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Horne Company Sinc Shadow of the Gross

A Contemporary Tenebrae Service

> Arranged & Composed by Lloyd Larson

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FOREWORD

The "service of darkness," or Tenebrae (Latin for "darkness"), dates back to the 4th century, according to some sources. Traditionally observed during Holy Week, it focuses on the final hours of Jesus' life and crucifixion. *The Shadow of the Cross* is a reminder of the magnitude of God's love; a love so great that it continues through all time and eternity.

For shadows to exist, there must be light. In the case of the Passion story of our Lord, that light, as the gospel of John tells us, "was the light of all people." (John 1:4). The Shadow of the Cross walks us through the final hours of Jesus' life including his crucifixion. But as John affirms, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it," (John 1:5)

In its original form, the cross was a tool of execution, or death. But in the eyes of faith, it symbolizes victory and life eternal! In a day when the powers of evil threaten to destroy our optimism for a brighter tomorrow, the cross stands as a reminder that love is stronger than hate, and that hope prevails in times of despair. Standing in the shadow of the cross, we find comfort and courage in knowing that we can live in a future that is ultimately of God's making!

Beaneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand, The shadow of a mighty Rock within a weary land . . . I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place . . .

Elizabeth C. Clephane

May we live in the shadow of eternity's cross. And may we be reminded that the cross ultimately leads to the "Father of lights."

Lloyd Larson

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PERFORMANCE NOTES

It is suggested that *The Shadow of the Cross* be presented during Holy Week, somewhere between the joyous "Hosannas" of Palm Sunday and the resurrection "Alleluias" of Easter. It may be most appropriate for a Maundy Thursday or Good Friday setting, in keeping with the traditions of the local church.

The presentation is most effective if done in subdued lighting, though sufficient lighting will be needed for choir members, narrator and the optional congregational participation, if included. The cantata provides direction throughout for the extinguishing of candles. For this to happen, seven candles need to be located centrally in the worship area. This can be done with the visible placement of a candelabra, or with individual candles strategically placed at various locations. The symbolism of the extinguishing of the candles is, of course, intended to underscore the gradual and deepening darkness as Christ's death became imminent and then final. Depending on the worship setting, the effect may be enhanced by gradually dimming all lights in the room as well, so that in the end the room is in complete, or nearly complete, darkness. In traditional Tenebrae services, worshipers are typically asked to leave in silence and reflection.

If it is desirable to share the Lord's Supper during this service, it would be appropriate to do so during the singing of *We Remember You*. As noted at the conclusion of that number, this might require the accompanist or another instrumentalist to play additional music to accommodate that element.

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1. I Come to the Cross Words and Music by Bill Batstone and Bob Somma Arranged by LLOYD LARSON

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NARRATOR: The cross of Christ is an eternal reminder of God's unconditional love. This day we stand in

