

# Psalm 136: "By the Waters of Babylon"

(Sung on the 3 Sundays preceding Great Lent)

Obikhod  
P. Dinev

The musical score is written for three voices: Soprano (S), Alto (A), and Bass (B). It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and common time (C). The score is divided into four systems, each with a vocal line and a bass line. Dynamics include *p* (piano), *f* (forte), and *pp* (pianissimo). The lyrics are: "By the waters of Bab-y-lon, there we sat down and we wept when we re-mem-bered Si-on. Al-le-lu-ia. Up-on the wil-lows in the midst there of did we hang our in-stru-ments. Al-le-lu-ia." The first system starts with a *p* dynamic. The second system has a *f* dynamic. The third system starts with *pp* and has a *p* dynamic. The fourth system starts with *f* and has a *pp* dynamic.

S  
A  
B

*p*

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

*p*

*f*

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

*pp* *p*

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

*pp* *p*

*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*

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

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

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

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

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

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

*p*

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

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

*pp* Al - le - lu - ia. *p* O 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.

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