

Seven Last Words

a Good Friday meditation
for tenor and baritone soloists,
choir, and chamber orchestra

by Dan Kreider

Selected texts from the four Gospels,
“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted,” and
“What Wondrous Love is This, O My Soul”

1. Stricken, Smitten

Solemnly, ♩ = 64

Piano
(rehearsal only)

The piano introduction is in D major (two sharps) and 3/4 time. It consists of 8 measures. The right hand plays a series of chords, starting with a half note D5 and a quarter note F#5, followed by a half note G#5 and a quarter note A5, then a half note B5 and a quarter note C#6, and finally a half note D6 and a quarter note E6. The left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment, starting on D4 and moving up stepwise to D5.

9

A

mp

Strick -

Measures 9-18. Measure 9 is a whole rest. Measures 10-11 are whole rests. Measure 12 is a whole rest. Measure 13 is a whole rest. Measure 14 is a whole rest. Measure 15 is a whole rest. Measure 16 is a whole rest. Measure 17 is a whole rest. Measure 18 is a whole rest. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern, with some chords in the right hand.

19

Strick - en, strick - en, smit - ten,

- en, strick - en, smit - ten, and af - flict - ed, see Him dy - ing

Measures 19-28. Measures 19-20: Strick - en, - en. Measures 21-22: strick - en, strick - en. Measures 23-24: smit - ten, smit - ten. Measures 25-26: and af - flict - ed, and af - flict - ed. Measures 27-28: see Him dy - ing, see Him dy - ing. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern, with some chords in the right hand.

1. Stricken, Smitten - Choral-Vocal Score, page 2

29

B

on a tree. *mp*

'Tis the Christ, 'Tis the Christ by man re - ject - ed,

38

sopranos

O my soul, O my soul, O my soul, 'tis He.

altos

O my soul, O my soul, 'tis He.

O my soul, O my soul, 'tis He.

1. Stricken, Smitten - Choral-Vocal Score, page 3

C

mp

He the long - a - wait - ed pro - phet, _____ Dav - id's son, yet Dav - id's Lord.

pp

Strick - en, _____

poco a poco rit.

52

Broadening

f

See the Au - thor of sal - va - tion,

He the true and faith - ful

See the Au - thor of sal - va - tion,

He

mp

56

mp

He the true and faith - ful

a tempo

Word. _____ *attacca*

Word

He the true and faith - ful Word.

mp

He the true and faith - ful Word.

He the true

and

faith - ful

Word. _____

2. Father, forgive them

Subdued, ♩ = 76

Piano introduction in G major, 4/4 time. The right hand features a melody of half notes and quarter notes, starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

8 Baritone *mp*

And it was at the third hour when they cru-ci-fied Him.

Baritone vocal line starting at measure 8. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady harmonic support.

A ♩ = 70 *p* *a tempo*

Choir *mp*

"If you are the Son of God, come down!" (n) _____

Lord, have mer-cy! _____

* Each singer begins and sings the phrase freely, emphasizing and pausing on words at her discretion, and holds the final note until all voices have concluded.

Altos singing the E should be the first ones to start both phrases.

Choir vocal lines for the final phrase. The piano accompaniment features sustained chords in the right hand and moving lines in the left hand.

2. Father, forgive them - Score, page 2

22

Choir

mp

p

a tempo

"He trusts in ___ God— let God de - liv - er Him!" (m) ___

Lord, have mer - cy! ___

27

Choir

Baritone

mp

But He said,

Lord, have mer - cy! ___

2. Father, forgive them - Score, page 3

35 Tenor B Gently, $\text{♩} = 48$
mp
 "Fa - ther, Fa - ther, — for - give them! ——— Fa - ther,
mp
 Lord, have mer - cy!
mp
 Lord, have mer - cy!

Choir

42 *accel.* Moving forward, $\text{♩} = 54$
 Fa - ther, —² for - give them! Fa - ther, Fa - ther, —² for - give them,
 Lord, — have mer - cy!
 Lord, — have mer - cy!

Choir

2. Father, forgive them - Score, page 4

48

rit. C *a tempo*

for they know not what they do, for they know not what they do." _____

Choir

54

rit.

Lord, _____ have _____ mer - cy!

Lord, _____ have _____ mer - cy!

Choir

61

Choir

Lord, have _____ mer - - - cy! _____

Lord, have _____ mer - - - cy! _____

3. Response I

1 Solemn, ♩ = 66

The musical score is written for three parts: Soprano, Bass, and Piano. It is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Solemn' with a quarter note equal to 66 beats per minute. The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 1-6) features a piano accompaniment with a melody in the right hand and chords in the left hand, marked *mp*. The second system (measures 7-12) includes vocal entries for Soprano and Bass, both marked *mp*. The Soprano part has a section labeled 'A' in a box. The piano accompaniment continues. The third system (measures 13-18) features a vocal duet for Soprano and Bass, marked *mf*, with the piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'Ye who think of sin but light - ly, nor sup - pose your e - vil great, here may view its na - ture right - ly, here your guilt may es - ti - mate. See the'.

