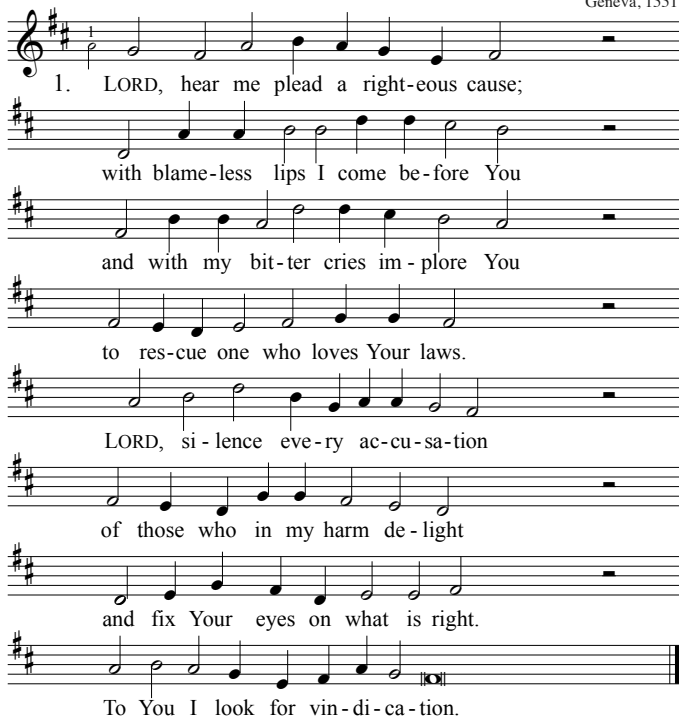


PSALM 17

Play the Melody 

A prayer of David.

Geneva, 1551



1. LORD, hear me plead a right-eous cause;
with blame-less lips I come be-fore You
and with my bit-ter cries im-plore You
to res-cue one who loves Your laws.
LORD, si-lence eve-ry ac-cu-sa-tion
of those who in my harm de-light
and fix Your eyes on what is right.
To You I look for vin-di-ca-tion.

2. If in the *night* You probe my mind
and test my inner thoughts and feelings,
all that my heart may be concealing,
You will in me no evil find.
My mouth does not commit transgression.
As for the works of wicked men,
Your word has kept me far from sin,
from ways of violent oppression.

3. Your paths I *took to travel* by,
and *never* did I *slip or waver*.
I *call on You*, I *seek Your* favour,
for *You will* answer *from on high*.
O Shield of *those on You* depending,
display the wonders of Your love.
LORD, *hear my prayer from heaven* above
and show Your *mercy never-ending*.

4. LORD, as the *apple of Your* eye
protect me, with Your *care* provide me.
Beneath Your wings, O *Saviour*, hide me:
My *deadly* foes in *ambush* lie.
They close their *hearts to all* compassion
and *utter boastful* vanity.
They *track me down*, surrounding me
to make me *yield to their* oppression.

5. They like a *lion crave* their prey.
Rise *up, O LORD*, rise *up to* show them
the *sword You* draw to *overthrow* them
and *with Your* hand snatch *me* away.
Save me from *those whose only* pleasure
is *this life's* portion, nothing more.
O *gorge them with the* wealth they store
and let their *offspring share* such treasure.

6. But I, when *I awake*, shall see
Your *face in* righteousness and glory.
LORD, *with Your* likeness then before me,
how *rich and full* my joy shall be.