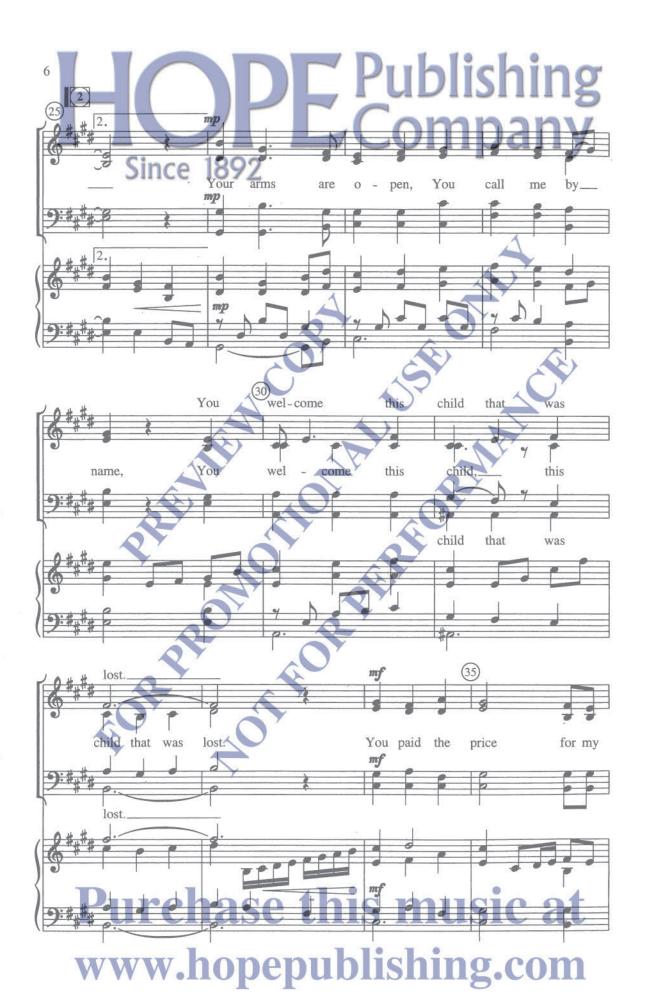


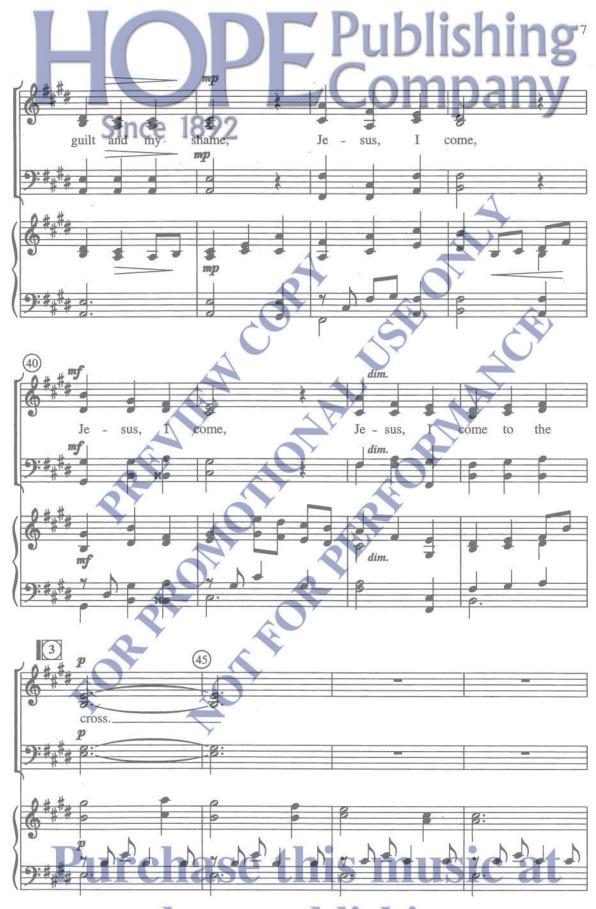




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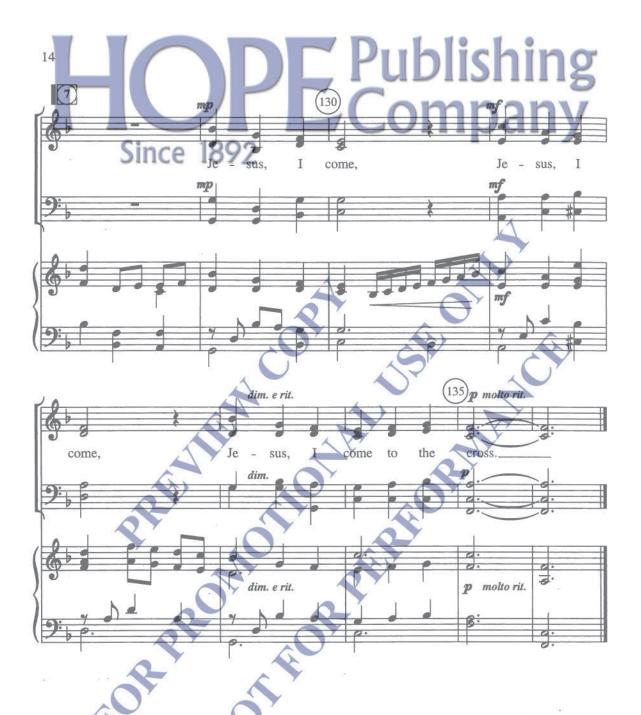












NARRATOR: It was the first day of Unleavened Bread, and the disciples came to Jesus, asking, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for the Passover?" Jesus said, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to observe the Passover with my disciples at your house." The disciples did as Jesus had instructed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. (Matthew 26:17–19)

When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table surrounded by his disciples. He said to them, "I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." He then took a cup and, after giving thanks, said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." He then took a loaf of bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying, "This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." After supper, he did the same with the cup saying, "This cup, poured out for you, is the new covenant in my blood. Remember me." (Luke 22:14-20)



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NOTE: If communion is served during the preceding anthem and additional time is desired, the accompanist or another instrumentalist may play an appropriate selection.

1st candle is extinguished

NARRATOR: While still at the table with his disciples, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me." In despair, they begin to say to him one after the other, "Surely, it is not I, Lord?" Jesus answered, "The one who dips his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. Woe to that one who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for that one if he had not been born." Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" Jesus replied, "Yes, it is you." (Matthew 26:20-25)

> Later that evening Jesus told his followers, (music begins) "This very night you will all become deserters." But Peter declared, "Even if all the others fall away, I will never desert you." "Truly I tell you," Jesus said to Peter, "before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." (Matthew 26:31a, 33-34)

3. O Jesus, I Have Promised with I Need Thee Every Hour





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Words by George Matheson 802

Music by Albert L. Peace Arranged by LLOYD LARSON

NARRATOR: Jesus and his disciples went to a place called Gethsemane where he said to them,



Peter, James and John along with him and began to be deeply troubled. "Lam overwhelmed with sorrow,"



