

## Psalm 56

Henry Lawes (1596–1662)  
edited by Richard Shakeshaft

Soprano  
Cantus  
Alto

Tenor  
Bass  
Bassus

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| <p>1 O Lord, protect me by thy power,<br/>From such as would my life devour;<br/>Who merciless<br/>Strive to oppress;<br/>Nor grant me truce one hour.</p> <p>2 That would devour me every day,<br/>And make my chasèd life their prey:<br/>Yet, Lord, will I<br/>On thee rely;<br/>When dangers most dismay.</p> <p>3 Thy promise I will celebrate;<br/>In constant hope thy pleasure wait;<br/>With patience bear<br/>Thy stay; nor fear<br/>Frail man, or his vain hate.</p> <p>4 My words and deeds they daily wrest,<br/>And in their thoughts my fall digest;<br/>Unite in ill,<br/>And lurk to kill:<br/>My feet can find no rest.</p> | <p>5 O shall they with impunity<br/>Escape, and thus their sins enjoy!<br/>Let death thy rage<br/>Alone assuage;<br/>Them in their guilt destroy.</p> <p>6 My wanderings thou hast numberèd;<br/>Even every tear mine eyes have shed<br/>Thy viäl holds:<br/>All in the folds<br/>Of thy large volume read.</p> <p>7 Assured, that when on God I call,<br/>My foes shall by his fury fall.<br/>His promise I<br/>Will magnify;<br/>His truth divulge to all.</p> <p>8 To him my ready vows will pay;<br/>My vows of thanks, both night and day:<br/>In whom I trust:<br/>Nor shall th'unjust<br/>My steadfast hopes dismay.</p> <p>9 For he hath snatched me from the night<br/>Of death, and kept my foot upright:<br/>That I may still<br/>Observe his will,<br/>And see the cheerful light</p> |
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George Sandys (1578–1644)