

'Miserere mei, Deus'

Sedente ALEXANDRO VII PONT.OPT.MAX.

Bonaventura Argenteo Magistro Capellæ Pontificiæ pro tempore existente.

Manuscript Source: Vatican Library, MSS, Capp. Sist. 205 & 206 (Sistine Codex of 1661)

Text source: Clementine Vulgate (Psalmus 50) / King James Version 1611 (Psalm 51)

Plainchant: Setting of Psalm Tone IX - 'Tonus Peregrinus' (Liber Usualis)

Editorial Notes: This edition aims to reproduce the *falsobordone* setting as it was during Allegri's lifetime (before later editions with copyist errors and inclusion of traditional ornaments - *abbellimenti*, converted the original psalm to the familiar 'Top-C' version). Original note values have been preserved. Prefatory staves indicate original clefs and pitches. Original accidentals are shown, except B-Sharp symbols (replaced with modern B-Naturals). Original barring is indicated; with editorial (tick and short) barlines added for clarity and consistency. Square-brackets indicate ligatures in MS. Original slurs/ties are kept (with dashed slurs added editorially to highlight melismas). Latin text and translation above staff, and any comments in square brackets are also editorial. Underlay set closest to text in MS (according to the editor's judgement). Fermatae added on final chord.

Edited by Ben Maloney (Jan 2018)

Composed c.1638 by Gregorio Allegri (c.1582-1652)

Miserere mei, Deus,
secundum magnum misericordiam tuam;

*Have mercy upon me, O God,
according to thy loving kindness;*

Cantus. Miserere [Chorus Primus] Miserere me - i, De - us,

Altus. Miserere me - i, De - us,

Tenor-Primus. Miserere me - i, De - us,

Tenor-Secundus. Miserere me - i, De - us,

Bassus. Miserere me - i, De - us,

secundum magnum miseri - cor - di - am tu - - am;

secundum magnum miseri - cor - di - am tu - - am;

secundum magnum miseri - cor - di - am tu - - am;

secundum magnum miseri - cor - di - am tu - - am;

secundum magnum miseri - cor - di - am tu - - am;

et secundum multitudinem miserationum tuarum,
dele iniquitatem meam.

*according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies,
blot out my transgressions.*

[Plainchant]



Amplius lava me ab iniuitate mea:
et á peccato meo munda me.

*Wash me throughly from mine iniquity:
and cleanse me from my sin.*

[Cantus-
Primus.]

A Mplius lava me ab iniqui
[Bar 47, Beat 4.5, Semibreve
in MS changed to minim]

[Cantus-
Secundus.]

A Mplius lava me ab iniqui

[Altus.]

A Mplius lava me ab iniqui

[Bassus.]

A Mplius lava me ab iniqui

[6] [Chorus Secundus]

[7]

Amplius lava me ab iniqui - ta - te me - - a:

Amplius lava me ab iniqui - ta - te me - - a:

Amplius lava me ab iniqui - ta - - - te me - - a:

Amplius lava me ab iniqui - ta - te me - - a:

[8]

[9]

et á pec - ca - to me - - o mun - da me.

et á pec - ca - to me - - o mun - da me.

et á pec - ca - to me - o mun - - da me.

et á pec - ca - to me - o mun - - da me.

Quoniam iniquitatem meam ego cognosco,
et peccatum meum contra me est semper.

*For I acknowledge my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.*

3

[10] [Plainchant]



Quo - ni-am i - ni - qui - ta - tem me - am e - go co-gno-sco, et pec - ca - tum me - um con - tra me est sem - per.

Tibi soli peccavi,
et malum coram te feci;
Ut iustificeris in sermonibus tuis,
et vincas cum iudicaris.

*Against thee, thee only, have I sinned,
and done this evil in thy sight;
that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest,
and be clear when thy judgest.*

[11] [Chorus Primus]

[12]

Tibi soli peccavi, et malum co - ram te fe - ci;
Tibi soli peccavi, et malum co - ram te fe - ci;
Tibi soli peccavi, et malum co - ram te fe - ci;
Tibi soli peccavi, et malum co - ram te fe - ci;
Tibi soli peccavi, et malum co - ram te fe - ci;

[13]

[14]

Ut iustificeris in sermonibus tuis, et vincas cum iu - di - ca - ris.
Ut iustificeris in sermonibus tuis, et vincas cum iu - di - ca - ris.
Ut iustificeris in sermonibus tuis, et vincas cum iu - di - ca - ris.
Ut iustificeris in sermonibus tuis, et vincas cum iu - di - ca - ris.

Ecce enim in iniquitatibus conceptus sum:
et in peccatis concepit me mater mea.

*Behold, I was shapen in iniquity:
and in sin did my mother concieve me.*

15 [Plainchant]

Musical notation for Plainchant verse 15, showing a single melodic line on a staff with square note heads and a basso continuo line below. The lyrics are written below the staff.

