

Be Merciful, O Lord

Ps. 51

Gene Klosner
Light the Fire! Music
www.LTFMusic.com

Thank you for choosing **Cher & Gene Klosner's psalm series!**

All of our psalms are written in comfortable "congregational keys," and presented in SATB(+), but have been written so that all music ministry groups can use them, from soloist to duo, to contemporary praise teams (SAT), to full choirs. Also available in Soloist/Small Group format.

This PDF contains the following versions:

- Refrain Full Score + Verse chords (for director, piano accompanist)
- Refrain P/G/V + Verse chords (for piano accompanist)
- Refrain Lead Sheet + Verse chords (for cantor, guitar accompanist, piano "chorders" - similar to fake books)
- Refrain SAATBB (for choir members)
- Verse Full Score (for cantor, accompanist) - different sets of verses for different uses
- Refrain Assembly (for director, worship aid makers)

Format:

- Solo cantor refrain melody*
- Choir and congregation respond in **unison** (melody) refrain
- Solo cantor verse
- Choir and congregation refrain with harmonies
- [Continue thru multiple verses and harmonized refrains]
- End with repeat of harmonized refrain (optional)

*The melody line is the **tenor** part (female cantor sings an octave above), unless otherwise indicated.

Verses are by **ONE cantor**, chant-style (non-metered, free rhythm) using either of the two melodies, depending on their vocal range. Verses are not designed for multiple singers or harmonies.

For the **accompanist**, the rhythm resumes (a tempo) on the last word of each verse to bring choir and congregation in for the refrain, which then has **choir** harmonies from there on out.

We like to do a double refrain after the last verse to "close out" the song, so we use the turnaround accompaniment for repeating the refrain, then the Final ending at the very end.

Note to accompanist:

Follow the "turnaround" chords when repeating the refrain (refer to recording). Use the "interlude into verses" when going into verses.

Psalm Tones:

Overall, we have 16 different melodies of psalm tones for the verses that get "mixed and matched" with all the hundreds of different psalm refrains throughout the 3-year cycle, one per psalm refrain. We normally give two options from which the cantor can choose, depending on the cantor's vocal range; for this psalm, we give one psalm tone choice, but a few lower notes if needed. Choose the smaller notes for the lower melody.

This way, a cantor doesn't have to learn hundreds of different verse melodies over the three-year cycle.

The particular psalm tone assigned to this refrain is Psalm Tone 8 in Cm, which starts up a fifth from the end of the refrain (Mi in solfege on the **major** scale, not the minor).

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Other tips for the vocalists on "Be Merciful, O Lord":

Solo Cantor: Use with Psalm Tone 8 (in Cm). The Lead Sheet and PGV refrains are presented in treble clef for simplicity.

All singers: The melody lyrics are in the Tenor line. Melody can choose to hold out note from m. 3 into 4 for 2 extra beats.

This is presented in SAATBB, but can be done by any configuration of choir members. The most important harmonies are S and A2.

Add harmonies according to your choir member availability. Baritone and Bass are the same except for a few octave notes, depending on your singers' ranges.

Guitarists: in the verses, you can choose to add the B bass to your Dm6 or not.

We strongly recommend listening to the recordings of this psalm.

Musically yours,

Cher & Gene

DIFFICULTY LEVEL		
(easy/medium/advanced)		
melody	harmony	accompaniment
e	e	e

Be Merciful, O Lord

Ps. 51

Gene Klosner

slowly, pleading

♩ = 54

SOPRANO

ALTO 1&2

TENOR

BARITONE/
BASS

Piano

Tenors have melody

Capo 3: Am E7sus4 E7 Am G6 Fmaj7
Cm G7sus4 G7 Cm Bb6 Cmaj7

Be_ mer-ci-ful, Lord, Be mer-ci-ful, O Lord, mer-ci-ful, Be mer-ci-ful, O Lord,

♩ = 54

S

A1&2

T

Ba

Pno.

1. turnarounds into repeated refrains D.S.

we have sinned. Be_

for we have sinned.

be - ci- ful, for we have sinned. Be_

for we have sinned. Be

1. turnarounds into repeated refrains D.S.

