

In speechless silence do not hold

The Whole Booke of Psalmes (1621) - *Psalm 109*

Thomas RAVENSCROFT (1590 - 1633)

CANTVS
MEDIVS
TENOR
or Playnsong
BASSVS

Oxford Tune

In speech-less si-lence do not hold, O God, thy tongue al-ways:
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3
S.
A.
T.
B.

O God, even thou (I say) that art the God of all my praise.
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2. The wicked tongue and guileful mouth
on me disclosed be:
And they with false and lying tongue
have spoken unto me.

3. They did beset me round about
with words of hateful spite:
Without all cause of my desert
against me they did fight.

4. For my good will they were my foes,
but then 'gan I to pray:
My good with ill, my friendliness
with hate they did repay.

5. Set thou the wicked over him,
to have the upper hand:
At his right hand eke suffer thou
his hateful foe to stand.

6. When he is judged, let him then
condemned be therein:

7. And let the prayer that he makes
be turned into sin.

8. Few be his days, his charge also
let thou another take:

9. His children let be fatherless,
his wife a widow make.

10. Let his offspring be vagabonds,
to beg and seek their bread:
Wandering out of the wasted place
where eartst they have been fed.

11. Let covetous extortioners
catch all his goods and store:
And let the strangers spoil the fruits
of all his toil before.

12. Let there be none to pity him,
let there be none at all
That on his children fatherless
will let their mercy fall.

Critical notes:

This setting is similar to the one of Psalms 4 & 74;
text somewhat modernised.

The second part.

13. And so let his posterity
for ever be destroyed:
Their name out-blotted in the age
that after shall succeed.
14. Let not his father's wickedness
from God's remembrance fall:
And let thou not his mother's sin
be done away at all.

15. But in the presence of the Lord
let them remain for aye:
That from the earth their memory
he may cut clean away.
16. Sith mercy he forgat to shew,
but did pursue with spite
The troubled man, and thought to slay
the woeful-hearted wight.

17. As he did cursing love, it shall
betide unto him so:
And as he did not blessing love,
it shall be same him fro.
18. As he with cursing clad himself,
so it like water shall
Into his bowels, and like oil
into his bones befall.

19. As garment let it be to him,
to cover him for aye:
And as a girdle wherewith he
shall girded be alway.
20. Lo, let this same be from the Lord
the guerdon of my foe:
Yea, and of those that evil speak
against my soul also.

21. But thou O Lord that art my God,
deal thou I say with me:
After thy name deliver me,
for good thy mercies be.
22. Because in depth of great distress,
I needy am and poor:
And eke within, my pained breast
my heart is wounded sore.

The third part.

23. Even so do I depart away,
as doth declining shade:
And as the Grasshopper, so I
am shaken off and fade.
24. With fasting long from needful food
enfeebled are my knees:
And all her fatness hath my flesh
enforced been to lees.

25. And I also a vile reproach,
to them was made to be:
And they that did upon me look,
did shake their heads at me.
26. But thou O Lord that art my God
mine aid and succour be:
According to thy mercy Lord
save ande deliver me.

27. And they shall know thereby that this,
Lord is thy mighty hand:
And that thou, thou hast done it Lord,
so shall they understand.
28. Although they curse with spite, yet thou
shalt bless with loving voice:
They shall arise and come to shame,
thy servant shall rejoice.

29. Let them be cloathed all with shame,
that enemies are to me:
And with confusion as a cloak
eke covered let them be.
30. But greatly I will with my mouth
give thanks unto the Lord:
And I among the multitude
his praises will record.

31. For he with help at his right hand,
will stand the poor man by:
To save him from the man that would
condemn his soul to die.