

Psalm 26

Henry Lawes (1596–1662)  
edited by Richard Shakeshaft

Soprano  
Cantus  
Alto

Tenor  
Bass  
Bassus

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1 Lord, judge my cause: thy piercing eye  
Beholds my soul's integrity.  
How can I fall;  
When I and all  
My hopes on thee rely?

2 Examine, try my reins and heart;  
Thou, mercy's source, my object art:  
Nor from thy truth  
Have I in youth,  
Or will in age depart.

3 Men sold to sin offend my sight;  
I hate the two-tongued hypocrite:  
Those who devise  
Malicious lies,  
And in their crimes delight.

7 Redeem, O with thy grace sustain!  
My feet now stand upon the plain.  
Thy justice I  
will magnify,  
With those who fear thy name.

4 But will, with hands immaculate,  
And offerings, at thy altar wait:  
Thy praise disperse  
In grateful verse;  
Thy noble acts relate.

5 Thy house, in my esteem, excels:  
The mansion where thy glory dwells,  
My life enclose  
Not up with those,  
Whose sin thy grace expels!

6 Who guiltless blood with pleasure spill:  
Subverting bribes their right-hands fill;  
Bold in offence.  
But innocence  
And truth shall guard me still.

George Sandys (1578–1644)