The Complaint of a Sinner
Transcribed from The Complete Book of Psalms, 1621.

Anonymous, 1561
A minor
Genevan Psalter, 1561
Harmonized by Thomas Ravenscroft, 1621

1. Where righteousness doth say, Lord, for my sinful part, In wrath thou should me pay, Vengeance for my desert.
2. But if it be Thy will With sinners to contend, Then all Thy flock shall spill, And be lost without end.
3. The scripture plain tells me The righteous of ten deth, Seven times a day to Thee, Whereon Thy wrath depends.
4. Then sith the case so stands That e'en the man right wise, Falls oft in sinful hands, Whereby Thy wrath may raise.
5. But truly to that post, Whereto I cleave and shall, Which is Thy mercy most, Lord, let Thy mercy fall!
6. The scripture doth declare, No drop of blood in thee But that thou didst not spare To shed each drop for me.
7. That being mortified This sin of mine in me, I may be sanctified By grace of thine in thee.
8. But vouchsafe me to keep From those infernal foes: And from that lake so deep, Whereas no mercy grows.

1. I can it not deny, But needs I must confess, How that continually Thy laws I do transgress.
2. For who lives here so right, That rightly he can say, He sins not in Thy sight, Full oft and every day?
3. So that the righteous man Does walk in no such path, But he falls now and then In danger of Thy wrath.
4. Lord, I am that unjust, And righteous ness none have, Where to then shall I trust, My sinful soul to save?
5. And mitigate Thy mood, Or else we perish all. The price of this Thy blood, Wherein mercy I call.
6. Now let those drops most sweet So moist my heart so dry: That I with sin replete, May live but sin may die.
7. So that I never fall Into such mortal sin, That my foes infernal, Rejoice my death there in.
8. And I shall sing the songs, Con fir med with the just; That un to thee belongs, Which art mine only trust.

Edited by B. C. Johnston, 2017
1. All notes half value of original.
2. Measure 8, Medius: Last note changed from B# to B.

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