Anonymous, 1561
The Complaint of a Sinner
Transcribed from The Complete Book of Psalms, 1621.
Harmonized by Thomas Ravenscroft, 1621

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

1. Where right–eous–ness doth say, Lord, for my sin – ful part, In wrath thou should me pay,
2. But if it be Thy will With sin – ners to con – tend, Then all Thy flock shall spill,

1. Ven–geance for my de – sert. I can it not de – ny, But needs I must con – fess,
2. And be lost with – out end. For who lives here so right, That right – ly he can say,

2. He sins not in Thy sight, Full oft and eve – ry day?

3. The scripture plain tells me The righteous offendeth;
Seven times a day to Thee, Whereon Thy wrath depends.
So that the righteous man Does walk in no such path,
But he falls now and then In danger of Thy wrath.

5. But truly to that post, Where I cleave and shall, 
Which is Thy mercy most, Lord, let Thy mercy fall! 
And mitigate Thy mood, Wherein mercy I call.

7. That being mortified This sin of mine in me, 
I may be sanctified By grace of thine in thee. 
So that I never fall Into such mortal sin, That my foes infernal Rejoice my death therein.

8. But vouchsafe me to keep From those infernal foes: 
And from that lake so deep, Whereas no mercy grows. 
And I shall sing the songs, Confirmed with the just; That unto thee belongs, Which art mine only trust.

4. Then sith the case so stands That e’en the man right wise, 
Falls oft in sinful hands, Falls oft in sinful hands, 
Whereby Thy wrath may raise. Whereby Thy wrath may raise.

6. The scripture doth declare, No drop of blood in thee 
But that thou didst not spare To shed each drop for me. 
Now let those drops most sweet So moist my heart so dry: 
That I with sin replete, May live but sin may die.

363x-2124

Edited by B. C. Johnston, 2017
1. All notes half value of original.
2. Measure 8, Medius: Last note changed from B# to B.
3. Converted to two staffs: old Tenor becomes new Soprano, up one octave; Medius becomes Alto; Cantus becomes Tenor, down one octave; and Bassus remains.

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