

18.Complaint Against the Wicked

The musical score is written for a three-part setting (Soprano, Alto, and Bass) in 3/4 time, with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the staves, with line numbers 1 through 5 corresponding to the first system and lines 6 through 9 corresponding to the second system. The lyrics are in a traditional hymn style, with some words hyphenated across lines.

1. Why stand - est Thou a - far, O Lord, Why art Thou hid in trou ble's hour?
2. Let their de - vi - ces work their fall, For in their shame is all their pride;
3. The wick - ed thinks, in foo - lish pride, There is no God Who will re - pay;
4. Un - moved by fear of co - ming doom, On fraud and wick - ed - ness in - tent,
5. A li - on crou - ching for his prey, He waits the poor to o - ver throw;

The wick - ed per - se - cute the poor In haugh - ty pride and reck less pow'r.
And while they seek un - right eous gain The Lord of jus - tice is de - fied.
He has no fear of God or man Be - cause God's jud - gments long de - lay.
With craft he lurks and waits to catch The help - less and the in - no - cent.
He thinks that God re - mem - bers not, Or hides His face and will not know.

6. Arise, O Lord, lift up Thy hand,
O God, protect the poor and meek;
Why should the proud Thy justice doubt,
And words of bold defiance speak?

7. O Lord, Thou wilt indeed requite,
The sin and sorrow Thou dost see;
The helpless and the fatherless
Commit themselves, O Lord, to Thee.

8. Break Thou the power of wicked men
And let their works no longer stand;
The Lord is King for evermore,
Who drove the nations from His land.

9. Lord, Thou hast heard the lowly prayer,
The fainting heart Thou wilt restore,
The helpless cause Thou wilt maintain,
That mortal man may boast no more.