

Psalm 82

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, and Alto (top staff), and Tenor, Bass, and Bassus (bottom staff). The second and third systems are for keyboard accompaniment, with a treble clef on the top staff and a bass clef on the bottom staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/2. The music is written in a style characteristic of the 17th-century English lute or keyboard.

1 God sits upon the throne of kings,  
And judges unto judgement brings:  
Why then so long  
Maintain you wrong,  
And favour lawless things?

2 Defend the poor, the fatherless;  
Their crying injuries redress:  
And vindicate  
The desolate,  
Whom wicked men oppress.

3 For they of knowledge have no light,  
Nor will to know but walk in night.  
Earth's bases fail;  
No laws prevail;  
Scarce one in heart upright.

4 Though gods, and sons of the most high;  
Yet you, like common men, shall die;  
Like princes fall.  
Great God, judge all  
The earth, thy monarchy.

George Sandys (1578–1644)