

O Lord, consider my distress

Paraphrased by William Whittingham (1524-1579)

Psalm 51 (1557), anon.,
Edited by Francis Roads

Psalm 51 verses 1-10 Proper Psalm for Ash Wednesday

Soprano/
Tenor [Air]

1. O Lord, con - si - der my dis - tress, And now with speed some pi - ty take,
2. *Re - morse and sor - row do con - strain* *Me to ac - know - ledge my ex - cess,*
3. *It is too ma - nif - est, a - las* *That first I was con - ceived in sin;*
4. If thou with hys - sop purge this blot, I shall be clea - ner than the glass;
5. Turn back thy face and frown - ing ire, For I have felt e - nough thine hand;

Alto

Bass

7

S
My sins for - give, my faults re - dress, Good Lord, for thy great mer - cy's sake.
Be - cause my sin doth still re - main *Be - fore my face with - out re - lease.*
Yea, of my mo - ther so born was, *And yet, vile wretch, re - main there - in.*
And if thou wash a - way my spot, The snow in white - ness I shall pass.
And purge my sins, I thee de - sire, Which do in num - ber pass the sand.

A

B

13

S
Wash me, O Lord, and make me clean From this un - just mad sin - ful act,
A - gainst thee on - ly have I sinned *And done this e - vil in thy sight;*
Al - so, be - hold, Lord, thou dost love *The in - ward truth of a pure heart;*
There - fore O Lord such joy me send, That I may praise thee with my voice,
Make new my heart with - in my breast, And frame it to thy ho - ly will;

A

B

19

S
And pu - ri - fy me once a - gain From this foul crime and bloo - dy fact.
And if I should no mer - cy find, *Yet were thy jud - gments just and right.*
There - fore thy wis - dom from a - bove *Thou hast re - vealed me to con - vert.*
And that my strength may now a - mend, And bro - ken bones al - so re - joice.
And let thy Spi - rit in me rest, Which may my soul with com - fort fill.

A

B

This version of the tune appears in John Playford's *The Whole Book of Psalms* (1725 edition). Note values have been halved, and some passages in the alto or *Medius* part which rise above the soprano have been transposed down an octave.