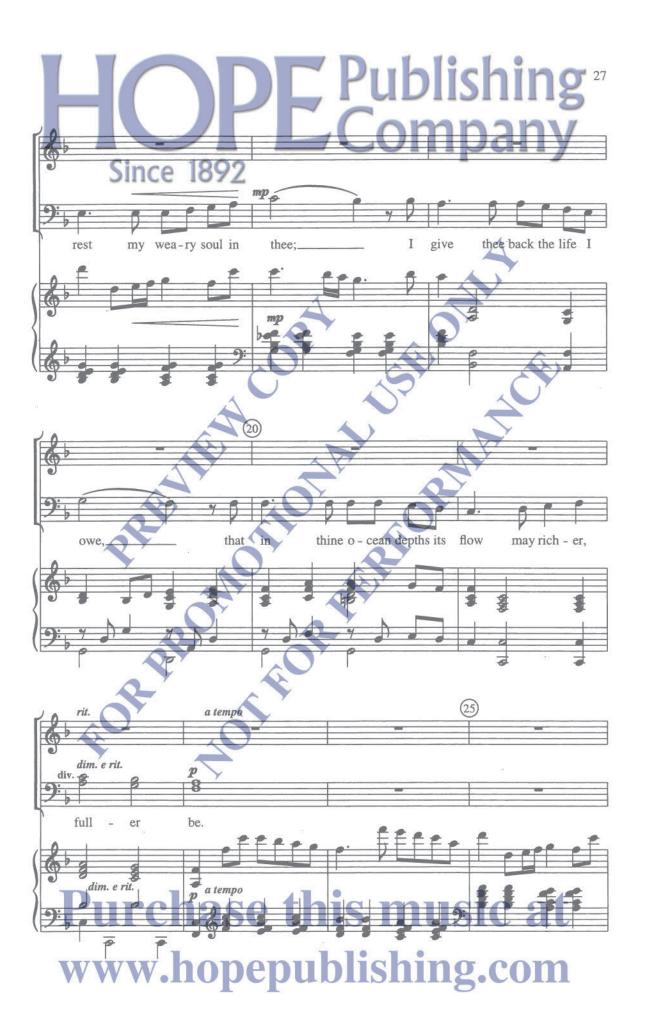
Remain here and stay awake." Going a little farther, Jesus fell to the ground and prayed,



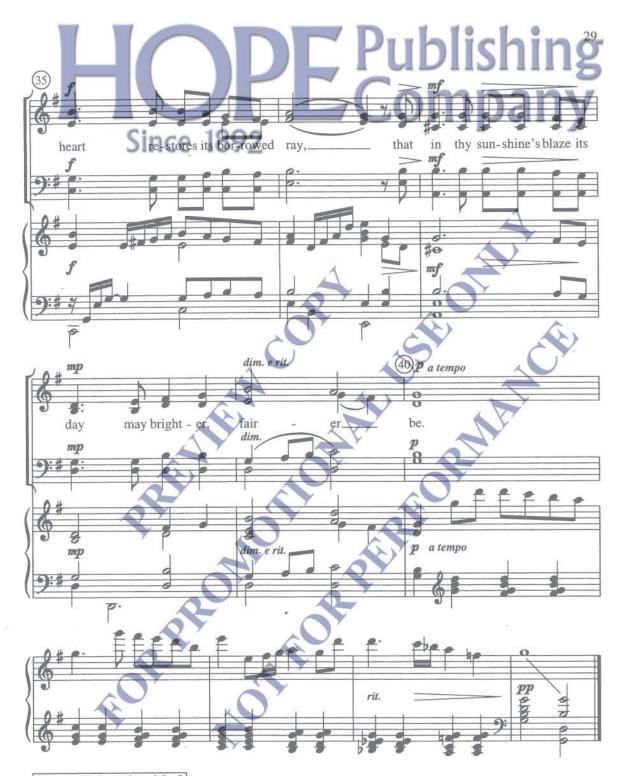
Take this eup from me. Yet, not my will, but yours be done." (Mark 14:32-36)



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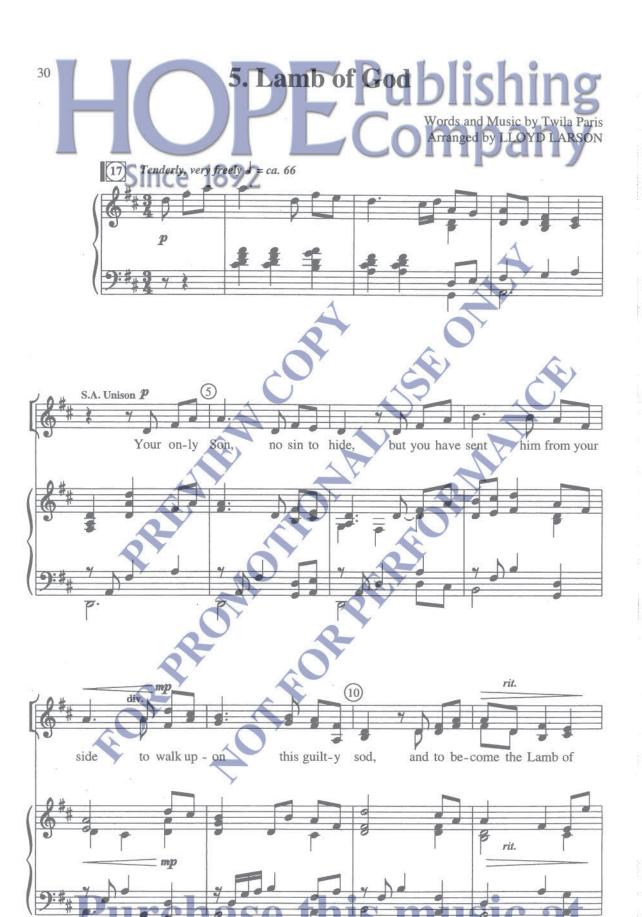


3rd candle is extinguished

NARRATOR: Jesus returned from his place of prayer to find his disciples sleeping. "Get up," he said to them, "for my betrayer is at hand." While he was still speaking, Judas arrived accompanied by a large crowd with swords and clubs. Judas came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you came here to do." Immediately they stepped forward and seized Jesus. He said to the crowd, "Have you come with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the courts of the temple teaching, and yet you did not arrest me. (music begins)

But all of this has taken place so that the writings of the prophets may be fulfilled."

