

Be Merciful, O Lord
Ps. 51

for Soloist/Small Group

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. For SATB/choir, look up our octavo versions.

The vocals in this Small Group version are presented in treble clef, but can be sung by TB an octave lower. Typically, the higher harmony notes can be either Soprano or Tenor, and the lower harmony notes can be Alto or Bass. These harmonies can sometimes cross each other in some of our psalm settings.

This PDF contains the following versions:

- Refrain P/G/V (w/two harmonies) + Verse chords (for cantor, singers, guitar/piano accompanists)
- Verses P/G/V (for cantor, accompanist)
- 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)

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).

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

Capo 3: Am Cm E⁷sus⁴ G⁷sus⁴ E⁷ G⁷ Am Cm G⁶ Bb⁶ F⁷ B⁷

Melody

Harmony 1

Harmony 2

Piano

Be_ mer-ci-ful, O_ Lord, mer-ci-ful

Be_ mer-ci-ful, Lord,

mer- O rd,

4

Mel.

Harm. 1

Harm. 2

Em⁷sus⁴ Gm⁷sus⁴ Dm⁷ Fm⁷ Cm E⁷sus⁴ G⁷sus⁴ E⁷ G⁷ Am Cm E⁷sus⁴ G⁷sus⁴ E⁷ G⁷

1. turnarounds into repeated refrains D.S.

be_ mer-ci-ful, for we have sinned. Be_

for we have sinned. Be_

for we have sinned.

1. turnarounds into repeated refrains D.S.

Am Cm Amsus²sus⁴ Cmsus²sus⁴ Am Cm Amsus²sus⁴ Am Cm

2. interlude into verses and to Final Final

Mel. *sinned.*

Harm. 1 *sinned.*

Harm. 2 *sinned.*

Pno. 2. interlude into verses and to Final Final

Verse chords (Psalm Tone 8), Piano/Guitar, *capo*:

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

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

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

Amsus²sus⁴

Cadd9/E

Dm6/B

Dm6



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 Mosner-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 my iniquities: for my transgressions are many, and my iniquities have borne me down.
 2. For I acknowledge my of-fense, and my sin is before me, and I am against you, and you are right, and I am in the wrong.
 3. A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me.
 4. Give me back the joy of your sal - va - tion, O Lord, and a willing spirit sustain in me.

Piano

3 Fmaj7 Ebadd9 Ebadd9/B Abmaj7 Ebadd9 Ebadd9/B Ebadd9/B Ebadd9/B

8

1. Thorough - ly wash me from my iniquities, and of my sin...
 2. "Against you only have I sinned, and done what is evil in your eyes, and you are true, and I am false.
 3. Cast me not out from your presence, and your Ho - ly Spirit take not from me.
 4. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall pro-claim your praise."

Pno.

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, 5-6, 12-13, 14 & 17 / Psalm Tone 8 in Dm

Common Psalm for Lent

Freely chanted, non-metered, solo cantor only

Cheroly Klosner-Lane/Gene Klosner

Capo 3: Am Cm Em⁷ Gm⁷ Dm⁷ Fm⁷ E⁷/sus⁴ E⁷ G⁷/sus⁴ G⁷

PT 8
w/opt. lower melody

Piano

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.

3

Fmaj⁷ A^bmaj⁷ Cadd⁹/E^b Dm⁷ Ebadd⁹/G

8

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

Pno.

5

E⁷/sus⁴ G⁷/sus⁴ E⁷/sus⁴ G⁷/sus⁴ E⁷ G⁷

8

1. cleanse me...
2. sight."
3. me... } Be...
4. pra...

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 Mosner-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.
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 that you have crushed like wheat in the mill, and you have crushed the stones like a mill-stone. Then you shall speak in jubilation, and I will rejoice.

3 Fmaj7 A♭maj7 Cadd9 Ebadd9/Gm6/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, and 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 G7sus4 G7

8

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

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 Mosner-Lane/Gene Klosner

Capo 3: Am Cm Em⁷ Gm⁷ Dm⁷ Fm⁷ E⁷/sus⁴ E⁷ G⁷/sus⁴ 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. Tenderly and mercifully cleanse my heart from guilt, and purify my conscience. Do not cast away my prayer, O God, my supplication. Hear my cry for help, O God, and answer me.

2. For I acknowledge my of-fense, and my sin is be-fore you, O God. I do not deny my guilt. My heart is not upright, and my tongue is not true. My heart is false, and my throat is open. My eyes have looked upward, and I do not know where I am. My feet have stood on a slippery place, and I am afraid because of your wrath, O God.

3. Turn away your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Do not be angry with me, O God, and do not rebuke me in your wrath. Have mercy on me, O God, and be gracious to me.

Piano

3 Fmaj⁷ A^bmaj⁷ Cad. Ebmaj⁷ G Dm⁶/B Fm⁶/D

8

1. Thorough-ly cleanse my heart from all iniquity, and of my sin cleanse my heart. Do not cast away my prayer, O God, my supplication. Hear my cry for help, O God, and answer me.

2. "Against you only have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight. Do not be angry with me, O God, and do not rebuke me in your wrath. Have mercy on me, O God, and be gracious to me." Do not cast away my prayer, O God, my supplication. Hear my cry for help, O God, and answer me.

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

Pno.

♩ = 54
5 E⁷/sus⁴ G⁷/sus⁴ E⁷/sus⁴ G⁷/sus⁴ E⁷ G⁷

8

1. cleanse my heart from all iniquity, and of my sin cleanse my heart. Do not cast away my prayer, O God, my supplication. Hear my cry for help, O God, and answer me.

2. sight." Do not be angry with me, O God, and do not rebuke me in your wrath. Have mercy on me, O God, and be gracious to me." Do not cast away my prayer, O God, my supplication. Hear my cry for help, O God, and answer me.

3. just-ice. Do not cast away my prayer, O God, my supplication. Hear my cry for help, O God, and answer me.

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 Mosner-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-demn.
4. A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast 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 E⁷sus⁴ E⁷ G⁷sus⁴ G⁷sus⁴ G⁷

8

1. cleanse me from all in-iquity and do not cast me from your sight."
3. ceived me. } Be
4. 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 sinned.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Be Merciful, O Lord'. It consists of two staves of music in a 3/2 time signature, with a key signature of one flat (B-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, for we have sinned.

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