

**Lord, from the Depths I Call to You** is an anthem for Lent or Holy Week that may also be appropriate for Communion services. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Psalm 130, Matthew 6: 25-34, and Luke 12: 22-31. One basic homilical theme is that God's mercy sustains human life.

Points of imitation enliven the choral texture of this two-part anthem. Carefully highlight the call and response between the voices. Special attention should be given the tuning of the phrases that begin with descending leaps (m. 8, 15, 23, 31, etc.). Caution the singers to think of descending leaps as smaller than ascending leaps to insure proper intonation. A solo instrument, such as oboe, may substitute for the solo stop at m. 1-15 and m. 47-54 for an especially effective performance.

Handel's oratorio **Esther** was premiered in London in 1732. The first oratorio to be heard in that city, it is credited with transforming both Handel's career and the history of music in England, initiating the tradition of large-scale oratorio productions. This anthem appears in Act I, Scene V, as a duet between Esther and Assuerus titled "Who Calls My Parting Soul from Death?" It was originally scored for two violins and continuo and was in the key of f minor.

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# LORD, FROM THE DEPTHS I CALL TO YOU

for two-part mixed voices, accompanied

Verses from *PSALM 130*  
Paraphrased by H.H.H.

from *ESTHER*  
GEORGE F. HANDEL (1685-1759)  
Edited and Arranged by HAL H. HOPSON

Slow and expressive (♩ = ca. 96)

I - Solo

ACCOMP.

II - Manuals

Ped.

4

8

SOPRANO and ALTO Unison

*p*

Lord, from the depths I call — to you;

TENOR and BASS Unison

12

show forth your mer - cy, hear my

15

prayer.  
*p*  
Lord, from the depths I call to you;

19

show forth your mer - cy, hear my prayer.

23

*mp*

Who could stand?

Lord, who could

*mp*

Who could stand?

*mp*

26

stand \_\_\_\_\_ should you mark, should \_\_\_\_\_

Who could

stand

should you

29

31

\_\_\_\_\_ you mark all \_\_\_\_\_ our sins?

My soul

mark, should you mark all our sins? My soul waits,

33

waits, waits for the Lord. God for -

waits for the Lord. God for - gives, God's

*mp*

*mp*

37

gives, — God's love — re - deems.

love re deems. Hope, O Is - ra -

*mp*

40

Hope in God, O Is - ra -

el. — Hope in

*mf*

*mf*

43

*dim.* *rit.*

el. The Lord \_\_\_\_\_ will hear

*dim.*

God. \_\_\_\_\_ Hope in God, the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ will hear



47

*a tempo*  
*p*

us.

*p*

us.

*a tempo*

I

II



51

*rit.*

*rit.*



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