

# Be Not Far Off, for Grief Is Near

From Psalm 22:11–21

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in four systems, each corresponding to a system of music. The lyrics are: 1. 11 Be not far off, for grief is near, And none to help is found; 2. 15 My strength is on - ly bro - ken clay; My mouth and tongue are dry, 3. 17 My bones are plain for me to count; Men see me and they stare. 4. 21 De - liv - er now Your ser - vant, Lord, From li - on's bared sharp teeth, 12 For bulls of Ba - shan in their strength Now cir - cle me a - round. For in the ver - y dust of death You there make me to lie. 18 My clothes a - mong them they di - vide, And gam - ble for their share. From pierc - ings of wild ox - en horn That gore their prey be - neath. 13 Their li - on - jaws they o - pen wide And roar to tear their prey. 16 For see how dogs en - cir - cle me! On ev - 'ry side there stands 19 Now hur - ry, O my strength, to help! Do not be far, O LORD! Be not far off when trou - bles press And help and safe - ty flee. 14 My heart is wax, my bones un - knit, My life is poured a - way. A bro - ther - hood of cru - el - ty; They pierce my feet and hands. 20 But snatch my soul from rag - ing dogs And spare me from the sword. Your swift sal - va - tion is at hand; You hear and an - swer me.