

Have mercy Lord on mee

The Whole Booke of Psalmes (1621) - Psalme 56

William HARRISON (fl. 1621)

CANTVS
MEDIVS
TENOR
or Playnsong
BASSVS

Lincolne Tune

1
 Have mer - cy Lord on me I pray, for man would me de vour:
 Have mer - cy Lord on me I pray, for man would me de - vour:
 Have mer - cy Lord on me I pray, for man would me de - vour:
 Have mer - cy Lord on me I pray, for man would me de - vour:

3
S. He sight - eth with me night and day, and troub - leth me each hour.
A. He sight - eth with me night and day, and troub - leth me each hour.
T. He sight - eth with me night and day, and troub - leth me each hour.
B. He sight - eth with me night and day, and troub - leth me each hour.

2. Mine enemies daily enterprise,
 to swallow me outright:
 To fight against me many rise,
 O thou most high of might.

3. When they would make me most afraid
 with boasts and brags of pride:
 I trust in thee alone for aid,
 by thee I will abide.

4. Gods promise I do mind and praise,
 O Lord I trust in thee:
 I do not care at all assays,
 what flesh can do to me.

5. What things I either did or spake,
 they wrest them at their will:
 And all their counsels that they take,
 is how to work me ill.

6. They all consent themselves to hide,
 close watch for me to lay
 To spy my paths, and snares have laid,
 to take my life away.

7. Shall they thus scape on mischiefs set?
 thou God on them wilt frown:
 For in his wrath he doth not let
 to throw whole kingdoms down.

8. Thou seest how oft they make me flee,
 and on my tears doth look
 Reserve them in a glass by thee,
 and write them in thy book.

9. When I do call upon thy name,
 my foes away do start:
 I well perceive it by the same,
 that God doth take my part.
 10. I glory in the word of God,
 to praise it I accord:
 With joy I shall declare abroad,
 the promise of the Lord.

11. I trust in God and yet I say
 as I before began:
 The Lord he is my help and stay,
 I do not care for men.

12. I will perform with heart so free
 to God my vows always:
 And I O Lord all times to thee
 will offer thanks and praise.

13. My soul from death thou dost defend
 and keep my feet upright
 That I before thee may ascend,
 with such as live in light.

Critical notes:

this setting is similar to the one of Psalms 7 & 142;
 text somewhat modernised.