

# O Heare my prayer Lord

The Whole Booke of Psalmes - *Psalm 102*

John MILTON (1562 - 1647)

CANTVS

MEDIVS

TENOR  
or Playnsong

BASSVS

*Norwich Tune*

O hear my pray - er Lord, and let my cry come un - to thee:

O hear my pray - er Lord, and let my cry come un - to thee:

O hear my pray - er Lord, and let my cry come un - to thee:

O hear my pray - er Lord, and let my cry come un - to thee:

3

S. In time of troub - le do not hide thy face a - way from me.

A. In time of troub - le do not hide thy face a - way from me.

T. In time of troub - le do not hide thy face a - way from me.

B. In time of troub - le do not hide thy face a - way from me.

3. Incline thine ear to me, make haste  
to hear me when I call:  
For as the smoke doth fade, so do  
my days consume and fall.

4. And as an hearth my bones are burnt,  
my heart is smitten dead:  
And withers as the grass, that I  
forget to eat my bread.  
5. By reason of my groaning voice  
my bones cleave to my skin:  
6. As Pelican in wilderness  
such case now am I in.

And as an Owl in desert is,  
lo: I am such a one:  
7. I watch and as a sparrow on  
the houe-top am alone.  
8. Lo daily in reproachful wise  
mine enemies do me scorn:  
And they that do against me rage,  
against me they have sworn.

9. Surely with ashes as with bread  
my hunger I have filled:  
And mingled have my drinks with tears  
that from mine eyes have stilled.  
10. Because of thy displeasure Lord,  
thy wrath and thy disdain:  
For thou hast lifted me aloft,  
and cast me down again.

11. The days wherein I pass my life  
are like the fleeting shade:  
And I am withered like the grass,  
that soon away doth fade.  
12. But thou O Lord for ever dost  
remain in steady place:  
And thy remembrance ever doth,  
abide from race to race.

## The Second part

13. Thou wilt arise, and mercy thou  
to Sion wilt extend:  
The time of mercy, now the time  
foreset is come to end.  
14. For even in the stones whereof  
thy servants do delight:  
And on the dust thereof they have  
compassion in their sp'rit.

15. Then shall the heathen people fear  
the Lord's most holy name:  
And all the kings on earth shall dread  
thy glory and thy fame.  
16. Then when the Lord, the mighty God  
again shall Sion rear:  
And then when he most nobly in  
his glory shall appear.

17. To prayer of the desolate,  
when he himself shall bend:  
when he shall not disdain unto  
their prayers to attend.  
18. This shall be written for the age  
that after shall succeed:  
The people yet uncreated,  
the Lord's renown shall spread.

19. For he from his high sanctuary  
hath looked down below:  
And out of heaven hath the Lord  
beheld the earth also.  
20. That of the mourning captive he  
might hear the woeful cry:  
And that he might deliver those  
that damned are to die.

21. That they in Sion may declare  
the Lord's most holy name:  
And in Jerusalem set forth  
the praises of the same.  
22. Then when the people of the Land,  
and kingdoms with accord:  
Shall be assembled for to do  
their service to the Lord.

## The Third part

23. My former force and strength he hath  
abated in the way:  
And shorter he hath cut my days,  
thus I therefore did say.  
24. My God, in midst of all my days,  
now take me not away:  
Thy years endure eternally,  
from age to age, for aye.

25. Thou the foundation of the earth  
before all times hast laid:  
And Lord the heavens are the work  
which thine own hands have made.  
26. Yea, they shall perish and decay,  
but thou shalt tarry still:  
And they shall all in time wax old,  
even as a garment will.

27. Thou as a garment shalt them change  
and changed shall they be:  
But thou dost still abide the same,  
thy years do never flee.  
28. The children of thy servants shall  
continually endure:  
And in thy sight their happy seed  
for ever shall stand sure.

## Critical notes:

this setting is similar to the one of Psalms 5 and 55;  
text somewhat modernised.