

# Psalm 150



A creative interpretation of the final song of praise in the morning liturgy

This final chapter in the biblical book of Psalms serves as a powerful conclusion of the *Pesukei D'zimrah* (verses of song) section in Jewish morning liturgy. It is the final exercise of a spiritual warm-up—orienting us to our core purpose with a sense of awe and connection for the source of creation. This reading adds responses to the original text of the psalm to remind ourselves what that awe and connection should inspire in us.

הללו־יָה  
Hal'lu yah!

**HALLELUYAH**

**WE RAISE OUR VOICES IN TIMES OF JOY AND TIMES OF DESPAIR**

הללו־יָאֵל בְּקֹדֶשׁוֹ הֵלְלוּהוּ בְּרָקִיעַ עֶזוֹ  
Hal'lu El b'kodsho, hal'luhu birkia uzo.

**PRAISE GOD IN THIS SANCTUARY**

**MAY WE ENABLE GOD'S PRESENCE TO REACH BEYOND ITS WALLS**

**PRAISE GOD IN THE HEAVENS**

**LET OUR MORAL COMPASS REMAIN TUNED TOWARD HEAVEN WHEN CHAOS REIGNS ON EARTH**

הללוהוּ בְּמַבּוֹרֹתָיו הֵלְלוּהוּ כְּרֹב גִּדְלוֹ  
Hal'luhu big'vurotav, hal'luhu k'rov gudlo.

**PRAISE GOD FOR MIGHTY ACTS**

**MAY WE ACT WITH COURAGE IN AN ERA THAT REWARDS SUBMISSION**

**PRAISE GOD FOR EXCEEDING GREATNESS**

**LET OUR GREATNESS BE FOUND IN STRIVING TO UPHOLD THE HUMAN DIGNITY GOD BESTOWS IN US ALL**

הללוהוּ בְּתַקְעַ שׁוֹפָר הֵלְלוּהוּ בְּנִגְּל וְכִנּוֹר  
Hal'luhu b'teika shofar, hal'luhu b'neivel v'chinor.

**PRAISE GOD WITH BLASTS OF THE SHOFAR**

**THE BLAST OF PRAISE IS ALSO A CALL TO GATHER – UNITED IN SHARED PURPOSE**

**PRAISE GOD WITH HARP AND LYRE**

**LET US USE EVERY INSTRUMENT AT OUR DISPOSAL TO BUILD A SOCIETY THAT PROTECTS THE ORPHAN,  
THE WIDOW AND THE STRANGER**

הללוהוּ בְּתוֹף וּמִתְחוֹל הֵלְלוּהוּ בְּמִנִּים וְעֻגָב  
Hal'luhu b'tof umachol, hal'luhu b'minim v'ugav

**PRAISE GOD WITH TIMBREL AND DANCE**

**MAY OUR BODY POLITIC MOVE TO THE RHYTHM OF KINDNESS AND COMPASSION**

**PRAISE GOD WITH LUTE AND PIPE**

**MAY THE MUSIC OF JUSTICE AND DUE PROCESS FILL OUR STREETS**

הללוהו בצלצלי-שמע הללוהו בצלצלי תרועה  
*Hal'luhu b'tziltz'lei shama, hal'luhu b'tziltzlei t'ruah*

PRAISE GOD WITH RESOUNDING CYMBALS

WE WILL MAKE NOISE SO LONG AS PEOPLE ARE DENIED ACCESS TO SEEK REFUGE

PRAISE GOD WITH LOUD-CLASHING CYMBALS

WE REFUSE TO BE SILENT WHEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEPEND ON THE PLACE OF ONE'S BIRTH

כל הנשמה תהלל יה הללויה  
*Kol han'shamah t'haleil Yah, Hal'lu yah*

LET ALL THE BREATHES PRAISE GOD

LET ALL THE BREATHES FIND SAFETY, REFUGE AND OPPORTUNITY

HALLELUYAH

MAY WE USE EVERY BREATH GOD GIVES US TO SPEAK A MORE JUST WORLD INTO BEING