

# The Complaint of a Sinner

Transcribed from *The Complete Book of Psalms*, 1621.

Soprano  
Alto

1. Where right-eous-ness doth say, Lord, for my sin - ful part, In wrath thou should me pay,  
2. But if it be Thy will With sin - ners to con - tend, Then all Thy flock shall spill,

Tenor  
Bass

4

S.  
A.

1. Ven-geance for my de - sert. I can it not de - ny, But needs I must con - fess,  
2. And be lost with-out end. For who lives here so right, That right - ly he can say,

T.  
B.

7

S.  
A.

1. How that con - tin - ual - ly Thy laws I do trans - gress.  
2. He sins not in Thy sight, Full oft and eve - ry day?

T.  
B.

3. The scripture plain tells me  
The righteous offendeth;  
Seven times a day to Thee,  
Whereon Thy wrath depends.  
So that the righteous man  
Does walk in no such path,  
But he falls now and then  
In danger of Thy wrath.

4. Then sith the case so stands  
That e'en the man right wise,  
Falls oft in sinful hands,  
Whereby Thy wrath may raise.  
Lord, I am that unjust,  
And righteousness none have,  
Whereto then shall I trust,  
My sinful soul to save?

5. But truly to that post,  
Whereto I cleave and shall,  
Which is Thy mercy most,  
Lord, let Thy mercy fall!  
And mitigate Thy mood,  
Or else we perish all.  
The price of this Thy blood  
Wherein mercy I call.

6. The scripture doth declare,  
No drop of blood in thee  
But that thou didst not spare  
To shed each drop for me.  
Now let those drops most sweet  
So moist my heart so dry:  
That I with sin replete,  
May live but sin may die.

7. That being mortified  
This sin of mine in me,  
I may be sanctified  
By grace of thine in thee.  
So that I never fall  
Into such mortal sin,  
That my foes infernal  
Rejoice my death therein.

8. But vouchsafe me to keep  
From those infernal foes:  
And from that lake so deep,  
Whereas no mercy grows.  
And I shall sing the songs,  
Confirmed with the just;  
That unto thee belongs,  
Which art mine only trust.

Edited by B. C. Johnston, 2017

1. All notes half value of original.
2. Measure 8, *Medius*: Last note changed from B# to B.
3. Converted to two staves: old *Tenor* becomes new *Soprano*, up one octave; *Medius* becomes *Alto*; *Cantus* becomes *Tenor*, down one octave; and *Bassus* remains.