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**The Reproaches**  
Cantor(s), SATB

Tomás Luis de Victoria

**TRIN  TAS**  
EXCELLENCE IN SACRED CHORAL MUSIC

# The Reproaches

Tomás Luis de Victoria

Adapted by  
Geoffrey Cox

## Performance Notes

The Reproaches have been sung for many centuries during the Veneration of the Cross at the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday. The structure of the text, alternating between refrains sung by the choir and couplets sung by one or more cantors, allows the length of the music to be adjusted easily to fit the ceremonial.

This edition/adaptation enables the text to be sung in English, either using the exquisite polyphony of Tomás Luis de Victoria for the refrains (sections 1 and 3), or in plainchant throughout (using sections 1a and 3a instead).

After the opening refrain (1 or 1a) has been sung by the entire choir, the cantors on each side of the choir alternate in singing the couplets 2, 4, and 5. In the second refrain, the *Trisagion* (3 or 3a), the Greek and English (originally Latin) portions alternate between the two sides of the choir. If the choir is not divided, a small group within the choir may be designated to sing the Greek portions, and the same cantor(s) may be used throughout.

The couplets of Part II, the lesser Reproaches (6 to 14), are also traditionally sung by two cantors alternately, one on each side of the choir, while the entire choir sings the refrain (1 or 1a).

The plainchant melody is believed to be of Gallican origin, and this English adaptation has deliberately preserved its florid character. In performing the chant, there should be a relatively even flow of notes, with a flexibility of dynamic level that allows for the natural accentuation of the English text.

Some features of the original plainchant notation are inevitably lost in the simplified notation presented here. The horizontal episema (◌̄) placed over a note indicates a slight lengthening, not a doubling or stress. Interpretations of the three-note quilisma group (◌̣◌̣◌̣) vary; but the most common is that the first of the three notes is slightly lengthened, while the middle note is sung quickly and lightly. The hollow/open notes should receive twice the value of the black notes.

The Greek text is properly pronounced:

HAH-ghee-os Ho thay-OS.

HAH-ghee-os is-kee-ROS.

HAH-ghee-os a-THAH-nah-tos eh-LEH-ee-son hü-MAHS.

— G.C.

# The Reproaches

## Part I

Tomás Luis de Victoria (ca. 1548–1611)  
adapted by Geoffrey Cox

**1** **Choirs I & II:**

**Soprano**  
My peo - ple, what have I done to you?

**Alto**  
My peo - ple, what have I done to you?

**Tenor**  
My peo - ple, what have I done to you?

**Bass**  
My peo - ple, what have I done to you?

**Keyboard**  
(for rehearsal only)

How have I of - fend - ed you? An - swer me! *(Fine)*

How have I of - fend - ed you? An - swer me!

How have I of - fend - ed you? An - swer me!

How have I of - fend - ed you? An - swer me! *(Fine)*

**2** Cantor(s) I:

I led you out of E - gypt, from slav - er - y to  
 free - dom, but you led your Sav - ior to the cross.

**3** Choir I: Choir II:

Ha - gi - os o The - ós. Ho - ly is God!  
 Ha - gi - os o The - ós. Ho - ly is God!  
 Ha - gi - os o The - ós. Ho - ly is God!  
 Ha - gi - os o The - ós. Ho - ly is God!



- tal One, have mer-cy on us!

- tal One, have mer-cy on us!

- tal One, have mer-cy on us!

- tal One, have mer-cy on us!

**4** Cantor(s) II:

For for-ty years I led you safe-ly through

the des - ert. I fed you with man - na from heav - en,

and brought you to a land of plen - ty; but

you led your Sav - ior to the cross.

Repeat **3** Hagios o Theós.

5

Cantor(s) I:

What more could I have done for you? I plant-ed

you as my fair-est vine, but you yield-ed on-ly

bit-ter-ness: when I was thirst-y you gave me vin-e-gar to

Repeat 3 Hagios o Theós.  
drink, and you pierced your Sav-ior with a lance.

*Part II*  
(The Lesser Reproaches)

6

Cantor(s):

For your sake I scourged your cap-tors and their first-born sons,

Repeat 1 My people.  
but you brought your scourg-es down on me.

