

for the Sanctuary Choir,
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Penbrook,
Harrisburg, PA

PRAYER

PSALM 25
Paraphrased by R.L.

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied

Music by
ROBERT LAU

Moderately (♩ = ca. 96)

The first system shows the piano introduction. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The music begins with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The right hand plays a series of quarter notes and half notes, while the left hand provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

The second system features a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is written on a single treble clef staff and is labeled "SOP & ALTO UNISON" with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. It begins at measure 6. The piano accompaniment continues from the first system. The lyrics for this system are: "To you, O Lord above, do I".

The third system continues the vocal and piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins at measure 11. The lyrics for this system are: "lift up my prayer, for you are—".

16

— my God; I put— my trust— in

21

cresc.

poco rit.

23 *a tempo*
(*tutti*)

mf

you. To you, O Lord a - bove,-

TENOR

mf (*uniso*)

BASS

a tempo

cresc.

poco rit.

mf

26

— do lift up— my— prayer,— for

31

you are my guide in all that I say

Musical notation for measures 31-35, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

Musical notation for measures 36-38, including piano accompaniment.

36

39

and do. For give my sins, O

Musical notation for measures 39-40, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

Musical notation for measures 41-43, including piano accompaniment.

41

Fa ther, and teach me to live by your truth.

Musical notation for measures 44-46, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

Musical notation for measures 47-50, including piano accompaniment.

46 *f* *mp*

O hear my cry, hear my cry, for -

for -

f *mp*

51 *rit. e dim.* *mp* **Slower**

give my sins, O my Lord. Hear my

give my sins, Hear me, **Slower**

dim. *p*

rit. e dim. *mp* *p*

56

prayer, O Lord; lead me in paths of right - eous-ness.

me.

Lord, O hear me; lead me, Lord, O lead me.

61

f Hear my cry, hear my cry, *mf* O

Lord, hear my cry, hear my cry. Hear me,

f (opt.) *mf*

66

poco rit. Lord, hear my prayer. *a tempo*

hear my prayer. *a tempo*

poco rit. *mp*

71

poco rit. **74** *Tempo I* *mf* (unis.)

To you, O

mf (unis.)

To you,

Tempo I

cresc. *poco rit.* *mf*

76

Lord a - bove, do I lift up my prayer,
 O Lord, do I lift up my prayer,

81

(*unis.*)

for you are my God,

86

90 *mp*

(*unis.*) you are my God, you are my

92 *(unss.)* *poco rit.* *a tempo*

God; I put— my trust— in you.

mp (unss.)

To you, O—

poco rit. *a tempo*

98 *rit.* *p*

Lord a - bove, — A men. —

rit. e dim. *p*

The image shows a musical score for a choral piece. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system (measures 92-97) features a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics 'God; I put— my trust— in you.' and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The second system (measures 98-103) continues the vocal line with lyrics 'To you, O—' and 'Lord a - bove, — A men. —'. The piano accompaniment includes various dynamics and articulations. The score is marked with 'poco rit.', 'a tempo', 'mp (unss.)', 'rit.', and 'rit. e dim.'. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

Prayer is a gentle choral supplication for Lenten or general services. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Matthew 6: 9-15 and 7: 7-11, Luke 11: 1-4, 5-13, and Philippians 4: 6. One basic homiletical theme is the search for spiritual nurture and renewal through prayer.

The unmetered feeling of the fluid opening and closing sections (ms. 7-38 and 70-103) contrasts sharply with the more clearly defined triple meter of ms. 39-69. Rehearse the opening section on a liquid syllable such as "loo" without sacrificing the inner pulse. Practice ms. 55-61 with the men singing a pulsing "1-2-3" underneath the women's voices; instruct the men to add the text with equal rhythmic definition.

Robert Lau is Organist/Choirmaster at Zion Lutheran (Penbrook) Church in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and a private music teacher and free-lance composer. With music degrees from Lebanon Valley College, the Eastman School of Music, and Catholic University, Dr. Lau has served as Chairman of the Music Department at Lebanon Valley College and is currently an adjunct music professor at The Pennsylvania State University (Harrisburg).