Then all of the disciples deserted Jesus and fled. (Matthew 26:45-50, 55-56)



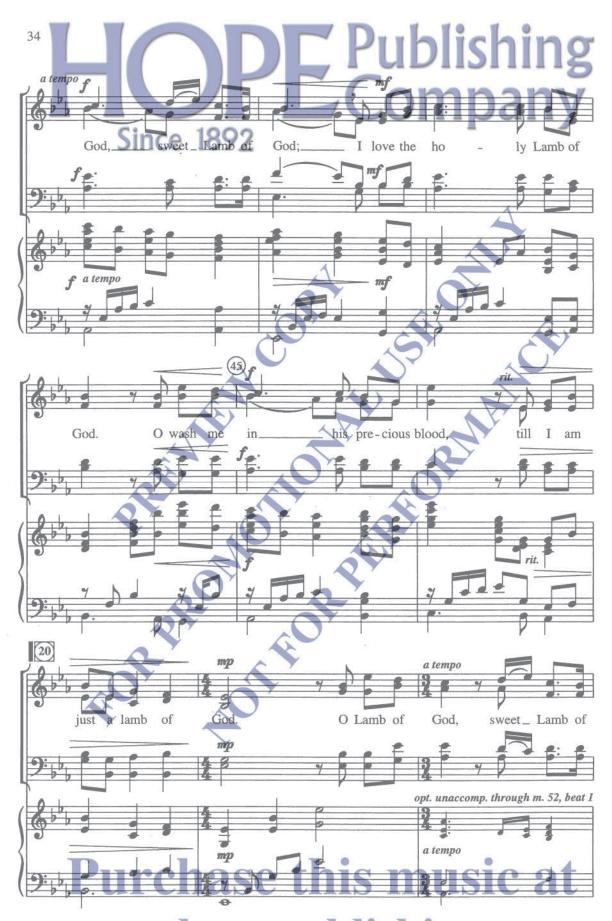
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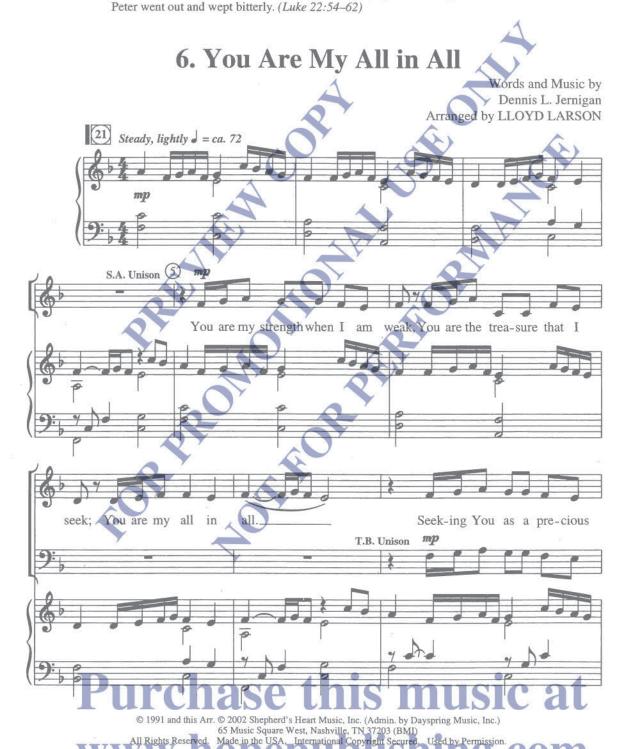








NARRATOR: The crowd took Jesus to the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. A servant girl, seeing him in the firelight, said, "This man was with him." But he denied it: "Woman, I do not know him." A while later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter replied, "Man, I am not!" About an hour later still another asserted, "Surely this man was also with him, for he is a Galilean." But he said, "I do not know what you are talking about!" At that moment, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then he remembered the words of Jesus: "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times."

