

O God my God, wherefore dost thou forsake me

The Whole Booke of Psalmes (1621) - Psalme 22

Thomas RAVENSCROFT (1590-1633)

CANTVS
MEDIVS
TENOR
or Playnsong
BASSVS

Chichester Tune

O God my God, wherefore dost thou for - sake me ut - ter - ly?
 O God my God, wherefore dost thou for - sake me ut - ter - ly?
 O God my God wherefore dost thou for - sake me ut - ter - ly?
 O God my God, wherefore dost thou for - sake me ut - ter - ly?

3
 S. And help - est not when I do make my great com - plaint and cry?
 A. And help - est not when I do make my great com - plaint and cry?
 T. And help - est not when I do make my great com - plaint and cry?
 B. And help - est not when I do make my great com - plaint and cry?

2. To thee my God even all day long,
I do both cry and call:
I cease not all the night and yet,
thou hearest not at all.

3. Even thou that in thy Sanctuary,
and holy place dost dwell:
Thou art the comfort and the joy
and glory of Israel.

4. And he in whom our fathers old,
had all their hope for ever:
And whom they put their trust in thee
so dost thou them deliver.

5. They were delivered ever when
they called on thy name:
And for the faith they had in thee,
they were not put to shame.

6. But I am now become a worm,
more like then any man:
An outcast whom the people scorn,
with all the spite they can.

7. And me despise as they behold
me walking on the way:
They grin, they mow, they nod their heads
and in this wise they say.

8. This man did glory in the Lord,
his favor and his love:
Let him redeem and help him now,
his power if he will prove.

9. But Lord out of my mothers wombe,
I came by thy request:
Thou didst preserve him still in hope,
while I did suck her breast.

10. I was committed from my birth
with thee to have abode:
Since I was in my mothers wombe,
thou hast been even my God.

Critical notes:

This setting is similar to the one of Psalms 53 & 110;
text somewhat modernised.

The second part.

11. Then Lord depart not now from me
in this my present grief:
Since I have none to be my help,
my succor and relief.

12. So many Bulles do compass me,
that be full strong of head:
Yea, Bulls so fat as though they had
in Basan field been fed.

13. They gape upon me greedily,
as though they would me slay:
Much like a Lion roaring out,
and ramping for his prey.

14. But I drop down like watershed
my joints in sunder break:
My heart doth in my body melt,
like wax against the heat.

15. And like a potsherd dryth my strength
my tongue it cleaveth fast:
Unto my jaws, and I am brought
to dust of death at last.

16. And many dogs do compass me,
and wicked counsel eke
conspire against me cursedly,
they pierce my hands and feet.

17. I was tormented so that I,
might all my bones have told:
Yet still upon me they do look:
and still they me behold.

18. My garments they divided eke
in parts among them all:
And for my coat they did cast lots,
to whom it might befall.

19. Therefore I pray thee be not far
from me at my great need:
But rather sith thou art my strength,
to help me Lord make speed.

20. And from the sword Lord save my soul
by thy might and thy power:
And keep my soul thy darling deer
from dogs that would devoure.

21. And from the Lions mouth that would
me in all sunder shiver:
And from the horns of Unicorns
Lord safely me deliver.

22. And I shall to my brethren all
thy majesty record:
And in thy Church shall praise the name
of thee the living Lord.

The third part.

23. All ye that fear him praise the Lord
thou Jacob honour him:
And all ye seed of Israel
with reverence worship him.

24. For he despiseth not the poor,
he turneth not away
His countenance when they do call,
but granteth to their cry.

25. Among the folk that fear the Lord
I will therefore proclaim
Thy praise, and keep my promise made
for setting forth thy name.

26. The poor shall eat and be sufficed,
and those that do their dever
To know the Lord shall praise his name,
their hearts shall live for ever.

27. All coasts of earth shall praise the Lord
and turn to him for grace:
The heathen folk shall worship him
before his blessed face.

28. The kingdom of the heathen folk
the Lord shall have therefore:
And he shall be their governor,
and king for evermore.

29. The rich man of his goodly gifts,
shall feed and taste also:
And in his presence worship him,
and bow their knees full low.

30. And all that shall go down to dust
of life by him must taste:
My seed shall live and praise the Lord
while any world shall last.

31. My seed shall plainly shew to them
that shall be born hereafter:
His justice and his righteousness,
and all his works of wonder.