

## לכו נרננה - Lechu Neranena

### Psalm 95

#### About the Piyut

The group of Psalms 92-100 is introduced by the words "A Psalm, a song, for the Sabbath day", revolves around the idea of God's sovereignty and might, and concludes with a call to all nations to praise and worship God with joy. The special message conveyed in these psalms secured for them a place honor in the prayer book. Psalms 95-99 were included in the prayer as an introduction to the Friday night services in many communities. The idea of God's sovereignty resonates emphatically with Shabbat since only a mighty ruler can allow himself to cease all activity completely. The Psalm is usually chanted by the whole congregation with one of the various tropes of Psalms and serves as a wonderful introduction to the Shabbat prayers.

#### Hebrew Text

*L'chu n'ranena la-Adonai nariya l-tzur yisheyenu*

לכו נרננה לה' נריעה לצור ישענו

*N'kadmafanav b'-toda bi-zmirot nariya lo*

נקדמה פניו בתודה בזמרות נריע לו

*Ki el gadol Adonai u-melech gadol al kol Elohim*

כי אל גדול ה' ומלך גדול על כל אלהים

*Asher b'-yado mechk'rey aretz v'-toafot harim lo*

אשר בידו מחקרי ארץ ותועפות הרים לו

*Asher lo hayam v'-hu asahu v'-yabeshet yadav yatzaru*

אשר לו הים והוא עשהו ויבשת ידיו יצרו

*Bo'u nishtachaveh v'-nichra'a niv'r'cha lifnei Adonai oseyenu*

באו נשתחוה ונכרעה נברכה לפני ה' עשנו

*Ki hu Eloheinu va-anachnu am mar'ito v-tzon yado hayom  
im b-kolo tishma'u*

כי הוא אלהינו ואנחנו עם מרעיתו וצאן ידו  
היום אם בקלו תשמעו

*Al takshu al l'avchem kim'riva k'yom masa bamidbar*

אל תקשו לבבכם כמריבה כיום מסה במדבר

*Asher nisuni avoteichem b'chanuni gam ra'u fo'ali*

אשר נסוני אבותיכם בחנוני גם ראו פועלי

*Arba'im shana akut b'-dor va-omar am to'ey levav hem v'-  
hem lo yad'u d'rachai*

ארבעים שנה אקוט בדור ואמר עם תעי לבב הם  
והם לא ידעו דרכי

*Asher nishbati v'-api im y'vo'un el m'nuchati*

אשר נשבعتי באפי אם יבאון אל מנוחתי

## English Translation

### Psalm 95

1. Come, let us sing joyously to the Lord,  
raise a shout for our Rock and deliverer;
2. Let us come into His presence with praise,  
let us raise a shout for Him in song!
3. For the Lord is a great God,  
the great King of all divine beings
4. In his hands are the depths of the earth,  
the peaks of the mountains are His
5. His is the sea, He made it,  
and the land, which His fashioned
6. Come, let us bow down and kneel,  
bend the knee before the Lord our maker
7. For he is our God and we are the people He tend,  
the flock in his care, O if you but heed His charge this day
8. Do not be stubborn as at Meribah,  
as the day of Massah, in the wilderness
9. When your fathers put Me to the test, tried Me,  
though they had seen My deeds
10. Forty years I was provoked by that generation,  
I thought, "They are a senseless people, they  
would not know My ways."
11. Concerning them I swore in anger, "They shall  
never come to My resting-place"

Translation taken from the JPS Tanakh

**Recording by the Piyut North America ensemble**