

London Gallery Quire 701

James Montgomery (1771–1854)
based on Psalm 143

Hear me, O LORD ! in my distress

St. John by Samuel Mather (1783–1824)
Edited by Nicholas Markwell and Fiona Dunn

Mournfully. [$\text{♩} = 84$]

Soprano [Air]

Alto

Tenor

Bass

1. Hear me, O LORD ! in my dis - tress, Hear me in
 2. LORD ! I have foes with - out, with - in, The world, the
 3. These, these, my faint - ing soul sur - round, My strength is
 4. Yet in the gloom of si - lent thought, I call to

7

S

A

T

B

truth and right - eous - ness ; For at thy bar of judg - ment tried,
 flesh, in - dwell - ing sin, Life's dai - ly ills, temp - ta - tion's power,
 smit - ten to the ground ; Like those long dead, be - neath their weight,
 mind what GOD hath wrought, Thy won - ders in the days of old,

5. Ah ! then to Thee I stretch my hands,
 Like fainting streams through desert sands ;
 I thirst for Thee, as harvest plains,
 Parch'd by the summer, thirst for rains.

6. O let me not thus hopeless lie
 Like one condemn'd at morn to die ;
 But with the morning may I see
 Thy loving kindness visit me.

7. Teach me Thy will, subdue my own ;
 Thou art my GOD, and Thou alone,
 By Thy good Spirit guide me still,
 Safe from all foes, to Zion's Hill.

8. Release my soul from trouble, LORD,
 Quicken and keep me by Thy word ;
 May all its promises be mine !
 Thou art my portion,—I am Thine.

S

None liv - ing can be jus - ti - fied.
And Sa - tan roar - ing to de - vour.
 Crush'd in my heart, and de - so - late.
 Thy mer - cies great and ma - ni - fold.

A

T

B

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Samuel Mather was organist in Sheffield from the age of sixteen ; first at St James' church until 1808, then at St Paul's church until his death at around the age of 40. It was at St. Paul's that he was invited to be the musical editor and arranger of Thomas Cotterill's A Selection of Psalms & Hymns for Public and Private Use in 1819. This (the seventh edition) was the book that the congregations of both St. James' and St. Paul's rejected, preferring to retain psalmody over hymnody, which led to it being revised in 1820 by the Archbishop of York, and resulted in hymnody being officially permitted in the Church of England for the first time. Cotterill was the perpetual Curate at St Paul's, and James Montgomery (who was editor of The Sheffield Iris, in which he had printed a number of his hymns for the first time) was invited to collaborate in its production. Montgomery contributed the current text (based on Psalm 143), with Mather composing the tune St. John for it.

St. John is written for Treble and Bass voices, with small notation for keyboard accompaniment. This is occasionally sparse, with the bass left unfigured, and some supplementary notes in the inner parts have been required to complete the four-part texture. I am most grateful to Fiona (Fi) Dunn for her advice and assistance in this.