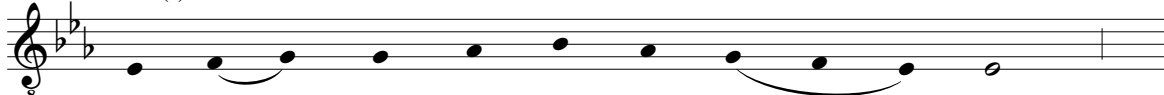
7

Cantor(s):

I led you from slav-er-y to free-dom, and drowned your cap-tors in the sea,


Repeat 1 My people.  
but you hand-ed me o-ver to your high priests.

**8** Cantor(s):



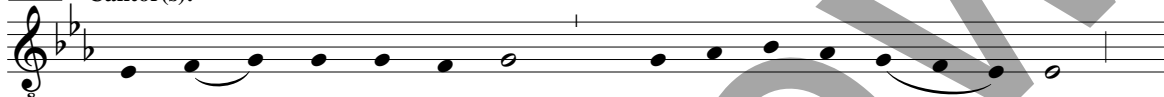
I o - pened the sea be - fore \_\_\_\_\_ you,

Repeat **1** My people.



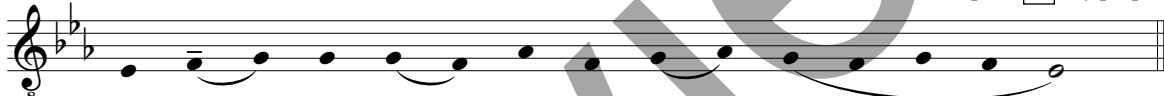
but you \_\_\_\_\_ o - pened my \_\_\_\_\_ side with a \_\_\_\_\_ spear.

**9** Cantor(s):




I led \_\_\_\_\_ you on your way in a pil - lar of \_\_\_\_\_ cloud,

Repeat **1** My people.




but you \_\_\_\_\_ led me \_\_\_\_\_ to Pi - late's \_\_\_\_\_ court.

**10** Cantor(s):



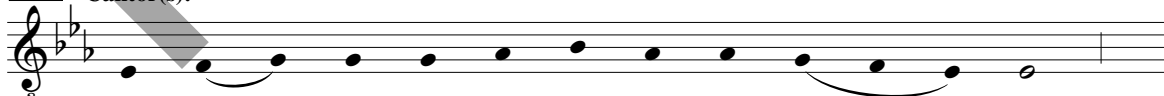
I bore \_\_\_\_\_ you up with man - na in the des - ert,

Repeat **1** My people.




but you \_\_\_\_\_ struck me \_\_\_\_\_ down and scourged \_\_\_\_\_ me.

**11** Cantor(s):



I gave \_\_\_\_\_ you sav - ing wa - ter from the \_\_\_\_\_ rock,

Repeat **1** My people.



but you \_\_\_\_\_ gave me gall and \_\_\_\_\_ vin - e - gar to \_\_\_\_\_ drink.



12

Cantor(s):

For you \_\_\_ I struck down the kings of Ca - naan,

Repeat **1** My people.

but you \_\_\_ struck my \_\_\_ head with a \_\_\_ reed.

13

Cantor(s):

I gave \_\_\_ you a roy - al scep - ter,

Repeat **1** My people.

but you \_\_\_ gave \_\_\_ me a crown of \_\_\_ thorns.

14

Cantor(s):

I raised \_\_\_ you to the height of maj - es - ty,

Repeat **1** My people.  
*al Fine*

but you \_\_\_ have raised me \_\_\_ high on a \_\_\_ cross.

## Alternative Refrains (Plainsong)

1a

Choirs I &amp; II:

My \_\_\_\_\_ peo - ple, \_\_\_\_\_ what \_\_\_\_\_ have I \_\_\_\_\_ done

to \_\_\_\_\_ you? \_\_\_\_\_ How have I \_\_\_\_\_

of - fend-ed \_\_\_\_\_ you? \_\_\_\_\_ An - swer \_\_\_\_\_ me!

3a

Choir I:

Ha - gi - os \_\_\_\_\_ o The - ós. \_\_\_\_\_

Choir II:

Ho - ly \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ God! \_\_\_\_\_

Choir I:

Ha - gi - os \_\_\_\_\_ Is - chy - rós. \_\_\_\_\_

Choir II:

Ho - ly \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ strong! \_\_\_\_\_

**Choir I:**

Ha - gi - os \_\_\_\_\_ A - thá - na - tos, \_\_\_\_\_

e - lé - i - son \_\_\_\_\_ hy - más. \_\_\_\_\_

**Choir II:**

Ho - ly \_\_\_\_\_ im - mor - tal One, \_\_\_\_\_

have mer - cy \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ us! \_\_\_\_\_

Preview

Preview

