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C4 Seeing Christ in the Face of the Other: Psalms for Reconciliation

Psalms 150: A Conference Experience

Friday, February 6, 2026

Calvin Theological Seminary, Chapel

Psalm 7:9 Is there a righteous God?

David felt under threat by the words of Cush, yet this psalm is not particularized. Instead, it offers guidance for all those who face dark days. The call is for God to arise, implying God is currently inactive and yet the psalm continues with the justice of God whose judgments are always right.

Is there a righteous God?

Protect me, My God of Refuge: for I feel the need to be constantly on the move, not to be targeted by my enemies

Is there a righteous God?

Examine me, My Saviour: if I have over-criticized my enemies and under-estimated my faults, convict me of my sin

Is there a righteous God?

Raise me, O Vindicator: whenever I am drowned by the sea of fury and those pushing for courts to punish, not leaving the ultimate judgment to You

Is there a righteous God?

Stand up, O Judge: to those who flood the courtrooms seeking revenge rather than restoration.

For those unjustly attacked, **declare their innocence.**

For those propagating evil, **let evil actions come to an end.**

For those seeking acknowledgment of their pain, **bring healing to deep wounds.**

Establish those with noble hearts and minds to rule.

O God, our shield: protect the vulnerable caught in webs of lies and deceit. For those who dig out trouble, may they fall into their own trap.

May plans of evil backfire.

May any intention towards violence boomerang.

For you are a God of peace.

We praise you as the God who makes all things right.

We long for the day when children may play safely on our streets

When singing and laughter will be music acceptable to the honor of your Name,

O Lord Most High.

How might this Psalm be used? Whenever there are tragic atrocities described in the news and a feeling of overwhelm ensues, this Psalm asks God to 'rise' and intervene. The opening chorus could be used as part of prayers of intercessions. It could also be used to intercede for those churches facing persecution in countries where Christians are not able to exercise religious freedom. Finally, it is an opportunity to name the injustices locally, where people have suffered and have waited many long years to see just outcomes.

Psalm 39

Refrain: (39:5) Everyone is but a breath, even those who seem secure

We lament how we kept silent when in the presence of the wicked.

We lament how this silence came to be interpreted as guilt rather than restraint.

Forgive our failing as a church and give us wisdom to know when to speak and when to be silent: **Refrain**

We confess our tendency to chase after wealth, thinking this will keep us secure.

We admit our failure to acknowledge how short life is

How we have tended to find shelter in the shadows rather than to spend our days wisely: **Refrain**

O Lord let me know my end and what is the measure of my days,

Give the church a voice to condemn what is wicked and extol what is good,

May our godly living redeem the time for our hope is in You: **Refrain**

Hear my prayer, Lord, listen to my cry for help, do not be deaf to my weeping.

Psalm 59

O God of the angel armies; rescue me

**Whilst the howling pierces the night,
Let me sing of your dependable love,**

Snarling dogs are at the gate,
Prowling around at night to intimidate me;

Save me

From the snarling invective
And the sharply drawn daggers

Protect me

Not just those on the outside
But my conscience snarls on the inside

Deliver me

From having one voice in public
And being different in private

Heal me

**Whilst the howling pierces the night,
Let me sing of your dependable love.**

We wait on you God, wondering if you are asleep

But you scoff at the nations,
Go before me and scoff at those who slander me.
You are my fortress,

My God on whom I rely

Go before me, Lord, do not kill the enemy,
Lest your people forget,
But let them be caught with the lies on their lips.

