

Thou art O Lord my strength

The Whole Booke of Psalmes (1621) - *Psalm 28*

Thomas RAVENSCROFT (1590 - 1633)

CANTVS
MEDIVS
TENOR
or Playnsong
BASSVS

Durham Tune

Thou art O Lord, my strength and stay, the suc - cor which I crave:
Thou art O Lord, my strength and stay, the suc - cor_which I crave:
Thou art O Lord, my strength and stay, the suc - cor which I crave:
Thou art O Lord, my strength and stay, the suc - cor which I crave:

3
S.
A.
T.
B.

Ne - glect me not, lest I be like to them that go to grave.
Ne - glect me not, lest I be like to them that go to grave.
Ne - glect me not, lest I be like to them that go to grave.
Ne - glect me not, lest I be like to them that go to grave.

2. The voice of thy suppliant hear
that unto thee doth cry:
When I lift up my hands unto
thy holy Ark most high.

3. Repute men ot among the fort
of wicked and pervert:
That speak right fair unto their friends
and think full ill in heart.

4. According to their handy work,
as they deserve indeed:
And after their inventions
let them receive their meed.

5. For they regard nothing Gods word,
his law ne yet his lore:
Therefore will he them and their seed
destroy for evermore.

6. To render thanks unto the Lord
how great a cause have I?
My voice, my prayer and my complaint
that heard so willingly.

7. He is my shield and fortitude,
my buckler in distress:
My hope, my help, my heart's relief,
my song shall him confess.

8. He is our strength and our defense
our enemies to resist:
The health and the salvation
of his elect by Christ.

9. Thy people and thy heritage
Lord, bless, guide, and preserve:
Increase them Lord, and rule their heart,
that they do never swerve.

Critical notes:

Editorial naturals added in Cantus bar 1, note 7 and in Medius bar 3, note 8;
the (forbidden) parallel 5th in bar 3/notes 4 & 5 between Medius & Tenor is in the original;
this setting is similar to the one of Psalm 76;
text somewhat modernised.