

More About THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH

One Thanksgiving Day recently, a lifelong dear friend posted a verse from Psalm 28 on her Facebook timeline. I am always on the lookout for public domain sacred texts to set for church choir, and when that appeared on my newsfeed, it caught my eye. So I posted the following comment: "I've gotta set that verse as a choir anthem!"

No one at the time--including her--seemed to take any notice of my comment, but I actually followed through on it, and this polyphonic *a cappella* anthem for mixed voices is the result. I added the last line of the preceding verse as an introduction.

To make the verse appropriate for Thanksgiving, my friend had changed the words "praise him" to "thank him." I set it using the original words, but I think that is a great idea, since I used to direct a choir that participated in an ecumenical Thanksgiving Day service every year, and I could really have used it then (please see the "More About" link for **Alleluia**). Just by changing that one word--which is repeated three times with increasing intensity right at the end--it makes this anthem perfect for Thanksgiving, as well as general purpose with its original text.