**Realign me to what I know is true,
You see my messy, patchy belief
You know my deepest fears
My tendency to bite the hand that feeds me,
Strong merciful God, let me look for you
My God, my fortress, my God on whom I rely.**

**Whilst the howling pierces the night,
Let me sing of your dependable love.**

Psalm 64:

Verse 1

Listen and help, O God: As I cry out in pain

Listen and help, O God:

When we become obsessed by negative voices in our world:

Listen and help, O God

When we get pulled into noisy social media threads dehumanizing the enemy

Listen and help, O God

When we live in fear of being cancelled out by those who do not agree with us

Verse 2

Protect us: from constant fear of being ambushed by those whose poisoned tongues are weapons

Shelter us: from the deadly arrows of misinformation published to main lives

Shield us: and our young people from being incited towards hatred and violence

Expose those: who hide behind social media and work for evil intent

Verse 3

For We lament: the lives lost of those going about their ordinary work

We lament: not everyone in this life will see justice for wrongs done against them

We lament: how easily anarchy tips over and disrupts order

We lament: the betrayal of neighbours, those killed through mistaken identity ... (add your own words to describe the atrocities that occurred in your local area)

Verse 2

Forgive us: when we get discouraged that evil does not seem to reap what it has sown

Forgive us: when we exchange Your shalom for punitive justice

Forgive us: when we did not fully acknowledge Your hand in bringing about peace

Forgive us: when we have over relied on human might and we did not fully trust in You.

Turn us again O God to Your vision of shalom for this world

You are the God who can shoot arrows of judgment with righteous accuracy

Verse 4

We praise you for those who did experience grace and turned away from violence

We acknowledge you as the God who can put all things right

Fill us with the knowledge of Your works to bring life and wholeness and may this drown out toxic narratives that steal the lives of coming generations,

O God, listen and help: **As we bring these prayers to you our God and our refuge.**

Psalm 82

Rise up O God and judge the earth:

because you are the one who will inherit the nations

How long will we have to suffer seeing the prominence of wicked faces?

How long will those obsessed with power be gatekeepers of our community?

How long will influencers incite our children to spit at those they think are the enemy?

Rise up O God and judge the earth:

because you are the one who will inherit the nations

You still see the pain of our small communities

You still see where perpetrators and victims live side by side

You still see us living in our own homes in fear

We lament how the guilty continued to walk free in their own darkness

Rise up O God and judge the earth:

because you are the one who will inherit the nations

You witness our despair when few have been held to account

You witness our despair when fear continues to cast a long shadow

We lament that there were too many funerals with the quiet shuffling of feet

Rise up O God and judge the earth:

because you are the one who will inherit the nations

We hold before you those who have perpetrated violence and murder but have not recognized the pain they have caused. Rescue them too.

We hold before you the inability of judicial systems to provide relief for the most vulnerable. Bring accountability and healing to those crying out for justice.

We lament when legal processes seem skewed to protect the powerful rather than work for the cause of the weakest. Raise up voices to speak for them.

Rise up O God and judge the earth:

because you are the one who will inherit the nations

We confess our own complicity for the times we did not condemn prejudice and held tightly to our pride

We confess our failure as a church for not speaking out strongly enough against sectarianism

Too often we have trusted in human institutions to save us

And now the foundations of the earth are shifting

Come as the one true judge and defend the downtrodden.

Empower those who have no voice.

Pay attention to the most vulnerable and deliver us from destructive wickedness

Lord Jesus we offer ourselves to You that You may live in me and I in you

Come rule the nations and change one person at a time

Psalm 109 – ‘Lament is a verb’

Psalm 109 is extreme in wishing violence against others. Yet, David confesses to be a man of prayer and is taking all of his vengeful thoughts to God (Romans 12:19) rather than mounting a personal counter-attack. In the deep realism of this Psalm is a longing for God to overrule:

This is where I am Lord:

I want to love others but feel opposed: **Keep me in a place of prayer**

When surrounded within and without by hatred: **Keep me in a place of prayer**

When misperceptions control the narrative: **Keep me in a place of prayer**

When I lacked courage to challenge injustice: **Keep me in a place of prayer**

Let Your divine justice have its way when we remember:

Our hurt at the betrayal of close friends:

Keep us in a place of prayer

The shock of being attacked because of difference:

Keep us in a place of prayer

The raw pain and abandonment when justice systems fail:

Keep us in a place of prayer

Bring solace for those keeping the memory of lost ones alive by reliving trauma:

Keep us in a place of prayer

Bring comfort when I feel downtrodden and vulnerable.

Bring healing where my heart has been pierced.

