

Wilt thou forgive that sin, by man begun

Wilt thou forgive that sin, where I begun,  
which is my sin, though it were done before?  
Wilt thou forgive those sins through which I run,  
and do run still, though still I do deplore?  
When thou hast done, thou hast not done,  
for I have more.

Wilt thou forgive that sin, by which I won  
others to sin, and made my sin their door?  
Wilt thou forgive that sin which I did not shun  
a year or two, but wallowed in a score?  
When thou hast done, thou hast not done,  
for I have more.

I have a sin of fear that when I've spun  
my last thread, I shall perish on the shore;  
swear by thyself, that at my death thy Son  
shall shine as he shines now, and heretofore.  
And having done that, thou hast done,  
I fear no more.

Words: John Donne (1673-1631)

Music: So giebst du nun (Dresden), Donne

Meter: 10 10 10 10 8 4