

LECTIO IV

F

rom the treatise of Saint Augustine the bishop on

the Psalms. "Hear, O God, my prayer, and despise not my

suppli-cation: be attentive to me and hear me." These are

the words of a man in trouble, solli-ci-tude, and afflic-

tion. He prays in his great suffer-ings, de siring to be freed

from some e-vil. Let us now see what e-vil he lies under:

and having told us, let us acknowledge ourselves in

it; that by par taking of the affliction, we may join in his

prayer. I am grieved in my exercize, says he, and am trou-

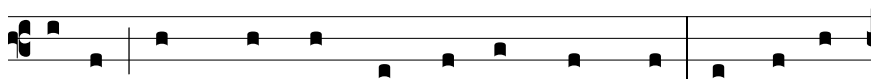
bled. Where is he grieved? Where is he troubled? He says:

In my exercize. He speaks of the wicked men, whom he

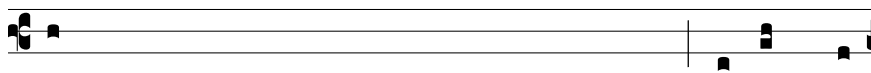
suffers, and calls such sufferings of wicked men his ex-



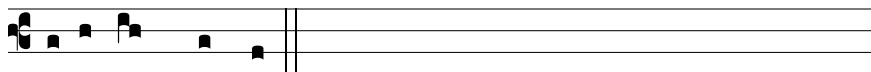
ercize. Think not that the wicked are in the world for



nothing, and that God does no good with them. Every wick-



ed man lives, either to amend his life or else to



exercise the good.