For your name’s sake and because of your committed love, this is where I want to be:

Prevent my reality from being infected by bitterness

Challenge evil dehumanization with the unspeakable power of your love

Turn the next generation away from violence

Water the tears of the past, into living gardens of hope

We choose to believe Sovereign Lord, that without You, there is no love, mercy, justice or truth,

Because You stand at the right hand of the vulnerable and wrap your opponents in a cloak of shame.

Let everyone know that this is Your hand, it is You, Great God who does this,

Then we will give You thanks and praise.

PS59

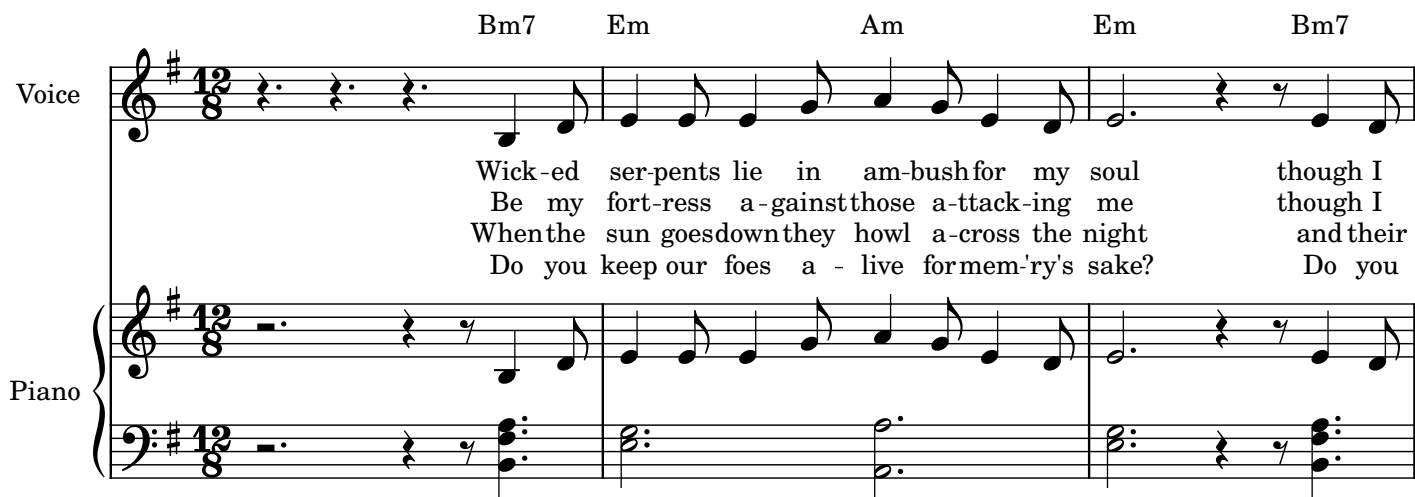
D & K Campbell

Bm7 Em Am Em Bm7

Voice

Wick-ed ser-pents lie in am-bush for my soul though I
Be my fort-ress a-gainst those a-ttack-ing me though I
When the sun goes down they howl a-cross the night and their
Do you keep our foes a - live for mem-'ry's sake? Do you

