

All people hearken and give ear

The Whole Booke of Psalms (1621), Psalme 49

Thomas RAVENSCROFT (1590-1633)

CANTVS
MEDIVS
TENOR
or Playnsong
BASSVS

Hereford Tune

All peo - ple har - ken and give ear to that that I shall tell:
All peo - ple har - ken_ and give ear to that that I shall tell:
All peo - ple har - ken and give ear to that that I shall tell:
All peo - ple_ har - ken and give ear to that that I shall tell:

3
S. Both high and low, both rich and poor, that in the world do dwell.
A. Both high and low, both rich and poor, that in the world do dwell.
T. Both high and low, both rich and poor that in the world do dwell.
B. Both high and low, both rich and poor that in the world do dwell.

3. For why? my mouth shall make discourse
of many things right wise:

In understanding shall my heart
his study exercise.

4. I will incline mine ears to know,
thy parables so dark:
And open all my doubtful speech,
in meter on my Harp.

5. Why should I fear afflictions,
or any careful toil:
Or else my foes which at my heels,
are pressed my life to spoil.

6. For as for such as riches have,
wherein their trust is most:
And they which of their treasures great
themselves do brag and boast.

7. There is no one of them that can,
his brothers death redeem:
Or that can give a price to God,
sufficient for him.

8. It is to great a price to pay,
none can thereto attain:

9. Or that he might his life prolong,
or not in grave remain:

10. They see wise men as well as fools,
subject unto deaths hands:
And being dead, strangers possess
their goods, their rents, their lands.

11. Their care is to build houses fair,
and to determine sure:

To make their name right great on earth
for ever to endure.

12. Yet shall no man alway enjoy,
his honour, wealth and rest:
But shall at length taste of deaths cup,
as well as the brute beast.

The Second part.

13. And though they try their foolish thoughts
to be most lewd and vain:

Their children eke approve their talk,
and in like sin remain.

14. As sheep unto to the fold are brought,
so shall they into grave:
Death shall them eat, and in that day,
the just shall Lordship have.

15. Their image and their royal port,
shall fade and quite decay:

When as from house to pit they pass,
with woe and weal away.

16. But surely God will preserve me,
from death and endless pain:

Because he will of his good grace
my soul receive again.

17. If any man wax wondrous rich,
fear not I say therefor:

Although the glory of his house
increaseth more and more.

18. For when he dyeth of all these things,
nothing shall he receive:
His glory will not follow him,
his pomp will take her leave.

19. Yet in this life he takes himself,
the happiest under Sun:

And onthers likewise flatter him,
saying all is well done.

20. And presuppose he live as long,
as did his fathers old
Yet must he needs at length give place,
and be brought to deaths fold.

21. Thus man to honour God hath called,
yet doth he not consider:

But like brute beasts so doth he live,
which turn to dust and powder.

Critical notes:

This setting is similar to the one of Psalm 11 & 144;
text somewhat modernised.