



97847

Save Us O Lord

Bob Dufford, SJ

Two Part, Descant
Keyboard, Guitar, Flute, Oboe

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Save Us, O Lord

Bob Dufford, SJ
 Arranged by Bob Dufford, SJ
 and Chris Morash

Based on Psalm 80

***INTRO:** *Energetic, not too fast* (♩ = ca. 152)

REFRAIN: *Yearning, insistent*

(After Vss. 2 & 3) *mf* *f*

Descant

Melody

Keyboard

mf *f* *mf, f* *mf*

heal us; hear our prayer.

f *mf, f* *mf*

car - ry us back. Rouse your pow - er and come.

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*A separate arrangement for Flute, Oboe, Violin I and II, Viola, and Cello I and II is available in manuscript form from the publisher—Edition 7054.

f Show your glo - ry, *mf, f* Bring us back. *mf* to Verses

f Res-cue your peo-ple; *mf* show us your face. *f* Bring us back. *mf* to Verses

VERSE 1: *Slightly faster* (♩ = 156 - 160)

mf 1. O Shep - herd of Is - ra - el, hear us. Re - turn and

p

f 1. we shall be saved. A - rise, O Lord; hear our

mf *f rit.* *D.S.*

1. cries, O Lord: bring us back!

D.S.

rit. *f*

VERSE 2: *Calming*

mp

2. How long will you hide from your

p

mf *f >*

2. peo-ple? We long to see your face. Give

mf

mf *rit.* *f* *D.S.*

2. ear to us. Draw near to us. Lord God of hosts!

D.S.

rit. *f*

VERSE 3:

mf *crescendo poco a poco*

3. Turn a - gain; care for your vine; pro -

mp

f

3. tect what your right hand has plant - ed. Your

mf

3. vine - yards are tram - pled, up - root - ed, and burned.

ff *f* *rit.* *ff* to Final Refrain

3. Come to us, Fa - ther of might!

f *rit.* +reeds

Ped.

to Final Refrain

FINAL REFRAIN: Tempo I

Descant *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf*, *f*

Save us, heal us; hear our

Melody *f* *mf* *f* *mf*, *f*

Save us, O Lord; car - ry us back. Rouse your pow - er and

mf *f* *mf*,

prayer. Show your glo - ry.

mf *f* *mf*

come. Res-cue your peo-ple; show us your face.

f *mf* *rit.* *Fine*

Bring us back.

f *mf* *rit.* *Fine*

Bring us back.

rit. *Fine*

Performance Notes

Save Us, O Lord is a forceful song of people who have known the Lord’s care in their past and must now confront what seems to be neglect: look what has happened to us, your flock, your vineyard; be faithful to the work of your hands. So the mood varies from a quiet but deep-felt ache for the return of a sense of God’s care to a vigorous expression in demanding cries.

The assembly’s plea in the Refrain (save us, rescue us, bring us back) is given further articulation and deeper feeling by the cantor’s (or choir’s) Verses, so that each time it returns the Refrain is more insistent.

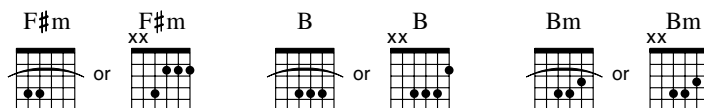
The descant is like a background “groaning of the Spirit”—an expression of deep-felt longing and need. Hence, it should never dominate nor be equal to the melody. The guitarist should use strong strums, being especially careful to “push through” the strings on the places where there is an accent in the score. The interlude before Verse 2 gradually quiets down to set us a calmer beginning for the voice; then the mood returns to a greater vigor/insistence at the words “give ear to us, draw near to us.”

The Verses should be sung smoothly with a no-breath rest between “arise, O Lord” and “hear our cries” in Verse 1. Verse 3 builds in a long gradual *crescendo* from the very beginning, climaxing at “Come to us, Father of might.” If possible, the cantor/choir should hold the last note of each Verse until the assembly returns with the Refrain. This will heighten the sense of urgency and pleading.

The spirit of the song makes it especially apt as an opening song during Advent or Lent or in times of special crises.

—B.D.