Piano

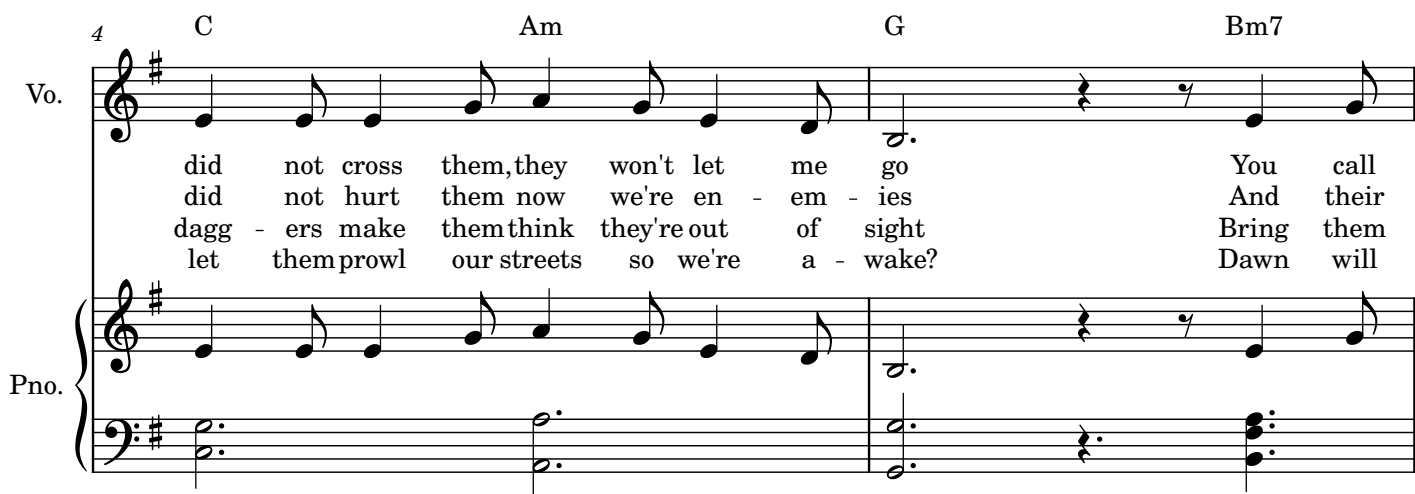


4 C Am G Bm7

Vo.

did not cross them, they won't let me go You call
did not hurt them now we're en - em - ies And their
dagg - ers make them think they're out of sight Bring them
let them prowl our streets so we're a - wake? Dawn will

Pno.

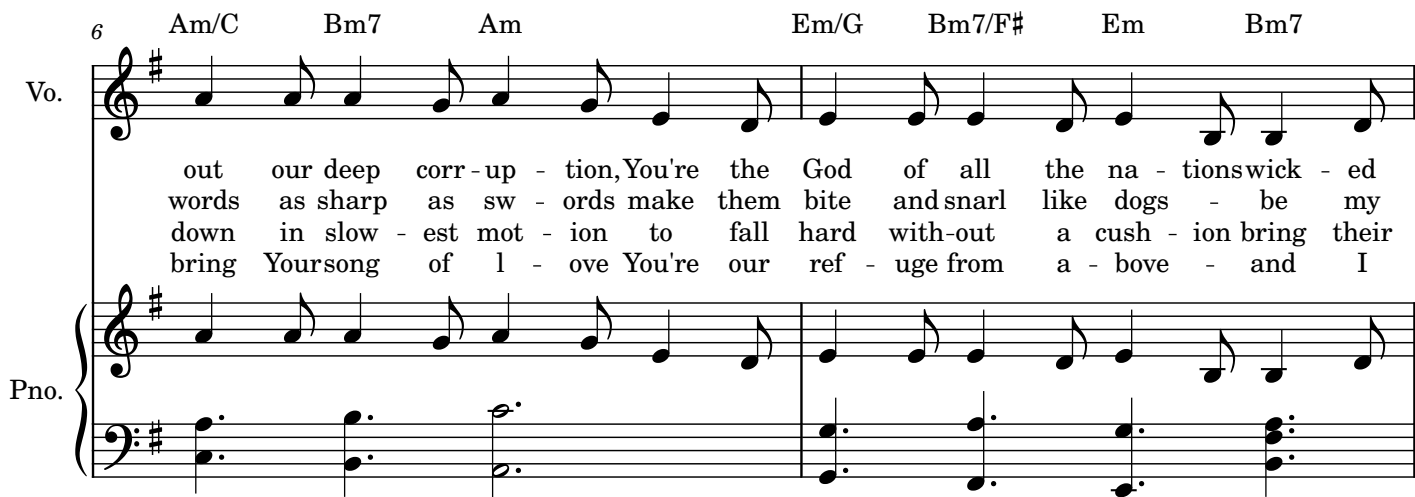


6 Am/C Bm7 Am Em/G Bm7/F# Em Bm7

Vo.

out our deep corr - up - tion, You're the God of all the na - tions wick - ed
words as sharp as sw - ords make them bite and snarl like dogs - be my
down in slow - est mot - ion to fall hard with-out a cush - ion bring their
bring Yoursong of l - ove You're our ref - uge from a - bove - and I

Pno.



