

Lord give thy judgements to the King

The Whole Booke of Psalmes (1621) - Psalme 72

Thomas RAVENSCROFT (1590-1633)

CANTVS

MEDIVS

TENOR

BASS

Christ Hospital Tune

Lord give thy judg - ments to the King, there - in in - struct him well:

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And with his son that Prince - ly thing, Lord let thy jus - tice dwell.

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3. That he may govern uprightly,
and rule thy folk aright:
And so defend through equity,
the post that have no might.

4. And let the mountains that are high,
unto their folk give peace:
And eke let little hills apply,
in justice to increase.

4. That he may help and ease the poor
with aid, and make them strong:
And eke destroy for evermore
all those that do them wrong.

5. And then from age to age shall they
regard and fear thy might
So long as Son doth shine by day,
or else the Moon at night.

6. Lord make the King unto the just,
like rains to fields new mown:
And like to drops that lay the dust,
and fresh the Land new sown.

7. The just shall flourish in his time,
and all shall be at peace:
Untill the Moon shall cease to prime,
waste, change, and to increase.

8. He shall be Lord of sea and land,
from shore to shore throughout:
And from the floods within the land,
through all the earth about.

9. The people that in deserts dwell,
shall kneel to him full thick:
And all his enemies that rebell,
the earth and dust shall lick.

10. The Lords of all the Isles thereby,
great gifts to him shall bring:
The King of Saby, and Araby,
give many a costly thing.

11. All Kings shall seek with one accord
in his good grace to stand:
And all the people of the world,
shall serve him at his hard.
12. For he the needy sort doth save,
that unto him do call
And eke the simple folk that have
no help of man at all.

13. He taketh pittie on the poor,
that are with need oppressed:
He doth preserve them evermore,
and bring their souls to rest.
14. He shall redeem their life from dread
from fraud, from wrong, from might:
And eke the blood that they shall bleed
is precious in his sight.

15. But he shall live, and they shall bring
to him of Saba's gold:
He shall be honoured as a King,
and daily be extolled.

16. The mighty mountains of his land
of corn shall bear such throng
That it like Cedar trees shall stand
in Libanus full strong.

17. Their cities eke full well shall speed,
the fruits thereof shall pass:
In plenty it shall far exceed,
and spring as green as grass.

18. For ever they shall praise his name,
while that the Son is light:
And think them happy through the same,
all folk shall bless his might.

19. Praise ye the Lord of hosts, and sing
to Israels God each one:
For he doth every wondrous thing,
yea, he himself alone.

20. And blessed be his holy name
all time eternally:
That all the earth may praise the same
Amen, Amen, say I.

Critical notes:

Medius bar 1, note 9: editorial natural added;
this setting is similar to the one of Psalm 107;
text somewhat modernised.