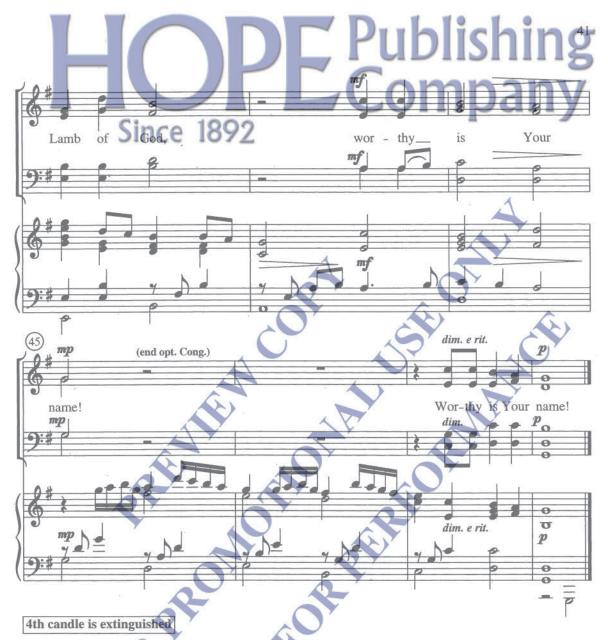










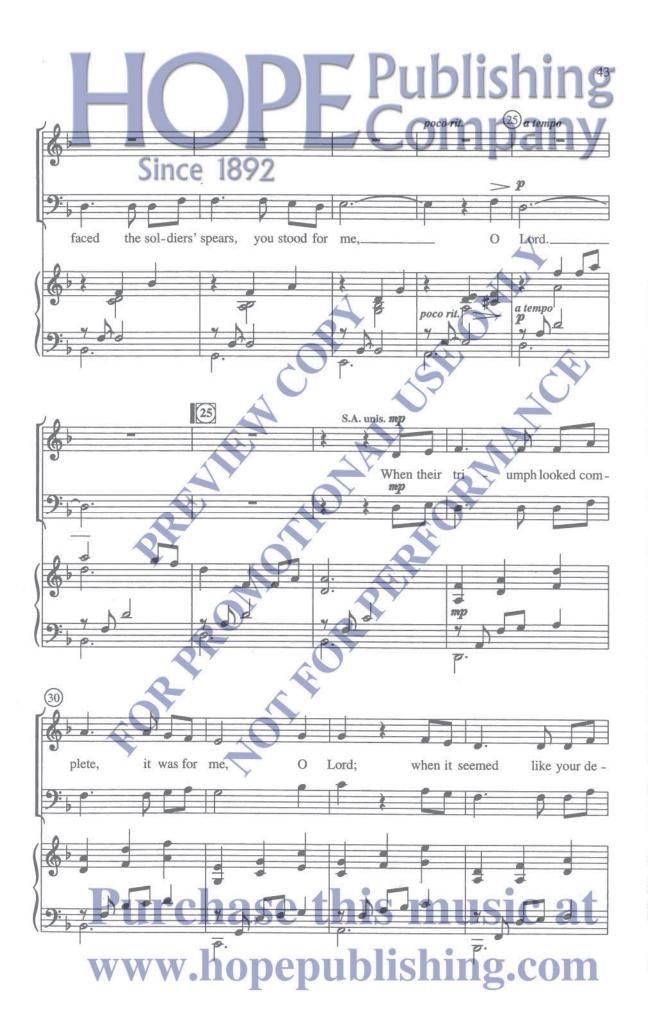


NARRATOR: The next morning, the council of the elders, both the chief priests and the teachers of the law, met together as Jesus was brought before them. They said to him, "If you are the Messiah, tell us." Jesus answered, "If I tell you, you will not believe." Then they asked, "Are you then the Son of God?" He replied, "You are correct in saying I am." "What further testimony do we need?" they said. "We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!"

They then brought Jesus before Pilate. But Pilate said to the chief priests and crowds, "I find no basis for a charge against this man." But they were insistent. Pilate, after learning that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, sent him to Herod. But finding nothing for which to convict him, Herod sent him back to Pilate. Finally, Pilate said to Jesus' accusers, "I have examined this man in your presence and have not found him guilty of any of your charges. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. He has done nothing to deserve death." Then they all shouted, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas!" Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again. But they kept shouting, "Crucify him, crucify him!" The shouts of the crowd eventually prevailed. Pilate finally granted their demand. (music begins) He released the one who had been imprisoned for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over to them as they had desired. (Luke 22:66–23:24)

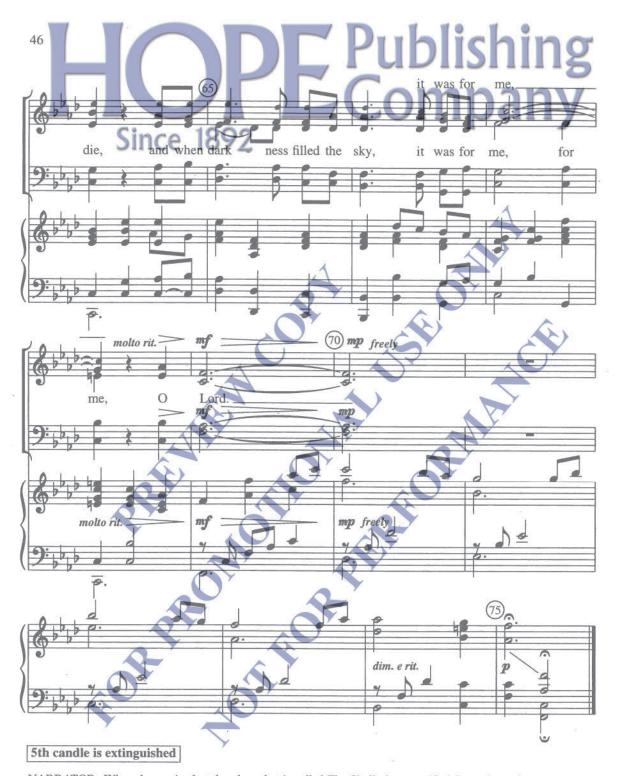


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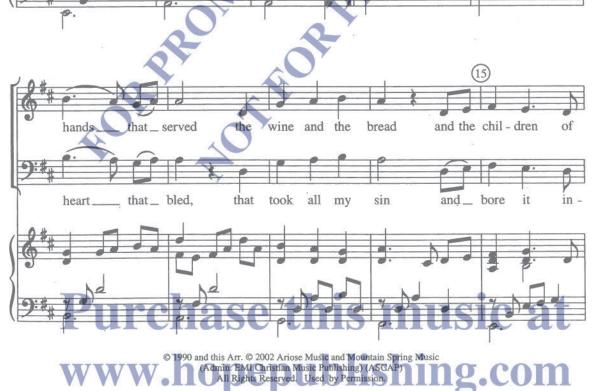


NARRATOR: When they arrived at the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there along with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." One of the criminals kept deriding Jesus: "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him saying, "Do you not fear God? We have been condemned justly and are getting what we deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "Today you will be with me in Paradise."