8 C G/B Am Bm7 Em Bm7 Am G/B Bm7

Vo. for - ces lie in am - bush for my soul. De - liv - er me from my en - em -
 fort - ress a - gainst those a - ttack - ing me.
 lies and cur - ses in - to broad day - light
 sing Your faith - ful - ness for Your name's sake.

Pno.

11 Em Am F C G Bm7 C Am

Vo. - ies. Hideme O Lord - from those a - ttack - ing me. You are my strength I sing to

Pno.

15 Em Em Am Bm7 Em

Vo. You You are my God, You are my God.

Pno.

Psalm 7

D & K Campbell

Cm

Voice

Cm Cm G7 Cm Cm

When shad-ows loom and
Though just - ice seems to
When all is done His

Piano

6 Cm Fm G Cm Cm

Vo.

fears a - rise, our - hearts feel weak and sore. The world can shake, our strength can break, we -
hide a - way and - wrongs go un - a - d - d - r - e - s - s - e - d. We lift our voice for still we trust, in -
sha - lom reigns, re - stor - ing what was lost. With just - ice true, He'll make all new no -

Pno.

11 Fm G Ab Eb Fm

Vo.

- trem - ble at the door. Yet in this night, we seek for light, a - re - fuge from the
- Him our souls find rest. His pres - ence near dis - pels our fear with - hope that ne - ver
- mat - ter what the cost. With eve - ry tear that falls in pain, He'll - wipe the sorr - ow

Pno.

16 G Ab Eb G7 Cm Ab

Vo. storm. In eve - ry trial we trust in Him. His - love can keep us warm. There'll be a
fades. A - gainst the dark we raise our pray'r, safe - in the path He made.
clear, and eve - ry heart will sing His praise His love will draw us near.

Pno.

22 Eb Ab Eb Ab Bb Eb Ab

Vo. day when all will see and eve - ry knee will bow - For in His

Pno.

30 Eb Fm Eb G7 Fm7 Gmin Ab Fm7 Bb

Vo. grace our spir - its yearn, to - walk with Christ our Lord - . to - walk with Christ our

Pno.

36 Cm

Vo. Lord

Pno.

Irish Psalm Tune

Psalm 5 with bridge

D & K Campbell

Voice

Piano

9

E_b Bb/D Cm Bb E_b A_b E_b/Bb Bb E_b Bb/D E_b A_b/C E_b/G

Vo.

Pno.

Let all who hide - in You - be glad, Their fears - You
The e - vil ones - aren't wel - comed here, Their pride - can't
Their tongues are mud-slides their throats are like graves. The truth - gets
O Lord You won't - en - dure - their wrong, They'll fall - through
O come and let - us to - the Lord in songs - our

15

A_b/C A_b6 $Bb7$ E_b E_b/G E_b A_b E_b/G $Bb7/F$ E_b A_b $Bb7/F$ E_b

Vo.

Pno.

will - de - stroy. You spread - pro - tect - ion o - ver
be your house - guest. You shake - your head - when mis - chief
burnt - to dust. Their words - of life - bring ran - cid
twi - sted schemes. Call out - their guilt - and to - xic
voi - ces raise. with joy - ful noi - se let us - the

21 B \flat Cm A \flat E \flat /G A \flat E \flat /B \flat 7 E \flat Cm A \flat

Vo. them so they - can sing - for joy. List en List en -
 thrives, and ban - ish wick - ed ness.
 death, Their cov'nants I can - not trust.
 lies, De - stroy - their ma - ny sins.
 rock of our - sal vat - ion praise.

Pno.

29 Fm7 Fm7 B \flat Cm A \flat

Vo. - List en Do you hear my sigh? - List en List en List -

Pno.

38 Fm7 Fm7 B \flat

Vo. -en and hear my heart's cry The
 Their
 O
 O

Pno.

