

Lord be my Iudge

The Whole Booke of Psalmes (1621) - *Psalm 26*

Thomas RAVENSCROFT (1590 - 1633)

CANTVS

MEDIVS

TENOR
or Playnsong

BASSVS

Wolverhampton Tune

Lord be my Iudge, and thou shalt see my paths are right and plain:

Lord be my Iudge, and thou shalt see my paths are right and plain:

Lord be my Iudge, and thou shalt see my paths are right and plain:

Lord be my Iudge, and thou shalt see my paths are right and plain:

3 Lord be my Iudge, and thou shalt see my paths are right and plain:

S. I trust in God, and hope that he will strength me to re - main.

A. I trust in God, and hope that he will strength me to re - main.

T. I trust in God, and hope that he will strength me to re - main.

B. I trust in God, and hope that he will strength me to re - main.

2. Prove me my God I thee desire,
my ways to search and try:
As men do prove their gold with fire,
my reins and heart espy.

3. Thy goodness laid before my face,
I durst behold always:
For of thy truth I tread the trace,
and will do all my days.

4. I do not lust to haunt or use
with men whose deeds are vain:
To come in house I do refuse
with the deceitful train!

5. I much abhor the wicked sort,
their deeds I do despise:
O do not once to them resort
that hurtful things devise.

6. My hands I wash, and do proceed
in works to walk upright:
then to thine altar I make speed
to offer there in sight.

7. That I may speak and preach the praise
that doth belong to thee:
And so declare how wond'rous ways,
thou hast been good to me.

8. O Lord thy house I love most dear,
to me it doth excel:
I have delight and would draw near
whereas thy grace doth dwell.

9. O shut not up my soul with them
in sin that take theri fill:
Nor yet my soul among those men
that seek much blood to spill.

10. Whose hands are heaped with craft and guile
their life thereof is full:
And their right hand with wretch and wile
for bribes doth pluck and pull.

11. But I in righteousness intend,
my time and days to serve,
Have mercy Lord and me defend,
so that I do not swerve.

12. My foot is stayed for all assays
it standeth well and right:
Wherefore to God will I give praise
in all the people's sight.

Critical notes:

Editorial natural added in Bassus bar 1, note 5; there is a (forbidden) parallel 5th in bar 2/notes 2 & 3 between Cantus & Tenor in the original;
this setting is similar to the one of Psalm 83; text somewhat modernised.