Ec - ce e - nim in i - ni - qui - ta - ti - bus con - cep - tus sum: et in pec - ca - tis con - ce - pit me ma - ter me - a.

Ecce enim veritatem dilexisti;
Incerta, et occulta sapientiae tuae manifestasti mihi.

*Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts;
and in the hidden part, thou shalt make me to know wisdom.*

16 [Chorus Secundus]

17

Musical notation for Chorus Secundus and Chorus Tertius. It consists of three staves: Treble, Alto, and Bass. The lyrics are written below each staff. The music includes various note heads (circles, squares, diamonds) and rests, with some notes connected by dashed arcs.

Ecce enim veritatem di - le - xi - - - sti;

Ecce enim veritatem di - le - - - xi - - - sti;

Ecce enim veritatem di - - - - le - - xi - - - sti;

Ecce enim veritatem di - - - - xi - - - - sti;

18

19

Musical notation for Chorus Secundus and Chorus Tertius, continuing from the previous page. It consists of three staves: Treble, Alto, and Bass. The lyrics are written below each staff. The music includes various note heads (circles, squares, diamonds) and rests, with some notes connected by dashed arcs.

Incerta, et occulta sapientiae tuae manife - sta - sti mi - - - hi.

Incerta, et occulta sapientiae tuae manife - sta - sti mi - - - hi.

Incerta, et occulta sapientiae tuae manife - sta - sti mi - - - hi.

Incerta, et occulta sapientiae tuae manife - sta - sti mi - - - hi.

Asperges me hyssopo, et mundabor;
lavabis me et super nivem dealbabor.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

5

[20] [Plainchant]

A - sper - ges me hys - so - po, et mun - da - bor; la - va - bis me et su - per ni - vem de - al - ba - bor.

Auditui meo dabis gaudium et lætitiam:
et exultabunt ossa humiliata.

Make me to hear joy and gladness;
that the bones which thou hast broke may rejoice

[21] [Chorus Primus]

[22]

Auditui meo dabis gaudium et læ - ti - - - - am:
Auditui meo dabis gaudium et læ - - - - am:
Auditui meo dabis gaudium et læ - - - - am:
Auditui meo dabis gaudium et læ - - - - am:
Auditui meo dabis gaudium et læ - - - - am:

[23]

[24]

et exultabunt ossa hu - mi - li - a - ta.
et exultabunt ossa hu - mi - li - a - ta.
et exultabunt ossa hu - mi - li - a - ta.
et exultabunt ossa hu - mi - li - a - ta.
et exultabunt ossa hu - mi - li - a - ta.

Averte faciem tuam a peccatis meis,
et omnes iniuriae meas dele.

*Hide thy face from my sins,
and blot out all mine iniuriae.*

[25] [Plainchant]

Musical notation for Plainchant verse 25. The melody consists of short, rhythmic notes primarily on the G and A lines of the staff. The lyrics are written below the staff.

A - ver - te fa - ci-em tu - am a pec - ca - tis me - is, et om - nes i - ni - qui - ta - tes me - as de - le.

Cor mundum crea in me, Deus;
Et spiritum rectum innova in visceribus meis.

*Create in me a clean heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit within me.*

[26] [Chorus Secundus]

[27]

Musical notation for Chorus Secundus, measures 26 and 27. The music is divided into four voices: soprano, alto, tenor, and basso. The soprano and alto parts sing in unison, while the tenor and basso parts provide harmonic support. The lyrics are repeated for each measure.

Cor mundum crea in me, De - us;

[28]

[29]

Musical notation for Chorus Secundus, measures 28 and 29. The music continues with the four-part setting. The lyrics are repeated for each measure.

Et spiritum rectum innova in vi - sce - ri - bus me - is.

Et spiritum rectum innova in vi - sce - ri - bus me - is.

Et spiritum rectum innova in vi - sce - ri - bus me - is.

Et spiritum rectum innova in vi - sce - ri - bus me - is.

Ne projicias me a facie tua,
et spiritum sanctum tuum ne auferas a me.

*Cast me not away from thy presence,
and take not thy holy spirit from me.*

7

[30] [Plainchant]

Musical notation for line 30 in plainchant style, consisting of a single melodic line on a staff with square neumes. The lyrics are: Ne pro - ji - ci-as me a fa - ci-e tu - a, et spi - ri-tum sanc-tum tu - um ne au - fer - as a me.

Redde mihi lætitiam salutaris tui,
et spiritu principali confirma me.

*Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;
and uphold me with thy free spirit.*

[31] [Chorus Primus]

[32]

Musical notation for lines 31 and 32 in Chorus Primus style, featuring three voices. The lyrics are: Redde mihi lætitiam salu - ta - ris tu - - - - - i, Redde mihi lætitiam salu - ta - - - - ris tu - - - - i, Redde mihi lætitiam salu - ta - - - ris tu - - - - i, Redde mihi lætitiam salu - ta - - - ris, sa - lu - ta - - - ris tu - i, Redde mihi lætitiam salu - ta - - ris, tu - - - - - i,

[33]

[34]

Musical notation for lines 33 and 34 in Chorus Primus style, featuring three voices. The lyrics are: et spiritu princi - pa - li con - fir - ma me. et spiritu princi - pa - li con - fir - ma me. et spiritu princi - pa - li con - fir - ma me. et spiritu princi - pa - li con - fir - ma me.

Docebo iniquos vias tuas,
et impii ad te convertentur.

*Then will I teach transgressors thy way,
and sinners shall be converted unto thee.*

[35] [Plainchant]

Do - ce - bo i - ni - quo s vi - as tu - as, et im - pi - i ad te con - ver - ten - tur.

Libera me de sanguinibus, Deus, Deus salutis meæ,
Et exultabit lingua mea iustitiam tuam.

*Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.*

[36] [Chorus Secundus]

[37]

Libera me de sanguinibus, Deus, Deus sa - lu - tis me - - - æ,

Libera me de sanguinibus, Deus, Deus sa - lu - tis me - - - æ,

Libera me de sanguinibus, Deus, Deus sa - lu - tis me - - - æ,

Libera me de sanguinibus, Deus, Deus sa - lu - tis me - - - æ,

[38]

[39]

Et exultabit lingua mea iu - sti - ti - am tu - - - am.

Et exultabit lingua mea iu - sti - ti - am tu - - - am.

Et exultabit lingua mea iu - sti - ti - am tu - - - am.

Et exultabit lingua mea iu - sti - ti - am tu - - - am.

Domine, labia mea aperies,
et os meum annuntiabit laudem tuam.

*O Lord, open thou my lips,
and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.*

9

[40] [Plainchant]

Do - mi - ne, la - bi - a me - a a - pe - ri - es, et os me - um an - nun - ti - a - bit lau - dem tu - am.

Quoniam si voluisses sacrificium, dedissem utique;
holocaustis non delectaberis.

*For thou desirest not sacrifice, else I would give it;
thou delightest not in burnt offering.*

[41] [Chorus Primus]

[42]

Quoniam si voluisses sacrificium, de - dis - sem u - - - - - ti - que;

Quoniam si voluisses sacrificium, de - dis - - - sem u - - - - - ti - que;

Quoniam si voluisses sacrificium, de - dis - sem u - - - - - ti - que;

Quoniam si voluisses sacrificium, de - dis - sem u - - - - - ti - que;

Quoniam si voluisses sacrificium, de - dis - sem u - - - - - ti - que;

[43]

[44]

holocaustis non de - le - cta - - be - ris.

holocaustis non de - le - cta - - be - ris.

holocaustis non de - le - cta - - be - ris.

holocaustis non de - le - cta - - be - ris.

Sacrificium Deo spiritus contribulatus;
cor contritum et humilitatum, Deus, non despicies.

*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*

45 [Plainchant]

Sa-cri - ci-um De-o spi - ri-tus con-tri-bu-la-tus; cor con-tri-tum et hu-mi - li - a-tum, De-us, non de-spi - ci-es.

Benigne fac, Domine, in bona voluntate tua Sion,
ut ædificantur muri Ierusalem.

*Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion,
build thou the walls of Jerusalem.*

46 [Chorus Secundus]

47

Benigne fac, Domine, in bona voluntate tu - a Si - on,

Benigne fac, Domine, in bona voluntate tu - a Si - on,

Benigne fac, Domine, in bona voluntate tu - - - a Si - - - on,

Benigne fac, Domine, in bona voluntate tu - a Si - - - on,

48

49

Ut ædificantur mu - ri Ie - ru - sa - lem.

Ut ædificantur mu - ri Ie - ru - - - sa - lem.

Ut ædificantur mu - ri Ie - ru - - - sa - lem.

Ut ædificantur mu - ri - Ie - ru - - - sa - lem.

Tunc acceptabis sacrificium iustitiæ,
oblationes et holocausta;
tunc imponent super altare tuum vitulos.

*Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness,
with the burnt-offerings and oblations;
then shall they offer young bullocks upon thine altar.*

11

[Chorus Primus]

50

Tunc acceptabis sacrificium iustitiæ, oblationes et ho - lo - ca - - - us - ta;

51

Tunc acceptabis sacrificium iustitiæ, oblationes et ho - - - lo - ca - - - usta;

8

Tunc acceptabis sacrificium iustitiæ, oblationes et ho - lo - ca - - - - - usta;

8

Tunc acceptabis sacrificium iustitiæ, oblationes et ho - lo - ca - - - - - us - ta;

8

Tunc acceptabis sacrificium iustitiæ, oblationes et ho - lo - ca - - - - - usta;

[Chorus Secundus]

8

8

8

8

