

# How Long, O God, 779

## Will My Prayers Be in Vain?

Capo 1: (Em) (D) (C) (D) (Em)  
Fm Eb Db Eb Fm

1 How long, O God, will my prayers be in vain? Why must I  
2 When e - vil pros-pers and hope is long gone, do not for-  
3 Ear - ly and late will my tongue sing your praise; you will up-

(D) (C) (D) (Em) (Am7) (Bm7)  
Eb Db Eb Fm Bbm7 Cm7

lan - guish in sor - row and pain? Do not a - ban - don a  
sake me, your pres-ence with-drawn. Shield and pro - tect those who  
hold me the length of my days. You are a strong-hold for

(C) (D) (A) (Am7) (Bm7) (C) (D) (E)  
Db Eb Bb Bbm7 Cm7 Db Eb F

child you have made; you are my shel - ter, my so - lace and shade.  
call on your name; you are my God, and your bless-ing I claim.  
all the op-pressed; hear us, O God! Let your peo - ple be blessed.

This text does not paraphrase any specific psalm, but it adopts the vocabulary and the structure of many psalms. The first two stanzas begin with a sense of abandonment and despair, which is countered by remembrance of God's nature. This memory leads to a final stanza of praise.