have made me head and lord Of those who have not known me.  
<sup>47</sup> Praise Him, the God who saved me here, My shield and my a - ven - ger.



<sup>37</sup> My foes are pur - sued; They run till they fall; <sup>38</sup> I wound - ed them there.  
<sup>41</sup> They cried out in loss But no one has heard, And God an - swers not.  
<sup>44</sup> They hear and o - bey, Sub - mit to my name, And bow to my rod.  
<sup>48</sup> And snatched from the fire, <sup>49</sup> I thank my God now; <sup>50</sup> For Da - vid is saved.



Be - fore they all could rise, So now my foes have fal - len.  
<sup>42</sup> I beat them fine like dust, And down to earth I cast them.  
<sup>45</sup> The heath - en all shall fade, They are a - fraid in sec - ret.  
He shows His kind - ness now, To Christ, His seed for - ev - er.