Thy praise alone (O Lord) doth raigne

Thomas RAVENSCROFT (1590-1633)



2. For that thou dost their prayer hear, and doest thereto agree: Thy people all both far and near, with trust shall come to thee.

3. Our wicked life so far exceeds, that we should fall therrein:But Lord forgive our great misdeeds, and purge us from our sin.4. The man is blessed whom thou dost choose, within thy courts to dwell:Thy house and Temple they do use, with pleasures that excell.

5. Of thy great justice hear us God, our health of thee doth rise: The hope of all the earth abroad, and the sea coasts likewise.6. With strength thou art beset about, and compassed with thy power: Thou makest the mountains strong and stout to stand in every shower. 7. The swelling seas thou dost (asswage) and make their streams full still: Thou dost restrain the peoples rage, and rule them at thy will.
8. The folk that dwell full far on earth, shall dread the same to see: Which morne and evening in great mirth do pass with praise to thee.

9. When that the earth is chopped and dry, and thirsteth more and more:Then with thy drops thou dost aplly, and much increase her store.10. The flood of God doth overflow, and so doth caue to spring:The seed and corn which men do sow, for he doth guide the thing.

11. With wet thou dost her furrows fill whereby her clods do fall: Thy drops to her thou dost distil, and bless her fruit withall.12. Thou deckst the earth of thy good grace with fair and pleasant crop: Thy clouds (dist..d) their dew apace great plenty they do drop.

13. Whereby the desert shall begin full great increase to bring: The little hills do joy therein, much fruit in them shall spring.14. In places plain the flocks shall feed and cover all the earth: The valleys with corn shall so exceed, that men shall sing for mirth.

Critical notes:

The text difference between Cantus/Tenor vs/ Medius/Bassus in bar 4 is in the original: this setting is similar to the one of Psalm 15; text somewhat modernised.