2. interlude into verses | Final

S
sinned.

A1&2
sinned.

T
Am
Cm

Bar/Bs
sinned.

Pno.
2. interlude into verses | Final

Amsus²sus⁴ *Amsus²sus⁴* *Am*
Cmsus²sus⁴ Cmsus²sus⁴ Cm

Amsus²sus⁴ *Am*
Cmsus²sus⁴ Cm

Verse chords (Psalm Tone 8), Guitar, capo 3:

Cm | Gm7 | Fm7 | G7 |
Amaj7 | Eadd9/G# | Fm6/D | G7sus4 |

Verse chords (Psalm Tone 8), Guitar, capo 3:

Am | Em7 | Dm7 | E7 |
Fmaj7 | Cadd9/E | Dm6/B | E7sus4 |



SAMPLE

Be Merciful, O Lord

Ps. 51

Gene Klosner

slowly, pleading

♩ = 54

Capo 3: Am Cm E7sus4 G7sus4 E7 G7 Am Cm Fm7 Am Cm

Be_ mer-ci-ful, O Lord, Be_ mer-ci-ful

4 Em7sus4 Gm7sus4 Dm7 Fm7 Em7 Gm7 Am Cm E7sus4 G7sus4 E7 G7

1. turnarounds into repeated refrains D.S.

be mer-ci-ful, for we_ sinned. Be_

2. interlude into verses Final

2. interlude into verses Final

Piano

Pno.


Verses (Psalm Tone 8), Piano/Guitar, no capo:

Cm | Gm7 | Fm7 | G7 |
Amaj7 | Eadd9/G# | Fm/D | G7


Verse chords (Psalm Tone 8), Guitar, capo 3:

Am | Em7 | Dm7 | E7 |
Fmaj7 | Cadd9/E | Dm/B | E7sus4 |

Amsus²sus⁴



Cadd⁹/E



Dm⁶/B



Dm⁶



Be Merciful, O Lord

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Gene Klosner

slowly, pleading

♩ = 54

Capo 3: Am Cm E⁷sus⁴ G⁷sus⁴ E⁷ G⁷ Am Cm G⁶ Bb⁶ Fm Ab

Be__ mer - ci - ful, O__ Lord, be__ mer - ci - ful

4 Em⁷sus⁴ Gm⁷sus⁴ Dm⁷ Fm⁷ Em⁷sus⁴ Gm⁷sus⁴ Am Cm E⁷sus⁴ G⁷sus⁴ G⁷ 1. turnarounds into repeated refrains D.S.

be mer - ci - ful, we__ have__ sinned. Be__

Am Cm Amsus²sus⁴ Cm Am Cmsus²sus⁴ Cm Amsus²sus⁴ Cm Am Cmsus²sus⁴ Cm 2. interlude into verses Final

Verse chords (Psalm Tone 8), Piano/Guitar, no capo:

Cm | Gm7 | Fm7 | G7 |
Amaj7 | Eadd9/G# | Fm/D | G7sus4

Verse chords (Psalm Tone 8), Guitar, capo 3:

Am | Em7 | Dm7 | E7 |
Amaj7 | Cadd9/E | Dm/B | E7sus4 |

Amsus²sus⁴ E⁷/E

Dm⁶/B

Dm⁶

2. interlude into verses | Final

S
sinned.

A1&2
sinned.

T
—

Bar/Bs
sinned.

Format:

- Solo cantor refrain melody*
- Choir and congregation respond in harmony (melody) refrain
- Solo cantor verse
- Choir and congregation refrain with harmony (optional)
- [Continue thru multiple verses and harmonized refrains]
- End with repeat of harmonized refrain (optional)

*The melody line of the TENOR part (female cantor sings an octave above).

SAMPLE

Be Merciful, O Lord verses

Ps. 51:3-4, 5-6(ab), 12-13, (14 &) 17 / Psalm Tone 8 in Dm

Ash Wednesday / 1st Sunday of Lent A / Various Needs: For the Remission of Sins

Freely chanted, non-metered, solo cantor only

Cheroly Gosner-Lane/Gene Klosner

Capo 3: Am Cm Em⁷ Gm⁷ Dm⁷ Fm⁷ E⁷sus⁴ E⁷ G⁷sus⁴ G⁷

PT 8
w/opt. lower melody

Piano

1. Have mercy on me, O God, in your good-ness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out all my iniquities. Mercifully blot out all my iniquity and do not cast me out from your presence, O God, my Rock and my Redeemer.

