

# Psalm 136: "By the Waters of Babylon"

(Sung on the 3 Sundays preceding Great Lent)

Obikhod  
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The musical score is written for three voices: Soprano I (SI), Soprano II (SII), and Alto (A). It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and common time (C). The piece consists of four systems of music. The first system begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The lyrics are: "By the waters of Bab-y-lon, there we sat down and we". The second system features a forte (*f*) dynamic and includes the lyrics: "wept when we re - mem - bered Si - on." The third system starts with a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic and includes the lyrics: "Al - le - lu - ia. Up - on the wil - lows in the midst there-". The fourth system begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic and includes the lyrics: "of did we hang our in - stru - ments. Al - le - lu - ia." The score concludes with a final piano (*pp*) dynamic. The Alto part has a final double bar line with a repeat sign.

SI  
SII  
A

*p*

By the wat-ers of Bab-y-lon, there we sat down and we

*f*

wept when we re - mem - bered Si - on.

*pp*

Al - le - lu - ia. Up - on the wil - lows in the midst there-

*f* *pp*

of did we hang our in - stru - ments. Al - le - lu - ia.

*p*  
For there they that had tak - en us cap - tive asked us for

*p*

words\_ of song.\_\_\_\_\_ and they that had led us a - way asked

*f*  
us for a hymn, say - ing: Sing us one of the songs of

*f*

*pp* *p*  
Si - on. Al - le - lu - ia. How\_ shall we sing\_ the

*pp* *p*

*pp*  
Lord's\_ song\_ in a strange\_ land? Al - le - lu - ia.

*pp*

If I for - get \_\_\_\_\_ thee O \_\_\_\_\_ Jer \_\_\_\_\_ ru - sa - lem Let my

right \_\_\_\_\_ hand be for - got - ten. Al - le - lu - ia.

Let my tongue cleave to my throat, \_\_\_\_\_ if I re - mem - ber thee

not, \_\_\_\_\_ if I set not Je - ru - sa - lem a - bove all oth - er.

as \_\_\_\_\_ the head \_\_\_\_\_ of my joy. Al - le - lu - ia.

*p* Re - mem - ber, O Lord, — the sons — of E - - dom, in the

*p* *p*

day — of Je - ru - - - sa - lem, Who said: Lay waste,

lay waste to her, ev - en to the four - - - da - tions there - of.

*f* *f*

*pp* Al - le - lu - ia. O *p* dau-ghter of Bab-y-lon, thou — wretch-ed

*pp* *p*

one, — bless - ed shall he be who — shall re - ward — thee where-

with — thou — hast re - ward - - - ed us.

Al - le - lu - ia. Bless - ed shall he be who shall seize and

dash — thine in - fants a - gainst the rock. —

Al - le - lu - - - ia.

The musical score is written for a 4-part choir in G minor (one flat). It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (treble clef). Dynamics include *f* (forte), *pp* (pianissimo), and *p* (piano). The lyrics are: "with — thou — hast re - ward - - - ed us. Al - le - lu - ia. Bless - ed shall he be who shall seize and dash — thine in - fants a - gainst the rock. — Al - le - lu - - - ia." The score ends with a double bar line.

Music from the Slavonic arr. of P. Dinev,  
"Collection of Church Hymns for 3-part Choir", Sophia, Bulgaria, 1955.

English text from "The Psalter according to the Seventy",  
Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Boston, MA ©1987

English phrasing adapted from the arrangement by Tim Clader, Rochester, NY, 1995.  
4-part arrangement by Krupitsky in English available from: [sjkp.org](http://sjkp.org)