It was now about noon, and darkness swept over the whole land. The curtain of the temple was torn in two. (music begins) Then Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

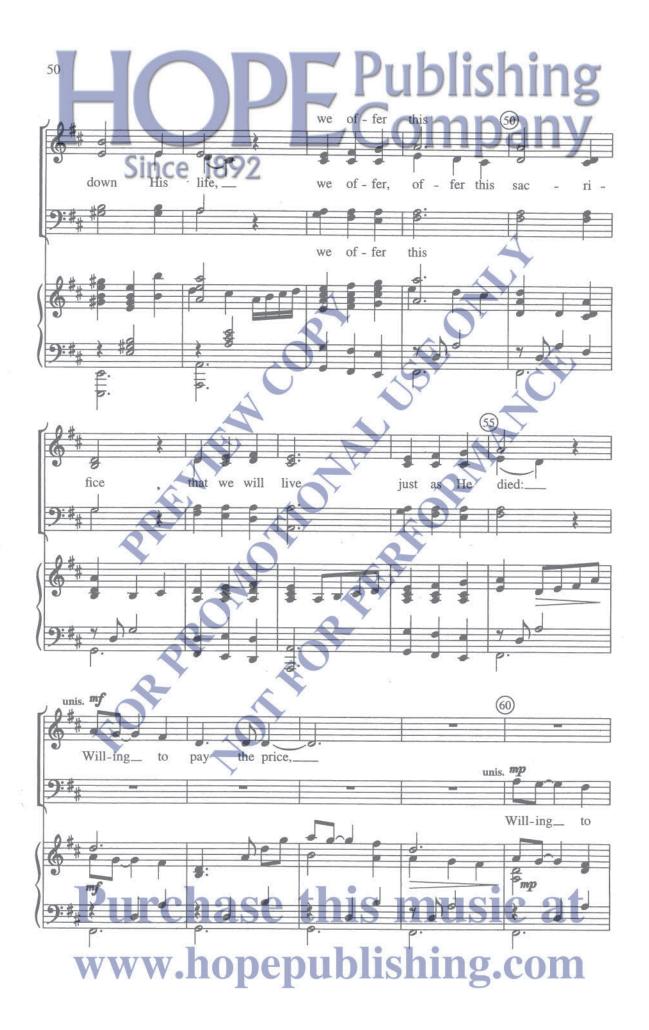
(Luke 23:33-34, 39-46)

B. How Beautiful blishing with There Is a Redeemer Words and Music by Twila Paris Arranged by LLOYD LARSON Expressively, freely D=100 S.A. Unison (1st time only) mp ti - ful the How beau T.B. Unison (2nd time only) the ti- ful beau