7 *mp* A

Ye who think of sin but light - ly, nor sup -

13 *mf*

pose your e - vil great, here may view its na - ture right - ly, here your guilt may es - ti - mate. See the

3. Response I - Choral-Vocal Score, page 2

B

mp

sac - ri - fice ap - point - ed, see who bears the aw - ful load! 'Tis the Word, the Lord's A -

mp

mf

24

C

rit.

noint - ed, Son of Man and Son of God.

4. Woman, behold your son

Tenderly, $\text{♩} = 52$

Baritone *mp*

When Je-sus saw His moth-er and the dis-ci-ple whom He loved stand-ing

7

rit.

A $\text{♩} = 64$

near-by, He said to her,

15

Tenor

“Wo-man, wo-man, be-hold your

4. Woman, behold your son - Choral-Vocal Score, page 2

20

son! Wo - man, _____ wo - man, be - hold your son!

This system contains measures 20 through 24. The vocal line begins with a whole rest in measure 20, followed by a half note 'Wo' in measure 21, a half note 'man,' in measure 22, a whole rest in measure 23, and a half note 'son!' in measure 24. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, with various rests and notes. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/2 in measure 21 and remains 3/2 through measure 24. A fermata is placed over the final measure (24).

B

Son, _____ son, _____ be - hold your moth - er, be - hold your

mf

This system contains measures 25 through 29. The vocal line starts with a half note 'Son,' in measure 25, a half note 'son,' in measure 26, a half note 'be - hold your' in measure 27, a half note 'moth - er,' in measure 28, and a half note 'be - hold your' in measure 29. The piano accompaniment continues with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The key signature changes to one flat (Bb) in measure 25 and remains 3/2. A fermata is placed over the final measure (29).

30

moth - er!" _____

This system contains measures 30 through 34. The vocal line begins with a half note 'moth - er!"' in measure 30, followed by a whole rest in measure 31, a whole rest in measure 32, a whole rest in measure 33, and a whole rest in measure 34. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature changes from 3/2 to 4/4 in measure 33 and remains 4/4 through measure 34.

4. Woman, behold your son - Choral-Vocal Score, page 3

34 C Tenderly, ♩ = 76

Choir

mp And from that hour the dis - ci - ple

mp
tenors And from that hour the dis - ci - ple

41 *Molto rit.* *a tempo*

Choir

took her _____ in - to his home. _____

add basses
took her in - to his home. _____

5. You will be with me in paradise

Accented, ♩ = 94

Baritone solo

f

One of the crim-i-nals who were hanged railed at Him,

A Agitato

5

Tenors and basses *f*

"Are you not the Christ? Save your-self and us!"

mp

10

But the oth-er re-buked him: "Do you not fear God, since you are

5. You will be with me in paradise - Score, page 2

15

mf

un - der the same con-dem - na - tion? And we in-deed just-ly, for

f *mp*

21

mp

we are re-ceiving the just re-ward for our deeds, but this man has done noth-ing

mp

27

B *mp*

wrong." "Lord, _____ re -

TB *mp*

And he said, _____

5. You will be with me in paradise - Score, page 3

34

mem-ber me when You come in - to Your king - dom! _____

f

40

Tenor solo

C Legato, $\text{♩} = 74$

"Tru - ly, I

mp

And He said to him, _____

mp

46

say un - to you, tru - ly, I

5. You will be with me in paradise - Score, page 4

50

D *poco a poco cresc.*

say — un - to you, to-day —

mp

Al - le -

mp

54

— you will be with me in par - a-dise, you will be with me in

mf

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

mf

mf

5. You will be with me in paradise - Score, page 5

57 Triumphantly, $\text{♩} = 84$

par - a-dise, you will be with me in par - a-dise!"

f Al - le - lu - ia!

f *ff*

61

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6. Why have you forsaken me?

Hushed, $\text{♩} = 42$

Measures 1-4 of the piano introduction. The music is in 3/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The tempo is marked 'Hushed, ♩ = 42'. The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a harmonic accompaniment in the left hand, marked *mp*.

Measures 5-8 of the piano introduction. The piano part continues with a melodic line in the right hand and a harmonic accompaniment in the left hand. The key signature remains three sharps.

Measures 10-13 of the musical score. The choir enters in measure 10 with the lyrics "And a - bout the ninth hour, Je - sus". The piano part provides accompaniment. The tempo is marked *mp* and *poco a poco accel.*. A section marker 'A' is placed above measure 10. The key signature is three sharps.

6. Why have you forsaken me? - Score, page 2

15

T

a tempo
ff

"El i, El - i,

Choir

ff

cried out with a loud voice and said,

ff

cried out with a loud voice and said,

20

T

B

la - ma sa - bac - than - i?"

Choir

Soprano

Bass

pp
"My

mp

6. Why have you forsaken me? - Score, page 3

25 $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ *pp* *mp*

Choir

"My God, my God, why have you for -

God, "My God, my God, why have you for -

pp "My God, my God, why have you for -

mp why have you for -

31 C **Molto rit.** *attacca*

Choir

sak - en me?

sak - en me?

