

Canticle of Zechariah

(Benedictus)

Based on Luke 1:68-79
Paule Freeburg, DC

Christopher Walker

INTRO ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 104$)

Keyboard *mf*

C Gsus4 G Eb Fsus4 F C Em G7

VERSES

1. To God of Is - ra - el be praise, who saves us all from
 (2. The) mer - cy of our God has come, the prom - ise made to
 (3. Pre -) pare the way for Christ to come to save us, with the

C C C/E C Bb/D F C/E F

1. sin - ful ways. From Da - vid's house and fam - i - ly a Sav - ior comes to
 2. A - bra - ham; that we might serve God fear - less - ly, a ho - ly peo - ple,
 3. ris - ing sun. His light will shine and not grow dim, des - troy - ing death, through

G7 C C/E G Eb F C Em Dm/F

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1. set us free, Our en - e - mies we need not fear, the proph-ets said, "The
 2. you and me. And you, my child, will proph - e - sy and make sal - va - tion
 3. life in him, and change the dark - ness in - to day, pro - claim - ing peace as

G7 C Dm Dm6/F C/E C C/B \flat F/A F Dm

1, 2 Final

1. Lord is near!" 2. The 3. God's own way.
 2. known on high. 3. Pre -

1, 2 Final

Gsus4 G C Am Dm7/C G7/B Gsus4 G C

Canticle of Zechariah

(Benedictus)

(Guitar/Vocal)

Based on Luke 1:68–79

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Christopher Walker

INTRO (♩ = ca. 104)

Capo 3: (A) (Esus4) (E) (C) (Dsus4) (D) (A) (C#m) (E7)
 mf C Gsus4 G Eb Fsus4 F C Em G7

(Keyboard)

VERSES

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

1. To God of Is - ra - el be praise, who saves us all from
 (2. The) mer - cy of our God has come, the prom - ise made to
 (3. Pre -) pare the way for Christ to come to save us, with the

(E7) (A) (A/C#) (E) (C) (D) (A) (C#m) (Bm/D)
 G7 C C/E G Eb F C Em Dm/F

1. sin - ful ways. From Da - vid's house and fam - i - ly a Sav - ior comes to
 2. A - bra - ham; that we might serve God fear - less - ly, a ho - ly peo - ple,
 3. ris - ing sun. His light will shine and not grow dim, des - troy - ing death, through

(E7) (A) (Bm) (Bm6/D) (A/C#) (A) (A/G) (D/F#) (D) (Bm)
 G7 C Dm Dm6/F C/E C C/Bb F/A F Dm

1. set us free, Our en - e - mies we need not fear, — the proph - ets said, "The
 2. you and me. And you, my child, will proph - e - sy — and make sal - va - tion
 3. life in him, and change the dark - ness in - to day, — pro - claim - ing peace as

1, 2	Final
(Esus4) (E) (A)	(Esus4) (E) (A)
Gsus4 G C	Gsus4 G C
(F#m)	
Am	
(Bm7/A) (E7/G#)	
Dm7/C G7/B	

1. Lord is near!" 2. The 3. God's own way.
 2. known on high. 3. Pre -

Composer Notes

This Canticle of Zechariah can be found on two recordings, *Morning and Evening—Prayer for the commute* (double CD 20099, songbook 20139), where it can be heard sung in five different ways, and *Glory Bound* (CD 20638, octavo packet 20639), a compilation of pieces from *Morning and Evening*.

It may be sung as the canticle at the end of Morning Prayer, or at any time as a song of praise—especially during Advent. It is particularly suitable for children. It has a strong melody, so it works well unaccompanied. If it is sung often, add variety by alternating the instrument parts. Vocal variety may be achieved by alternating men and women by verse or within each verse, like in the example below:

- Men: To God of Israel be praise, who saves us all from sinful ways.
Women: From David's house and family, a Savior comes to set us free.
All: Our enemies we need not fear. The prophets said, "The Lord is near!"

—*Christopher Walker*

Canticle of Zechariah

(Benedictus)

SOLO INSTRUMENT II

Christopher Walker

INTRO (♩ = ca. 104)

Musical notation for the Intro section, featuring a treble clef, 3/4 time signature, and a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic marking. The melody begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, then a half note B4, quarter notes A4 and G4, and finally a half note G4 with a fermata.

VERSES 1-3

Musical notation for the first line of Verses 1-3, including a repeat sign. The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, and B4, then a half note C5, and ends with a quarter note B4.

Musical notation for the second line of Verses 1-3, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, followed by eighth notes A4 and B4, then a quarter note C5, eighth notes B4 and A4, a quarter note G4, eighth notes F4 and E4, a quarter note D4, eighth notes C4 and B3, and finally a quarter note A3.

Musical notation for the third line of Verses 1-3, featuring dotted notes and rests. The melody starts with a dotted quarter note G4, followed by a dotted quarter note A4, a quarter rest, a dotted quarter note B4, a dotted quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a dotted quarter note A4, and a dotted quarter note G4.

Musical notation for the final line of Verses 1-3, including first and second endings and a final cadence. The melody begins with a dotted quarter note G4, followed by a dotted quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a dotted quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a dotted quarter note A4, and a dotted quarter note G4. This is followed by a first ending bracket containing a dotted quarter note G4, a dotted quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. A second ending bracket contains a dotted quarter note G4, a dotted quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The piece concludes with a final cadence consisting of a dotted quarter note G4, a dotted quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4.

Assembly Edition

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (Benedictus)

Christopher Walker



1. To God of Is - ra - el be praise, who saves us all from
2. The mer - cy of our God has come, the prom - ise made to
3. Pre - pare the way for Christ to come to save us, with the



1. sin - ful ways. From Da - vid's house and fam - i - ly a
2. A - bra - ham; that we might serve God fear - less - ly, a
3. ris - ing sun. His light will shine and not grow dim, des -



1. Sav - ior comes to set us free, Our en - e - mies we
2. ho - ly peo - ple, you and me. And you, my child, will
3. troy - ing death, through life in him, and change the dark - ness



1. need not fear, the proph - ets said, "The Lord is near!"
2. proph - e - sy and make sal - va - tion known on high.
3. in - to day, pro - claim - ing peace as God's own way.

Text: Based on Luke 1:68-79; Paule Freeburg, DC.
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