

# O Lord, consider my distress

1

Paraphrased by William Whittingham (1524-1579)

Psalm 51 verses 1-10  
Proper Psalm for Ash Wednesday


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

Soprano/  
Tenor [Air]

Alto

Bass

Keyboard



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 - soppurge 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;

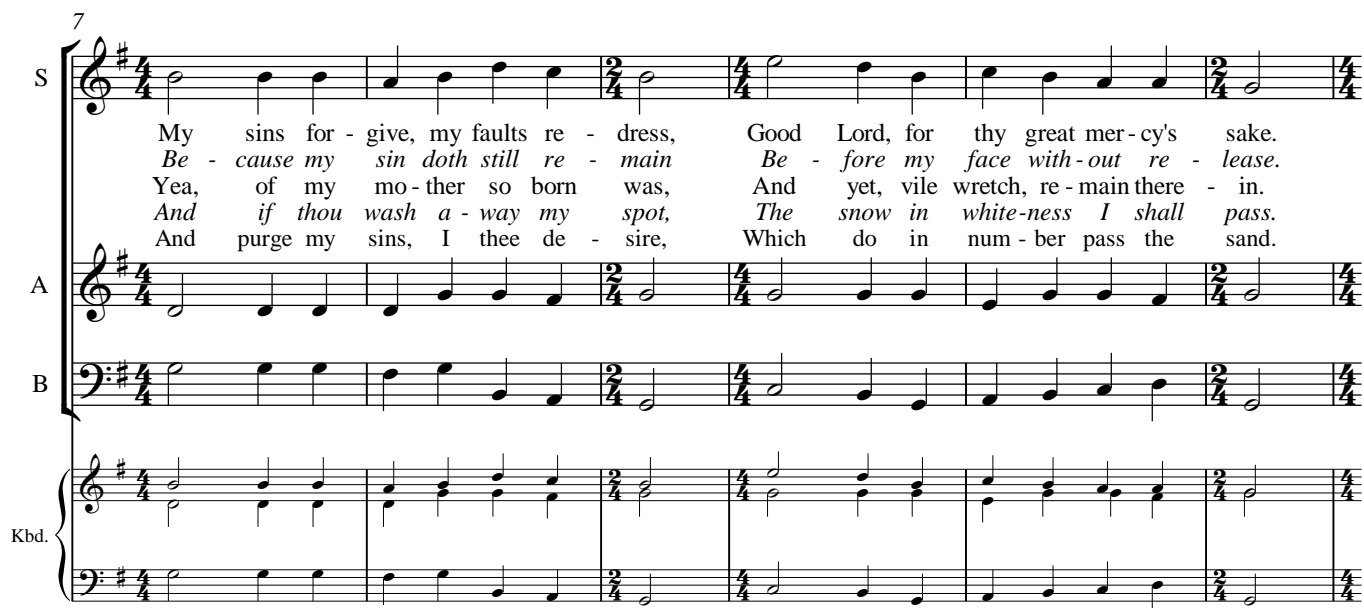
7

S

A

B

Kbd.



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.

## O Lord, consider my distress

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

Kbd.

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

Kbd.

The musical score is arranged for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Bass (B), and Keyboard (Kbd.). It consists of two systems of music. The first system starts at measure 13 and the second at measure 19. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes vocal lines with lyrics and a keyboard accompaniment. The lyrics are: '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;' and '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.'

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.