

Chanukah: Ma'oz Tzur

This is a song that is sung after lighting the festival candles on the holiday of Chanukah.

Hebrew:

Maoz tsur yeshuati, lekha naé leshabéakh,
Tiekon beit tefilati, vesham toda nezabéach.
Leét takhin mat béakh, mitsar hamnabéakh,
Az egmor beshir mizmor khanukat hamizbéakh.
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Raot sav'a nafshi, beyagon kokhi kala,
Khayai méreru bekushi, beshibud malkhut eglá,
Uveyado hagdola hotsi et hassegula,
Khél paro vekhol zaro, yardu kaeven bemtsula.
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Devir kodsho heviani, vegam sham lo shakateti,
Uva noges vehiglani, kizarim avadeti,
Veyein ra'al massakhti, kim'at she avarti,
Kéts bavel, zerubavel, lekéts shiv' im nosha'ti.
Kéts bavel, zerubavel, lekéts shiv' im nosha'ti.

Kerot komat berosh bikeish agagi ben hamedata,
Venihiyata lo lepach ulemokeish vega'avato nishbata,
Rosh yemini niseita ve'oyeiv shemo machita,
Rov banav vekinyanav al ha'eitz talita.
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English:

O mighty stronghold of my salvation, to praise You is a delight.
Restore my House of Prayer and there we will bring a thanksgiving offering.
When You will have prepared the slaughter for the blaspheming foe,
Then I shall complete with a song of hymn the dedication of the Altar.

My soul had been sated with troubles, my strength has been consumed with grief.
They had embittered my life with hardship, with the calf-like kingdom's bondage.
But with His great power He brought forth the treasured ones,
Pharaoh's army and all his offspring went down like a stone into the deep.

To the holy abode of His Word He brought me. But there, too, I had no rest.
And an oppressor came and exiled me. For I had served aliens,
And had drunk benumbing wine. Scarcely had I departed
At Babylon's end Zerubabel came. At the end of 70 years I was saved.

To sever the towering cypress sought the Aggagite, son of Hammedatha,
But it became [a snare and] a stumbling block to him and his arrogance was stilled.
The head of the Benjaminite You lifted and the enemy, his name You obliterated
His numerous progeny - his possessions - on the gallows You hanged.

Greeks gathered against me then in Hasmonean days.
They breached the walls of my towers and they defiled all the oils;
And from the one remnant of the flasks a miracle was wrought for the roses.
Men of insight - eight days established for song and jubilation.