2. For I acknowledge my of-fense, and my sin is before me, and against me is my iniquity, and I do not deny it.

3. A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Do not throw away my trust, O God, my God, for you are merciful and gracious.

4. Give me back the joy of your sal - va - tion, O Lord, and with your willing spirit sus - tain in me.

3
8

Fmaj⁷ A^bmaj⁷ Ebadd⁹ B⁹/D

1. Thorough - ly wash me from my iniquity, and of my sin be guiltless.

2. "Against you only have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight; you are true, and your word is right.

3. Cast me not out from your presence, O God, my God, for you are merciful and gracious.

4. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall pro-claim your praise.

Pno.

♩ = 54

5
8

E⁷sus⁴ G⁷sus⁴ E⁷sus⁴ G⁷sus⁴ E⁷ G⁷

1. cleanse me, O God, and I will be righteous.

2. "Against you only have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight."

3. me, O God, do not be angry with me, O God, my God, for you are merciful and gracious.

4. pr...

Pno.

To m. 1 of refrain...

Be Merciful, O Lord verses

Ps. 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 & 17 / Psalm Tone 8 in Dm

Common Psalm for Lent

Freely chanted, non-metered, solo cantor only

Cherolyn Fosner-Lane/Gene Klosner

Capo 3: Am Cm Em7 Gm7 Dm7 Fm7 E7sus4 E7 G7sus4 G7

PT 8
w/opt. lower melody

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your good-ness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out all my iniquities.
2. For I acknowledge my of-fense, and my sin is be-fore you always.
3. A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit re-new within me.
4. Give me back the joy of your sal-va-tion, and a willing spirit sus-tain in me.

Piano

3 Fmaj7 A^bmaj7 Cadd⁹/E Ebadd⁹/G Dm6

8

1. Thorough-ly wash me from my guilt; and of my sin—
2. "Against you only have I sinned, and done what is evil in your
3. Cast me not out from your pres-ence, our Ho-ly Spirit take not from
4. O Lord open my lips, and my mouth shall pro-claim your

Pno.

♩ = 54

5 E7sus4 G7sus4 E7sus4 E7 G7

8

1. cleanse me...
2. sight."
3. me. } Be—
4. pr

Pno.

To m. 1 of refrain...

Be Merciful, O Lord verses

Ps. 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11 / Psalm Tone 8 in Dm
Friday of the 3rd Week in Ordinary Time (II)

Freely chanted, non-metered, solo cantor only

Cheroly Hosner-Lane/Gene Klosner

Capo 3: Am Cm Em7 Gm7 Dm7 Fm7 E7sus4 E7 G7sus4 G7

PT 8
w/opt. lower melody

Piano

1. Have mercy on me, O God, in your good-ness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out all my iniquity.
2. For I acknowledge my of-fense, and my sin is be-fore you always:
3. I have done such evil in your sight that you are just in your sentence, blameless when you con-demn.
4. Let me hear the sounds of joy and glad-ness; the sound of your grace you have crushed like a mill-stone. Do not let me be shamed, O Lord, for you have crushed shame like a mill-stone. Do not let me be shamed, O Lord, for you have crushed shame like a mill-stone. Do not let me be shamed, O Lord, for you have crushed shame like a mill-stone.

3 Fmaj7 A♭maj7 Cadd9/B Ebadd9/Gm6/D

8

1. Thorough-ly wash me from my iniquity, and of my sin cleanse me.
2. "Against you only have I sinned, and done what is evil in your eyes.
3. True, I was born guilty, in iniquity my mother conceived me.
4. Turn away your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquity.

Pno.

♩ = 54

5 E7sus4 G7sus4 E7sus4 E7 G7

8

1. cleanse me.
2. sight."
3. ceived me. } Be_____
4. gu

Pno.