Guitar Chord Charts



VERSE 1: *Slightly faster* (♩ = 156 - 160)

mf G D Em , G A Em *f*

1. O Shep-herd of Is-ra-el, hear us. Re- turn and we shall be saved. A -

D G D G *mf* Em C B *f rit.* D.S.

1. rise, O Lord; hear our cries, O Lord: bring us back!

VERSE 2: *Calming*

G D Em G D

2. How long will you hide from your

Em G A *mf* Em *f*

2. peo- ple? We long to see your face. Give

D G D G Em C B *mf* *rit.* *f* D.S.

2. ear to us. Draw near to us. Lord God of hosts!

VERSE 3:

D *mf* B *crescendo poco a poco* , Em

3. Turn a- gain; care for your vine; pro- tect what your

A D *f* G D

3. right hand has plant- ed. Your vine- yards are tram- pled, up -

G D C F B* *ff* *rit.* B D.S. *ff*

3. root- ed, and burned. Come to us, Fa- ther of might!

*If more than one guitar is used, then a second player may play an F#m chord while the others are playing this first half-measure of B creating a B9. This gives a more tense preparation for the return of the Refrain.

Save Us, O Lord

FLUTE

Bob Dufford, SJ

INTRO: *With insistent energy* (♩ = ca. 152)

REFRAIN:

VERSE 1: *Slightly faster* (♩ = 156 - 160)

Musical notation for the first system. It begins with an Intro in 6/4 time, marked 'With insistent energy' and a tempo of ca. 152. The Intro consists of two measures of whole notes. This is followed by a Refrain section with a 7-measure rest. Verse 1 begins with a 4-measure rest, then continues with a melodic line in 6/4 time, marked 'Slightly faster' with a tempo of 156-160. Dynamics include *mf* and *f*, with a *rit.* marking at the end of the first line.

REFRAIN: Tempo I

Musical notation for the second system. It continues the Refrain from the first system, marked 'Tempo I'. The melody is marked with *mf* and *f* dynamics. Verse 2 begins with a 2-measure rest, followed by a 6-measure rest, then a melodic line marked 'Calming' with a tempo of 156-160. Dynamics include *f*, *mf*, and *mp*, with a *rit.* marking at the end.

REFRAIN: Tempo I

Musical notation for the third system. It continues the Refrain from the second system, marked 'Tempo I'. The melody is marked with *f* and *(non legato)*. Verse 3 begins with a 4-measure rest, followed by a melodic line marked 'Calming' with a tempo of 156-160. Dynamics include *f* and *ff*.

VERSE 3:

Musical notation for the fourth system. It continues Verse 3 from the third system, marked 'Calming' with a tempo of 156-160. Dynamics include *f* and *ff*.

FINAL REFRAIN: Tempo I

Musical notation for the fifth system. It continues the Final Refrain from the fourth system, marked 'Tempo I'. The melody is marked with *rit.* and *f* dynamics, and includes triplet markings. The piece concludes with a *Fine* marking and a *rit.* marking.

Save Us, O Lord

OBOE

Bob Dufford, SJ

INTRO: With
insistent energy (♩ = ca. 152)**REFRAIN:****VERSE 1:** Slightly faster (♩ = 156 - 160)

2 7

mf

f *rit.*

REFRAIN: Tempo I

mf *mf*

VERSE 2: Calming

f *mf*

REFRAIN: Tempo I

6

mp *mf* *rit.* *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

f *f*

VERSE 3:

mp *mf* *mp* *f*

ff *rit.*

FINAL REFRAIN: Tempo I

f

f

f *rit.* *Fine*

Assembly Edition

SAVE US, O LORD

Bob Dufford, SJ

Refrain

Save us, O Lord; car-ry us back. Rouse your pow-er and come.
 Res-cue your peo-ple; show us your face. Bring us back.

Verse 1

1. O Shep-herd of Is - ra - el, hear us. Re - turn and we shall be
 to Refrain
 1. saved. A - rise, O Lord; hear our cries, O Lord: bring us back!

Verse 2

2. How long will you hide from your peo-ple? We long to
 to Refrain
 2. see your face. Give ear to us. Draw near to us, Lord God of hosts!

Verse 3

3. Turn a-gain; care for your vine; pro - tect what your
 3. right hand has plant-ed. Your vine-yards are tram-pled, up -
 to Refrain
 3. root-ed, and burned. Come to us, Fa - ther of might!

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