Psalm 64

D&K Campbell/ Armagh Group

God hear my troubling thoughts

God hear my troubling thoughts

I need a hiding place so that I wont get caught

God hear my troubling thoughts

Hide me from conspiracy

Hide me from conspiracy

Their perfect ambushed words were a snare to me

Hide me from conspiracy

You can tear the wicked down

You can tear the wicked down

Turn their tongues of fire and shake them to the ground

You can tear the wicked down

May all people fear the Lord

May all people fear the Lord

The righteous will rejoice and glory in your works

May all people fear the Lord

Prayer based on Psalm 64:

Listen and help, O God:

When we become obsessed by negative voices in our world:

Listen and help, O God

When we get pulled into noisy social media threads dehumanizing the enemy

Listen and help, O God

When we live in fear of being cancelled out by those who do not agree with us

Verse 2

Protect us: from constant fear of being ambushed by those whose poisoned tongues are weapons

Shelter us: from the deadly arrows of misinformation published to main lives

Shield us: and our young people from being incited towards hatred and violence

Expose those: who hide behind social media and work for evil intent

For We lament: the lives lost of those going about their ordinary work

We lament: not everyone in this life will see justice for wrongs done against them

We lament: how easily anarchy tips over and disrupts order

Verse 3

Forgive us: when we get discouraged that evil does not seem to reap what it has sown

Forgive us: when we exchange Your shalom for punitive justice

Forgive us: when we did not fully acknowledge Your hand in bringing about peace

Turn us again O God to Your vision of shalom for this world

You are the God who can shoot arrows of judgment with righteous accuracy

Verse 4

We praise you for those who did experience grace and turned away from violence

We acknowledge you as the God who can put all things right

Fill us with the knowledge of Your works to bring life and wholeness and may this drown out toxic narratives that steal the lives of coming generations,

O God, listen and help

As we bring these prayers to you our God and our refuge.

Psalm 82

D & K Campbell

Cm

Voice

Piano

Rise up O

4

G

Ab

Bb7

Eb

Vo.

Pno.

God now - - And judge - the World.

7

Fm

Eb

Bb

Vo.

Pno.

Nat - ions - bow at your - co - mmand.

10

Cm

G

Vo.

Pno.

Rise up - - O God now - -

13 Ab Bb7 Eb Fm

Vo. -And judge - the world. All Earth - is

Pno.

16 Eb/Bb Bb7 Eb

Vo. placed in - your hands. How

Pno.

19 Eb Ab Eb Abm7

Vo. long will you stand by while the neigh-bours are flee-ing by
now that eve - ry-thing's fall-ing a-

Pno.

22 Eb Gm/D Cm Ab Cm

Vo. night - - How long, will ev - il ones hid their
-part - - Yet You see where we failed to dis-

Pno.

25 Cm G Ab G

Vo. wrongdeeds in broad-est day - light? Please judge the Earth,
-cern and to know what is right. Please res - cue us,

Pno.

27 Ab G Ab G

Vo. res-cue the poor, come rule our land once a - gain.
heal our proud thoughts, de-fend the rights of Your name.

Pno.

Psalm 140

D & K Campbell

Voice

Piano

6

Gm Gm D7/A Gm/Bb Gm

Vo.

E - vil wordsswirl all ar - ound us,
Shad-ows watch the path I walk on,
Those whoclothed me with their false - hoods

Pno.

11

Bb Cm D Am7 D Gm Gm/F Cm7/Eb Cm D D7

Vo.

Sting - ing ven-om leavesits bite. poi - son plant-ed in their heartsnow, seems to dull Your
trapthey'veset en - snaremy feet. Sov-ereignLord,our strongde - live - rer, bring us to Your
find their lies re - duced to dust. Poor and weakwill be su - ppor - ted Love sogreatthat

Pno.

16 Gm D7 Gm Bb F Cm7/Eb Cm D Cm6/A D7

Vo. words of light. You're our God, we long to praise You Truth and just-ice in Your hands.
mer-cy seat.
they can trust.

Pno.