To m. 1 of refrain...

Be Merciful, O Lord verses
 Ps. 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 11 & 16 / Psalm Tone 8 in Dm
 Tuesday of the 11th Week in Ordinary Time (II)

Freely chanted, non-metered, solo cantor only

Cheroly Hosner-Lane/Gene Klosner

Capo 3: Am Cm Em⁷ Gm⁷ Dm⁷ Fm⁷ E⁷sus⁴ E⁷ G⁷sus⁴ G⁷

PT 8
w/opt. lower melody

1. Have mercy on me, O God, in your good-ness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out all of my iniquities. Do not cast away my prayer, O God, my prayer will not be answered.

2. For I acknowledge my of-fense, and my sin is before me, and against me; and I do not deny my iniquity.

3. Turn away your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Piano

3 Fmaj⁷ A^bmaj⁷ Cadd⁹ Ebadd⁹ G Dm⁶/B Fm⁶/D

8

1. Thorough-ly cleanse my iniquity, and of my sin— and of my sin—

2. "Against you only have I sinned, and done what is evil in your eyes; and I do not deny my iniquity."

3. Free me from blood guilt, O God, my God; then my tongue shall revel in your praise.

Pno.

♩ = 54
5 E⁷sus⁴ G⁷sus⁴ E⁷sus⁴ G⁷sus⁴ E⁷ G⁷

8

1. cleanse my iniquity, and of my sin—

2. sight." } Be—

3. just-ice. } Be—

Pno

To m. 1 of refrain...

Be Merciful, O Lord verses

Ps. 51:3-4, 5-6(ab), 6cd-7, 12-13 / Psalm Tone 8 in Dm
Tuesday of the 18th Week in Ordinary Time (I)

Freely chanted, non-metered, solo cantor only

Cheroly Hosner-Lane/Gene Klosner

Capo 3: Am Cm Em⁷ Gm⁷ Dm⁷ Fm⁷ E⁷sus⁴ E⁷ G⁷sus⁴ G⁷

PT 8
w/opt. lower melody

Piano

1. Have mercy on me, O God, in your good-ness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out all my in-iquities:
2. For I acknowledge my of-fense, and my sin is be-fore you always:
3. That you may be justified in your sent-ence, vindicated when you con-fess.
4. A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steady spirit re-new with-in me.

3 Fmaj⁷ Ebadd⁹ Dm⁶/B Fm⁶/D A^bmaj⁷

8

1. Thorough-ly wash me from in-iquity and of my sin
2. "Against you only have I sin-ned and done what is evil in your
3. Indeed, in guilt was I born, and in sin my moth-er con-
4. Cast me not out from your pres-ence, and your Ho-ly Spirit take not from

Pno.

♩ = 54

5 E⁷sus⁴ E⁷ G⁷sus⁴ G⁷sus⁴ G⁷

8

1. cleanse me from all in-iquity and from all un-righteous-ness.
2. "Be-cause of your truth and your right-ness, O God, do not re-ject me.
3. Do not re-ject me, O God, my God, do not re-ject me.
4. Do not re-ject me, O God, my God, do not re-ject me.

Pno.

To m. 1 of refrain...

Be Merciful, O Lord

Ps. 51

Gene Klosner

Be__ mer - ci - ful,___ O___ Lord,___ be mer - ci - ful,___
be mer - ci - ful,___ for we__ have sinne

The image shows a musical score for the song 'Be Merciful, O Lord'. It consists of two staves of music in a 3/2 time signature, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. A large, diagonal 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid on the entire page.

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Use for:

Ash Wednesday ABC (ashwedABC)

1st Sunday of Lent A (lent1A)

Common Psalm for Lent (lentcom)

Friday of the 3rd Week in Ordinary Time (II) (ord3FrII)

Tuesday of the 11th Week in Ordinary Time (II) (ord11WII)

Tuesday of the 18th Week in Ordinary Time (I) (ord18WI)

Various Needs: For the Remission of Sins

Use with Psalm Tone 8 in Cm

Text version:

Be Merciful, O Lord (Ps. 51) (Gene Klosner)

Be merciful, O Lord, be merciful, O Lord, be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

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