

Fourth Sunday of Lent (B)

Psalm 136, vv 1-6; refrain v 6

Robert Gower (b. 1952)

R O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I re-mem - ber you not!

The musical score consists of two systems. The first system features a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The vocal line begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics 'O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I re-mem - ber you not!'. The piano accompaniment provides a harmonic foundation with chords and moving lines. The second system continues the piano accompaniment with various chordal textures and rhythmic patterns.

1. By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung up our harps. **R**

2. For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said,
'one of Zion's songs.' **R**

3. O how could we sing the song of the Lord
on an alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither! **R**

4. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys! **R**

The refrain is heard three times at the start: first played on the organ, then sung by the cantor, and then sung by all;
it is then repeated by all after each verse.

From a complete 3-year cycle of Responsorial Psalms.

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