21 Bb F F7 Cm7 C#dim D7 Gm

Vo. You're our God we long to praise You, bring Your com-fort to our land.

Pno.

Psalm 109

V1 - V2 - Chorus - Vs3 - Chorus - Bridge - Chorus

D & K Campbell

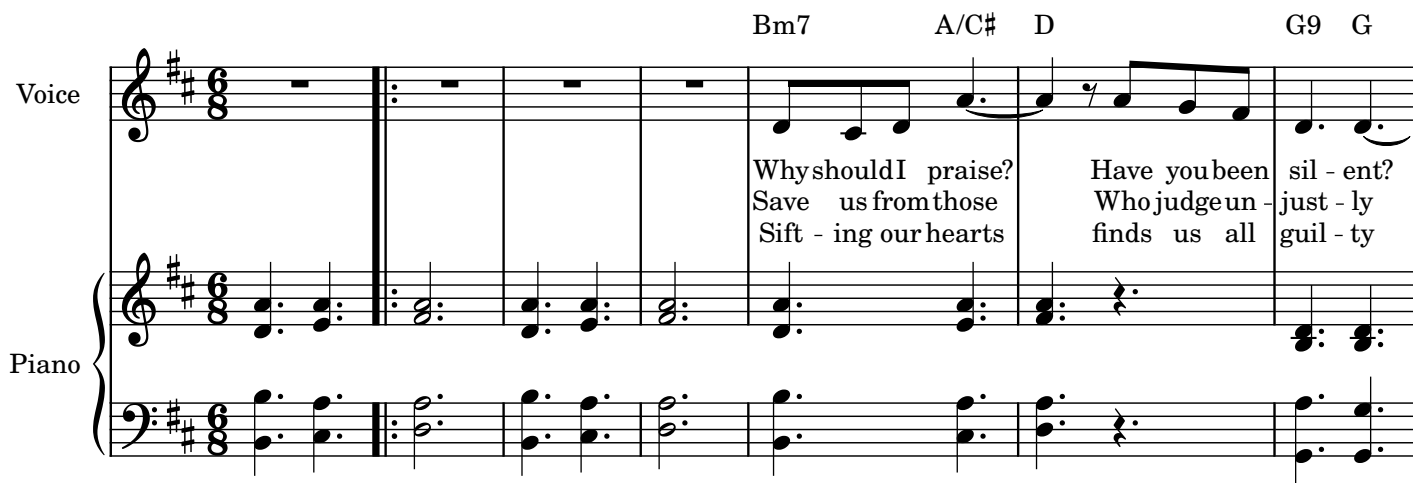
Chorus

Chords: Bm7 A/C# D G9 G

Voice

Piano

Why should I praise? Have you been sil - ent?
Save us from those Who judge un - just - ly
Sift - ing our hearts finds us all guil - ty