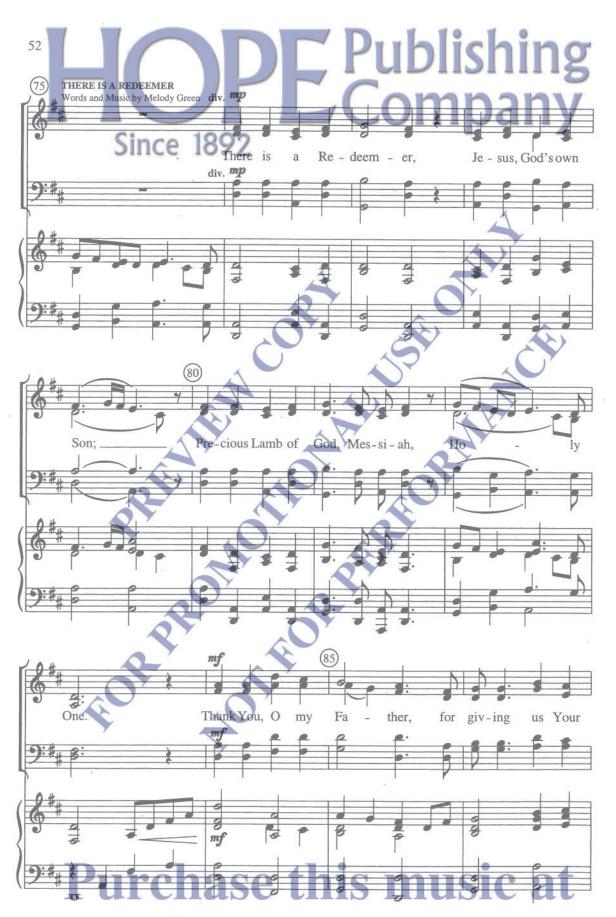








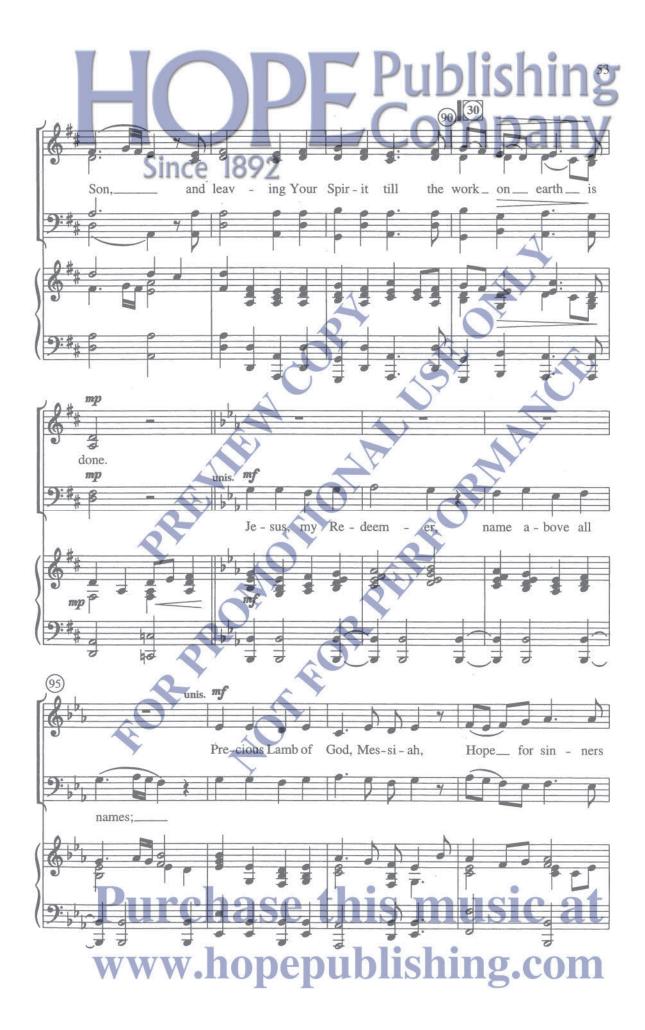




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9. When I Survey the Wondrous Cross of Jesus Plants

Words by Isaac Watts Ce 1892

Music by Lowell Mason, based on plainsong Arranged by LLOYD LARSON



had happened, praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." When the crowds who had gathered there



for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they were deeply saddened as they returned to their homes. All those who

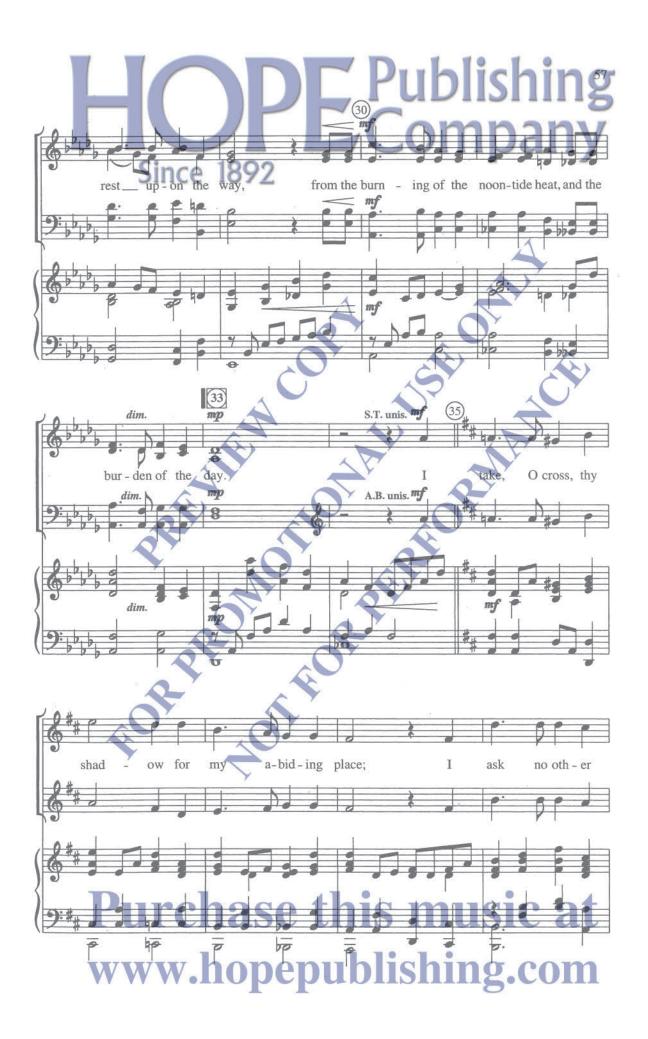


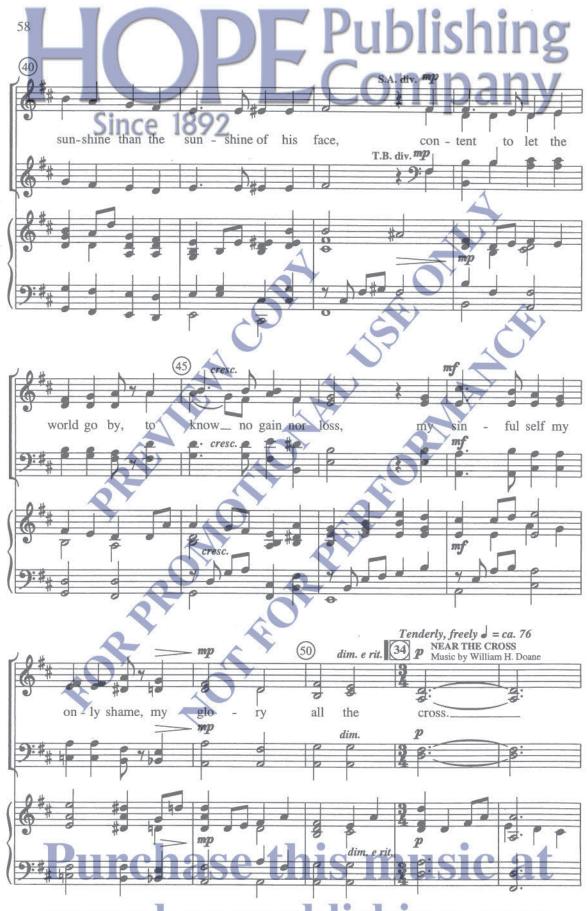
knew Jesus, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance and watched these things.

