

Rizpah Was A Loving Mother

A Hymn Inspired by 2 Samuel 21:1-14

Text: Stephen M. Fearing, 2019

Tune: EBENEZER

Meter: 8.7.8.7 D

Music: Thomas John Williams, 1890

Voice

The musical score is written for a single voice part in a 4/4 time signature. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody features several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a group of notes). The lyrics are arranged in four-line stanzas, with line numbers 1, 4, 7, 10, and 13 marking the beginning of each stanza. The final line of the hymn ends with a double bar line.

1. Riz - pah was a lo - ving mo - ther, forced to³ watch her
2. Sleep - ing on naught but a sack - cloth, Riz - pah watched her
3. Through her length - y pu - blic vi - gil, Riz - pah preached, she
4. Hear the pa - rents all a - round us, those whose child - ren
sons' de - mise. Help - less to pre - vent their slaught - er,
sons de - cay. Long she held her sol - lemn vi - gil,
test - i - fied. She showed us the sense - less vio - lence,
live in fear. See their an - guish at the vio - lence,
filled with³ naught but heav - y cries. Da - vid³ o - ferred
shield - ing them through night and day. Soon the birds came
Riz - pah's grief was just - i - fied. May we learn from
let's make just - ice per - se - vere! Let us learn from
them as price to sa - tis - fy those wronged by Saul.
for the feast - ing, but she chased them from her sons.
her in - sist - ence, may we cease our point - less rage.
Riz - pah's mourn - ing, may we hear her wail - ing cry.
Soon her boys were ex - e - cut - ed, strung up³ to be viewed by all.
Ma - ny wit - nessed Riz - pah's an - guish, watched her mourn her pre - cious ones.
May we wit - ness this hard stor - y, ush - er in a kind - er age.
Help us, Lord, to cease our fight - ing. May our mer - cy mult - i - ply!