7. Response II

Subdued, ♩ = 66

p

Tell me, you who hear His

This musical system features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 3/4 time signature. It begins with a whole rest for three measures, followed by a half note G5 and a quarter note A5. The piano accompaniment consists of two staves: the right hand in treble clef and the left hand in bass clef, both with the same key signature and time signature. The right hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment, while the left hand plays a similar pattern, often with a half note in the bass line.

6

groan - ing, was there ev - er grief like His? Dear-est friends His causedis - own - ing, sol-diers

This system continues the musical piece, starting with a measure rest of 6 measures. The vocal line continues with the lyrics "groan - ing, was there ev - er grief like His? Dear-est friends His causedis - own - ing, sol-diers". The piano accompaniment remains consistent with the previous system, providing a steady harmonic and rhythmic foundation for the vocal melody.

7. Response II -Choral-Vocal Score, page 2

11 A

mock-ing His dis-tress. Mm _____ but the

p

Man-y hands were raised to wound Him; none would in-ter-pose to save, but the

17

deep-est stroke that pierced Him was the stroke that Jus-tice gave.

deep-est stroke that pierced Him was the stroke that Jus-tice gave.

8. I thirst

Very free, ♩ = 58

Tenor

Baritone

mp

Af-ter this, Je - sus, know-ing all was ac -

p

7

T

B

p

"I thirst!"

com-plished, to ful - fill the Scrip-tures, said,

13

T

B

attacca

9. It is finished

$\text{♩} = 67$ Baritone solo *mp*

When Je - sus had re - ceived the wine, _____ he said, _____

p

8 **Molto rit.** **A** With energy, $\text{♩} = 88$
Tenor solo

14

fp

18

The musical score is written for Baritone, Tenor, and Piano. It is in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The first system (measures 1-7) features a Baritone solo with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic, accompanied by a piano (*p*) accompaniment. The lyrics are 'When Je - sus had re - ceived the wine, _____ he said, _____'. The second system (measures 8-13) begins with a 'Molto rit.' (Molto ritardando) marking, followed by a 'With energy, ♩ = 88' instruction and a 'Tenor solo' marking. The piano accompaniment continues with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The third system (measures 14-17) features a fortissimo (*fp*) piano accompaniment. The fourth system (measures 18-21) continues the piano accompaniment, ending with a B-flat major chord.

9. It is finished - Score, page 2

B *ff*

"It is fin - ished!"

f *ff*

27

C

Tenors and basses *pp*

Al - le - lu - ia!

mp

36

Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia!

46

D ♩ = 80

altos *pp*

tenors *pp*

Hm

Hm

E

55

— Hmm — What won-drous love is this that caused the Lord of

— Hmm — What won-drous love is this that caused the Lord of

63

bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful

bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful

69

Molto rit. **F** a tempo
add sopranos

Molto rit.

curse for my soul. Al - le - lu - ia!

curse for my soul. Al - le - lu - ia!

add basses

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10. Into your hands

1 Freely, $\text{♩} = 40$ *mp*

Choir

Then Je - sus, cal-ling out with a loud voice,

mp

Then Je - sus, cal-ling out with a loud voice,

mp

6 As legato as possible, $\text{♩} = 60$

Tenor solo

Choir

f said,

f said,

f said,

mp

10. Into your hands - Score, page 2

10 *no vibrato*
mp

Fa - - - - ther,

14

Fa - - - - ther, in - to Your hands,

18 *bel canto*

in - to Your hands I com - mit my spir - it,

22

I com - mit my spir - it!

10. Into your hands - Score, page 3

27 B *mp* no vibrato

Fa - - - ther,

31

Fa - - - ther,

35 Molto rit.

Fa - - - - ther!

C Hushed, $\text{♩} = 60$ *pp* attacca

Choir

And hav - ing said this, He breathed His last.

And hav - ing said this, He breated His last.

11. Response III

Solemnly, ♩ = 60

The musical score is written for three parts: Soprano, Bass, and Piano. It is in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps) and 3/4 time. The tempo is 'Solemnly' with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 1-6) features a piano introduction with chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The second system (measures 7-13) begins with a vocal entry marked 'p' (piano) and a box 'A'. The lyrics are: 'Here we have a firm foun - da - tion, here the ref - uge of the'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line. The third system (measures 14-19) continues the vocal line with lyrics: 'lost: Christ the Rock of our sal - va - tion, Christ the name of which we boast. Lamb of'. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and a bass line.

7 *p* **A**

Here we have a firm foun - da - tion, here the ref - uge of the

14

lost: Christ the Rock of our sal - va - tion, Christ the name of which we boast. Lamb of

11. Response III - Score, page 2

19

God for sin-ners wound-ed! Sac-ri-fice to can-cel guilt! None shall ev-er be con-

24

found-ed who on Him their hope have built.