

Psalm 116

Henry Lawes (1596–1662)
edited by Richard Shakeshaft

Soprano
Cantus
Alto

Tenor
Bass
Bassus

1 My soul entirely shall affect
The Lord, whose ears my groans respect
In misery
He heard thy cry;
To him thy prayers direct.

2 Sorrows of death my soul assailed;
The greedy jaws of hell prevailed:
Depressed with grief,
When all relief,
And human pity failed;

3 I cried; My God, O look on me;
Thou ever just, th'afflicted free
O from the grave
Thy servant save;
For mercy lives in thee.

4 The innocent, and long distressed;
The humble mind by wrongs oppressed;
Thy favour still
Preserves from ill:
My soul then take thy rest.

5 God stayed my feet, and dried my tears;
Redeemed from death, and deadly fears:
That still I might
walk in his sight,
And number many years.

6 Thus with a firm belief I prayed:
Yet in extremes of trouble said;
All on the earth
Of mortal birth,
E'en all of lies are made.

7 What shall I unto God restore
For all his mercies? Fall before
His holy throne,
And him alone
With sacred rites adore.

8 I will perform my vows this day,
Where they frequent, who God obey.
Right precious is
The death of his:
He sees, and will repay.

9 Lord, I am thine, thy handmaid's seed;
By thee from raging tyrants freed.
My prayers shall rise
In sacrifice;
My thanks thy altar feed.

10 I will perform my vows this day,
Where they frequent who God obey:
E'en in his court;
Within thy fort,
Renowned Solyma.

George Sandys (1578–1644)