

# Psalm 137<sup>3</sup>

*“Silenced Be My Tongue”*

A RESPONSORIAL PSALM  
BY ROBERT M. MONDOY

FOR LENT (CYCLE B)



This famous portrait of three Jewish kinnor players (being taken captive by an Assyrian, far left) is excerpted from a bas-relief in the palace of Assurbanipal (705-681 B.C.) at Nineveh, portraying the fall of the Judean city of Lachish.

# Psalm 137<sup>3</sup> "Silenced Be My Tongue"

Ps.137: 1-2.3.4-5.6 [32]

Robert M. Mondoy, 2014

**Biblical lament**  $\text{♩} = 88$

Si-lenced, si-lenced, si-lenced be my tongue if  
 ev-er, if ev-er I for-get you.

**Verse 1**

1. By the riv-ers of Ba-by-lon we sat weep-ing, re-mem-b'ring Zi-on.  
 There, there, there on the pop-lars we hung our harps.

\*use only if soloist is not alto or bass/ never combine

Verse 2

C G<sup>7</sup>/C

2. Our cap - tors shout - ed for hap - py songs, for songs, for songs of

fes - ti - val. "Sing, sing!" they cried, "The songs of Zi - on."

[Choir SATB:] "The songs of Zi - on."

C F C G G<sup>7</sup> C D.C.

Verse 3

Fm

3. How could we sing the song of the Lord, our song in a for - eign land? Je - ru - sa - lem for -

3. How could we sing the song of the Lord, our song in a for - eign land?

*solo or solo group*

*f*

**molto rall.**

**a tempo**

Cm Fm Cm

got - ten?

Whith-er my hand! Je - ru - sa-lem for - got - ten?

choir; go to lowest note always solo or solo group

\*use only if soloist is not alto or bass/ never combine

**molto rall.**

**a tempo**

**molto rall.**

**a tempo**

deliberately... Fm/G Gm C(omit3) D.C.

choir Si - lence my voice! If I do not seek you

as my great-est joy.

If I do not seek you as my great-est joy.

**molto rall.**

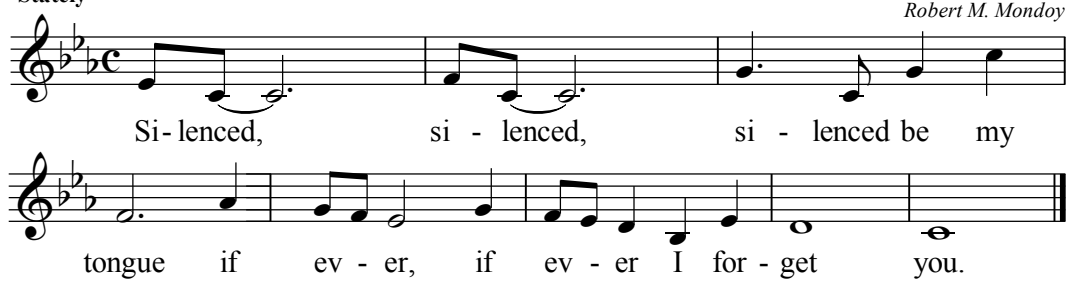
**a tempo**

deliberately... D.C.

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**Psalm 137<sup>3</sup>**

Stately Robert M. Mondoy



Si-lenced, si - lenced, si - lenced be my  
tongue if ev - er, if ev - er I for - get you.

1. *By the rivers of Babylon we sat weeping, remembering Zion. There, there, there on the poplars we hung our harps.*
2. *Our captors shouted for happy songs, for songs, for songs of festival. "Sing, sing!" they cried, "the songs of Zion."*
3. *How could we sing the song of the Lord, our song in a foreign land? Jerusalem forgotten? Whither my hand! Jerusalem forgotten? Silence my voice! If I do not seek you as my greatest joy.*

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