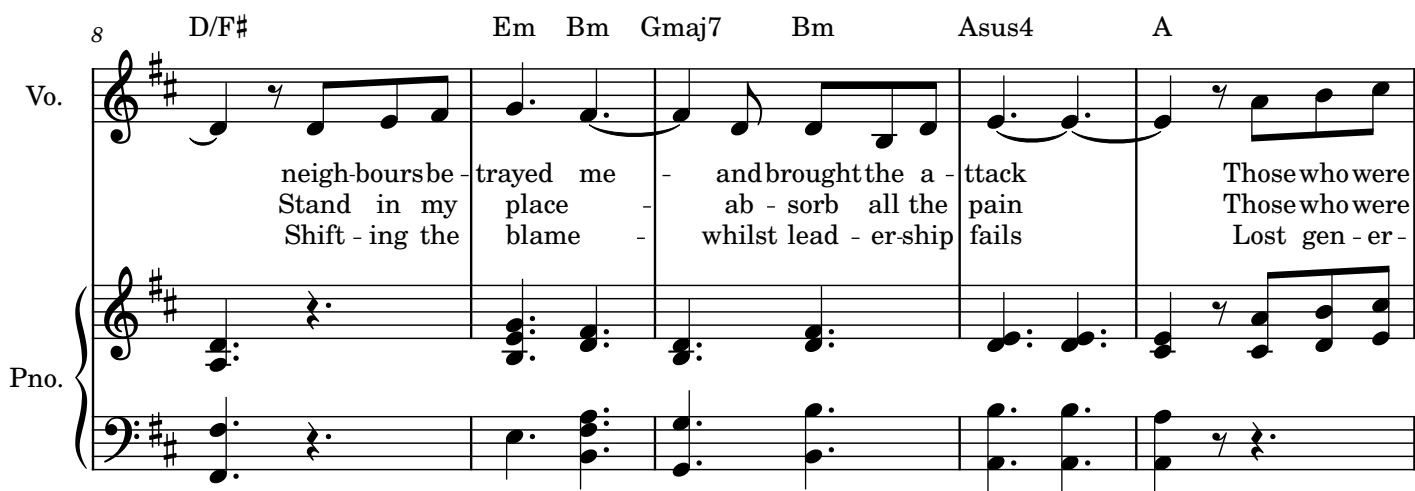
Chorus

Chords: D/F# Em Bm Gmaj7 Bm Asus4 A

Vo.

Pno.

neigh - bours be - trayed me - and brought the a - ttack
Stand in my place ab - sorb all the pain
Shift - ing the blame - whilst lead - er - ship fails
Those who were
Those who were
Lost gen - er -



Chorus

Chords: Bm A G D/F# G Em Bm/F#

Vo.

Pno.

close should have pro - tect ed, hat - red for friend - ship
cur - sing like a thick gar - ment, eat bi - tter fruit
- a - tions missed from their homes chairs that are emp - ty



18 Gmaj7 Bm7 A/C# D Bm7 A/C# D G9 G

Vo. stabs in the back and O - my heart is wound-ed -
 born from their shame frail Truth that seems frail

Pno.

24 D/F# Em Bm7 G Asus4 A Bm7 A/C#

Vo. - for the was - ted years lost on the way but You -

Pno.

30 D G9 G D/F# Em Bm7 G Bm7 A/C#

Vo. - canga-ther the bro - ken - and pour heal - ing light on dark-est days -

Pno.

36 3. D Bm A Bm A Bm A G Bm A Bm A Bm A G Bm A Bm A

Vo. Af-ter all the curs-ing runs dry, And the si-lent shak-ing of heads, Af-ter we im-

Pno.

42 Bm A G D/F# Asus4 A Bm7 A D

Vo. -ag-in the worst, Let there be peace, Let there be peace and O - my heart is

Pno.

48 G9 G D/F# Em Bm7 G Asus4 A Bm7 A/C#

Vo. wound-ed - for the was - ted years lost on the way but You -

Pno.

55 D G9 G D/F# Em Bm7 G Bm7 A/C#

Vo. - can ga - ther the bro - ken - and pour heal - ing light on dark - est days D

Pno.

62 Bm7 A/C# D

Vo.

Pno.

Psalm 39

D & K Campbell

Chords: Bm F#7

4/4

Voice

Life be - hind our walls of
Speak-ing grace with truth - ful
Work for peace can be so

Piano

5 Bm F# F#7

Vo.

sil - ence Think - ing sha - dows kept us
can - dour seemed be - yond us for so
fleet - ing feels like breath spent on the

Pno.

9 Bm Bm F#7

Vo.

safe Plac - ing stones there in the
long Help us speak Your words of
wind Let Your voice speak in the

Pno.

13 Bm F# F#7

Vo. quiet - ness yet our fears kept us a -
 Heal - ing where our an - guish had been
 sil - ence bring - ing light that can't be

Pno.

17 Bm D7 G

Vo. -wake Hear our pray - ing O Lord for
 strong
 dimmed.

Pno.

21 D Bm7 F# F#7

Vo. mer - cy Grief makes holes we can - not

Pno.

25 Bm D7 G

Vo. fill Hear our pray - ing O Lord for

Pno.

29 D Bm7 F#

Vo. mer - cy All our hope is in Your

Pno.

33 Bm

Vo. will

Pno.