

For Hal and Martha Hopson
Blest Be the God of Israel

SATB or Unison Choir and Organ,
with opt. Congregation

MERLE'S TUNE
by Hal H. Hopson
Setting by Michael Burkhardt

Michael A. Perry

Lyrically (♩ = ca. 60)

Organ

mp *legato*

Ped.

5 *Soprano* *mf*

1. Blest

Alto *mf*

1. Blest

Tenor/Bass *mf*

1. Blest

5

An organ Voluntary/Introduction for this anthem is available in
Eight Improvisations on 20th Century Hymn Tunes, Order No. MSM-10-707.

A reproducible page for congregation is on page 12.

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9

be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free; who

be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free; who

be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free; who

9

13

vis - its and re - deems us, who grants us lib - er - ty. The

vis - its and re - deems us, who grants us lib - er - ty. The

vis - its and re - deems us, who grants us lib - er - ty. The

13

17

proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease; God

proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease; God

proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease; God

17

This block contains the first system of music, measures 17-20. It features three vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease; God". The piano part provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands.

21

shall ful - fill that prom - ise and bring the peo - ple peace.

shall ful - fill that prom - ise and bring the peo - ple peace.

shall ful - fill that prom - ise and bring the peo - ple peace.

21

This block contains the second system of music, measures 21-24. It features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "shall ful - fill that prom - ise and bring the peo - ple peace.". The piano part continues with harmonic accompaniment, including some sustained chords and melodic fragments.

25 *mp*
 2. God
p
 2. Hum...
p
 2. Hum...

25 *mp* *p*

29
 from the house of Da - vid a child of grace is giv'n; a
 Hum...
 Hum...

29

33

Sav - ior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heav'n. Be -

Hum. ...

33

37

fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - er in the way, the

Hum. ...

37

41

proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.

41

45

rit. ***mf***
3. On

*rit. *(+ Congr.)* ***f***
3. On

*rit. *(+ Congr.)* ***f***
3. On

45

rit. ***mf***

*Congregation may sing Stanza 3 melody with choir altos, tenors and basses.

49 *a tempo*

those who sit in dark - ness the sun be - gins, be - gins to rise, ah, -

a tempo

those who sit in dark - ness the sun be - gins to rise, the

a tempo

those who sit in dark - ness the sun be - gins to rise, the

49 *a tempo*

53 *f*

_____ for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes.

dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes. God

dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes. God

53 *f*

57

Ah, a - long the paths of peace. Ah,
 guides the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace. O
 guides the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace. O

57

61

a - men, with songs that nev - er cease.
 bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease.
 bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease.

61