

I Said That I Would Closely Guard My Ways

PSALM 39 - Genevan Psalter

Hypo-Aeolian - simplified

1. I said that I would close - ly guard my ways
2. My heart grew hot, with - in me set a - blaze.
3. "Sure - ly a man is noth - ing but a breath;

and I keep from sin - ning with my tongue,
he cried, as a "Lord, let me know my end.
he as a shad - ow goes his way.

that on my mouth a muz - zle I would place
Re - veal to me vain the meas - ure of my days.
Sure - ly in vain he strug - gles till his death;

while e - vil - do - ers round me throng.
As just a hand - breadth you ex - tend
he piles up rich - es while he - tend may,

When, dumb and si - lent, I then held my peace,
my span of fleet - ing days, so frail and light.
not know - ing who will lat - er gath - er them.

my grief and woe - did but in - crease.
It is as noth - ing but in your sight.
His striv - ing will not prof - it him.

Tune: *Pange lingua*, adopted by Louis Bourgeois - Geneva, 1551; Arr. Tim Nijenhuis, © 2020

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4. "What is it that I now shall wait for, LORD ?
In you I place my hope and trust.
From all my sins deliverance afford,
and let me not by scorn be crushed.
My mouth I do not open, for I see
that it was you who chastened me.

5. "Remove from me the chastisement I fear,
lest I should perish through your wrath.
At your rebukes, that which a man holds dear
will fade and shrivel like a moth.
For man is merely breath and vanity;
yes, like a puff of wind is he.

6. "LORD, hear my cry, give ear to my request;
do not my bitter tears ignore.
For I with you am but a passing guest,
as all my fathers were before.
O turn away from me your watchful eye
and give me joy before I die."