

Psalm 5

Henry Lawes (1596–1662)  
edited by Richard Shakeshaft

Soprano  
Cantus  
Alto

Tenor  
Bass  
Bassus

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1 O hear me, Lord, be thou inclined;  
My thoughts O ponder in thy mind:  
And let my cries acceptance find,  
Thou hearest my morning sacrifice:  
To thee, before the daystar rise,  
My prayers ascend with steadfast eyes.

2 Thou lov'st no vice; none dwells with thee;  
Nor glorious fools thy beauty see;  
And sin-defiled detested be.  
Liärs shall sink beneath thy hate;  
Who thirst for blood, and weave deceit,  
Thy rage shall swiftly ruinate..

3 I to thy temple will repair,  
Since infinite thy mercies are;  
And thee adore with fear and prayer.  
My God, conduct me by thy grace;  
For many have my soul in chase.  
Set thy straight paths before my face.

4 False are their tongues, their hearts are hollow,  
Like gaping sepulchres they swallow;  
Fawn, and betray even those they follow.  
With vengeance girt these rebels round;  
In their own counsels them confound;  
Since their transgressions thus abound.

5 Joy they with an exalted voice,  
That trust in thee, who guardest thy choice:  
Let those who love thy name rejoice.  
Thy blessings shall in showers descend;  
Thy favour as a shield defend  
All those, who righteousness intend.

George Sandys (1578–1644)