JOYFULLY SANG. Literally, "they responded and said." Basing himself on the 1st-century report of Philo of Alexandria, the modern scholar Reuven Kimelman argues that the verb anu, "responded," refers to the antiphonal male and female choruses in the ancient synagogue. Thus, the men would say Adonai yimlokh, "Adonai will reign"; the women would respond: l'olam va-ed, "forever and ever."

MIRIAM. The Torah tells us that after the deliverance at the Sea, Moses led the men in song; Miriam, in response, led the women in joyous singing.

WHO IS LIKE YOU. Exodus 15:11.

ADONAI WILL REIGN. Exodus 15:18.

ADONAI HAS RESCUED. Jeremiah 31:11.

REDEEMED. The verb is in the past tense, unlike all the other br'akhot of the Sh'ma, which are in the present tense. It is as if a community that truly is able to recite the Sh'ma together must already have been redeemed. (based on Franz Rosenzweig)