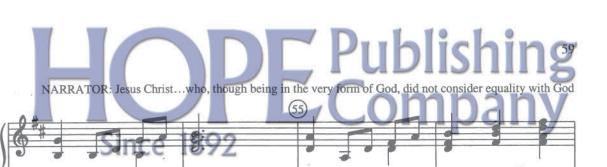




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something to be exploited, emptied himself, taking the very nature of a servant, being born in human likeness. Being in

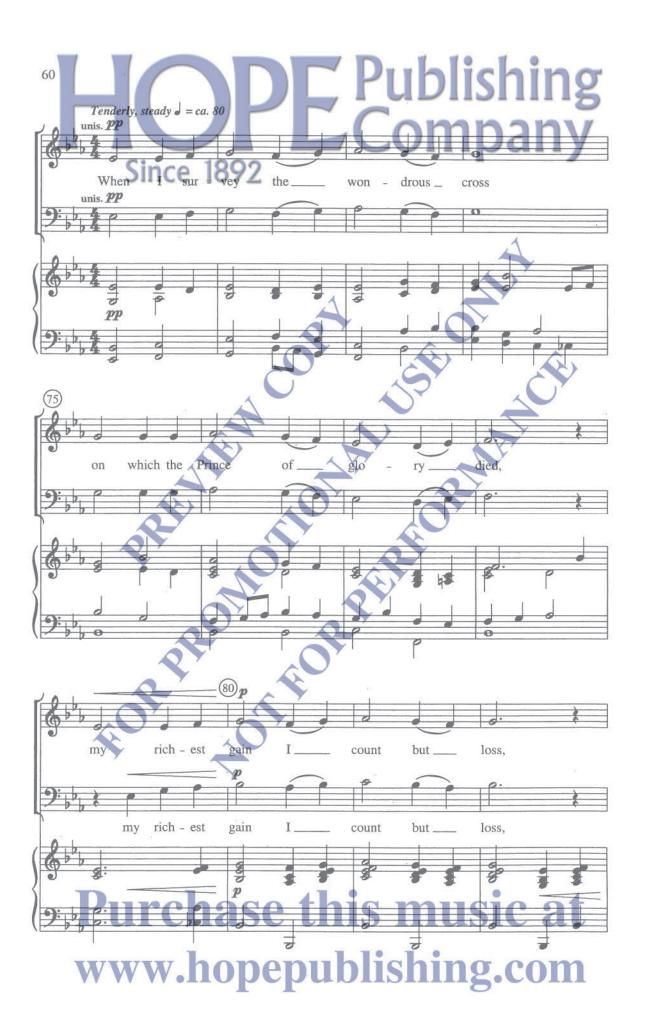


human form, he humbled himself, and became obedient to death—even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:6-8)



the author and perfecter of our faith, who, for the joy set before him, endured the cross and disregarded its shame.

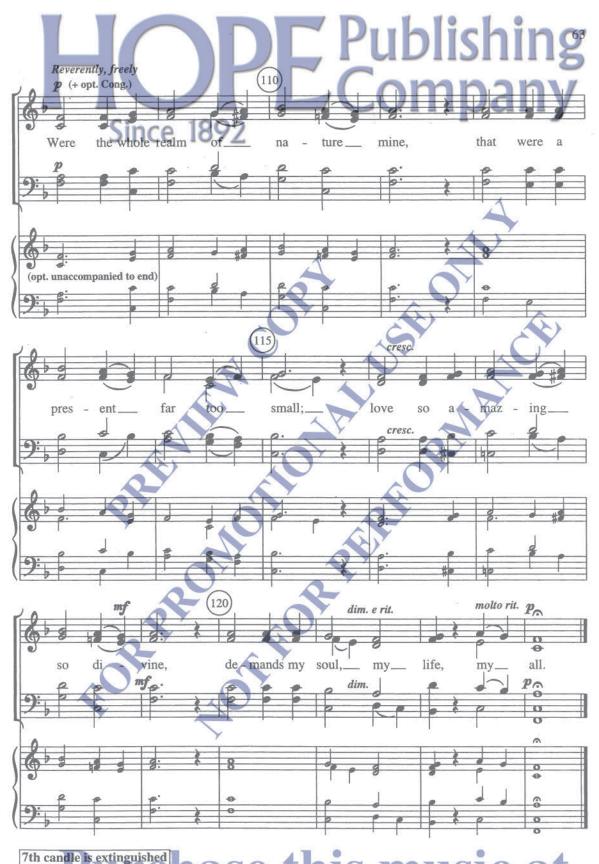






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Note: If the auditorium lights have been dimming by degree throughout the service, it may be effective to completely extinguish them, or nearly so, simultaneously with the seventh candle. The congregation, then, would sit in reflection for a few moments, until the lights are brought up sufficiently for the exit, in silence.

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Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me; help me walk from day to day with its shadows o'er me. In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever, till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby MUSIC: William H. Doane

I Need Thee Every Hour

I need Thee every hour, stay Thou near by; temptations lose their pow'r when Thou art nigh. I need Thee, O I need Thee, every hour I need Thee; O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.

> WORDS: Annie S. Hanks MUSIC: Robert Lowry

You Are My All in All

Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name! Worthy is Your name!

WORDS and MUSIC: Dennis L. Jernigan
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When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; love so amazing so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

> WORDS: Isaac Watts MUSIC: Lowell Mason

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