

Psalm 26

Henry Lawes (1596–1662)  
edited by Richard Shakeshaft

The musical score is arranged in three systems. The first system includes vocal parts for Soprano, Cantus Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Bassus, along with a keyboard accompaniment. The second and third systems continue the vocal and keyboard parts. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. A repeat sign is present at the start of the first system.

1 Lord, judge my cause: thy piercing eye  
Beholds my soul's integrity.  
How can I fall;  
When I and all  
My hopes on thee rely?

2 Examine, try my reins and heart;  
Thou, mercy's source, my object art:  
Nor from thy truth  
Have I in youth,  
Or will in age depart.

3 Men sold to sin offend my sight;  
I hate the two-tongued hypocrite:  
Those who devise  
Malicious lies,  
And in their crimes delight.

4 But will, with hands immaculate,  
And offerings, at thy altar wait:  
Thy praise disperse  
In grateful verse;  
Thy noble acts relate.

5 Thy house, in my esteem, excels:  
The mansion where thy glory dwells,  
My life enclose  
Not up with those,  
Whose sin thy grace expels!

6 Who guiltless blood with pleasure spill:  
Subverting bribes their right-hands fill;  
Bold in offence.  
But innocence  
And truth shall guard me still.

7 Redeem, O with thy grace sustain!  
My feet now stand upon the plain.  
Thy justice I  
will magnify,  
With those who fear thy name.

George Sandys (1578–1644)