Out of the Deep
(Psalm 130)
by
Henry Purcell

SATB and Accompaniment
Lent, General

This is an abbreviated version of the verse anthem Out of the Deep by Henry Purcell (1659–1695). The original alternates sections for chorus with more florid sections for solo voices, singing in combination or alone. My arrangement here omits the sections for solo voices.

The first of the three choral sections is an appeal to God. The soprano line rises in minor "out of the deep" from a middle C to an octave above, ending in a dotted-rhythm that to me suggests a sob. Purcell has the altos repeat the rhythm in measure 9, and the sopranos in measure 10.

The second section asserts God's mercy. Purcell sets the three occurrences of "mercy" with gentle suspensions and tender harmonies. He introduces the Psalm's pivotal word "therefore" resolutely, with the anthem's first major chord. In measures 7 through 8, soprano and base rejoice in God's graciousness with a skipping rhythmic interplay.

With a decisive shift to C major, the final section summons Israel to trust in God's mercy. For the climactic words "with him is plenteous redemption" (measures 43–47) Purcell composes a remarkably plenteous musical phrase. It progresses from D major to G major, E minor, B major, through a diminished chord to C major, D-seven, and again B major, resolving with a fresh and delightful cadence into E major. Then the anthem returns to C major and concludes with straightforward declaration of God's redeeming mercy.

My metronome markings in brackets are merely suggestive.

Albert Blackwell
April 18, 2012
Out of the Deep

(Psalm 130)

Psalm 130:1–4

Hear my voice.

Out of the deep have I called to thee, O Lord.

Out of the deep have I called to thee, O Lord.

Out of the deep have I called to thee, O Lord.

Hear, Lord, hear. Out of the deep have I called to thee, O Lord.

Hear, Lord, hear. Out of the deep have I called to thee, O Lord.

Hear, Lord, hear. Out of the deep have I called to thee, O Lord.

Hear, Lord, hear. Out of the deep have I called to thee, O Lord.

Henry Purcell (1659–1695)

Adapted by Albert Blackwell

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deep have I called to thee. O Lord. Lord, hear, Lord, 

-ed to thee, O Lord. Hear my voice. 

-ed to thee, O Lord. Lord, hear, Lord, 

hear, Lord, hear, Lord, hear, O hear my voice. 

hear, hear my voice, Lord, hear, O hear my voice. 

hear, hear my voice, Lord, hear, O hear my voice.
For there is mercy, is mercy with thee; therefore,

For there is mercy, is mercy with thee; therefore,

For there is mercy, is mercy with thee; therefore,

For there is mercy, is mercy with thee; therefore,

Therefore shalt thou be gracious. For there is mercy, is

Therefore shalt thou be gracious. For there is mercy, is

Therefore shalt thou be gracious. For there is mercy, is

Therefore shalt thou be gracious. For there is mercy, is
merc-y with thee; there-fore shalt thou, shalt thou be
merc-y with thee; there-fore shalt thou, shalt thou be
merc-y with thee; there-fore shalt thou, shalt thou be
merc-y with thee; there-fore shalt thou, shalt thou be
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merc-y with thee; there-fo
O Israel, O Israel, trust in the Lord; for with the Lord there is mercy, is mercy.
Lord there is mercy. O Israel, trust in the Lord; mercy, is mercy. O Israel, trust in the Lord; mercy, is mercy. O Israel, trust in the Lord; for with the Lord there is mercy, is mercy, and with for with the Lord there is mercy, is mercy, and with for with the Lord there is mercy, is mercy, and with