Psalm 10

G minor George Kirby, 1592

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- 2. The poor do perish by the proud, And wicked mens desire: Let them be taken in the craft, That they themselves conspire.
- 3. For in the lust of his own heart, The ungodly doth delight; So that the wicked praise himself, And doth the Lord despite.
- 4 He is so proud that right and wrong, He setteth all apart. Nay, nay, there is no God saith he, For thus he thinketh in heart.
- 5 Because his ways do prosper well, He doth thy laws neglect: And with a blast doth puff against, Such as would him correct.
- 6. Tush, tush (saith he) I haue no dread, Lest mine estate should change: And why? for all adversity, To him is very is very strange

- 7. His mouth is full of cursedness, Of fraud, deceit, and guile: Under his tongue doth mischief sit, And travail all the while.
- 8. He lieth hid in ways and holes, To slay the innocent: Against the poor that pass him by, his cruel eyes are bent.
- 9. And like a lion privily, Lie lurking in his den: If he may snare them in his net, To spoil poor simple men.
- 10. And for the nonce full craftily, He coucheth down I say: So are great heaps of poor men made By his strong power his prey.
- 11. Tush, God forgetteth this (saith he) Therefore I may be bold: His countenance is cast aside, He doth it not behold.

- 12. Arise, O Lord, O God, in whom The poor man's hope doth rest: Lift up thy hand, forget not, Lord The poor that be oppressed.
- 13. What blasphemy is this to thee, Lord dost thou not abhor it? To hear the wicked in their hearts, Say tush, thou carest not for it!
- 14. But thou seest all this wickedness, And well dost understand: That friendless and poor fatherless Are left into thy hand.
- 15. Of wicked and malicious men, Then break the power for ever: That they with their iniquity, May perish altogether.
- 16. The Lord shall reign for evermore, As king and God alone: And he will chase the heathen folk, Out of his land each one.

- 17. Thou hearest, O Lord, the poor men's plaints, Their prayers and requests:
 Their hearts thou wilt confirm, until
 Thine ears to heare be pressed.
- 18. To judge the poor and fatherless, And help them to their right: That they may be no more oppressed, With men of worldly might.

Edited by B. C. Johnston, 2015. All notes half values of original. Measure 4, *Cantus*: last note changed from B-natural to B-flat.