

18.Complaint Against the Wicked

The musical score is written for two voices, Soprano and Bass, in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are divided into two systems, each with five numbered lines. The first system covers lines 1-5, and the second system covers lines 6-10. The lyrics describe the wickedness of the poor and the power of God.

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.