

PHILIP SPAETH

THE PASSION
ACCORDING TO
ST. JOHN

A Liturgical Passion
for Good Friday

(2024)

For Cantor(s), Baritone, SATB Choir, Assembly,
and Keyboard

Performance Notes:

This setting of the Passion is intended for use during the Good Friday Liturgy. It is intended to be sung through in its entirety, with simple, accompanied chant tones for the Evangelist (narrator) and Jesus (baritone), and with metered choral settings of the words of the Crowd (*turba*). Two of the Crowd entrances (at m.66 and m.95) should be sung by a solo singer from within the choir.

An Assembly Refrain is also provided, which is introduced and guided by the Cantor and Choir.

The simple keyboard accompaniment may be provided by organ or piano, depending on the circumstances.

The roles of Cantor (guiding the singing of the Assembly) and Evangelist (narrator) may be performed by the same singer or two separate singers, depending on the circumstances and/or available singers. Similarly, the words of Pilate are given to the Evangelist, but the option is provided that Pilate's words may be sung by a separate singer if so desired.

As a visual aid to the Evangelist and Jesus, those words and syllables corresponding to the "change notes" which follow the reciting tone of each musical phrase, are marked with an underline.

Before the introductory music begins, the Evangelist should announce, spoken:

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.

for Rev. Thomas Chevalier

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN

A Liturgical Passion for Good Friday

Text: John 18–19 (NAB)
Assembly Refrain Text: Philip Spaeth

Philip Spaeth

Moderato ♩ = 60

Evangelist;
Cantor;
Assembly

Baritone
(Jesus)

S
A

T
B

Keyboard

The musical score for the beginning of the piece is in 4/4 time with a tempo of Moderato (♩ = 60). It features five staves: Evangelist/Cantor/Assembly (treble clef), Baritone (Jesus) (bass clef), Soprano (treble clef), Alto (treble clef), Tenor (bass clef), and Keyboard (grand staff). The vocal parts are currently silent, indicated by whole rests. The keyboard part begins with a series of chords and a melodic line in the right hand, and a bass line in the left hand.

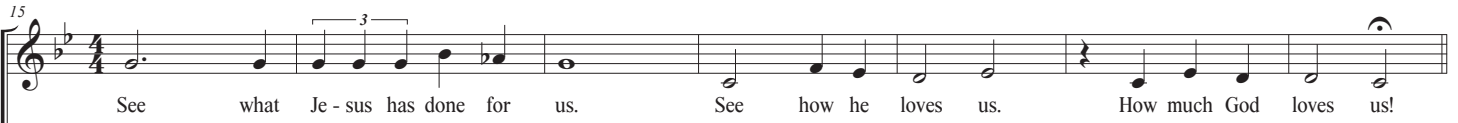
8 CANTOR:

See what Je-sus has done for us. See how he loves us. How much God loves us!

The musical score for the Cantor's refrain is in 4/4 time. It features two staves: the Cantor's voice (treble clef) and the keyboard accompaniment (grand staff). The lyrics are: "See what Je-sus has done for us. See how he loves us. How much God loves us!". The Cantor's part begins with a melodic line starting on a whole note, followed by eighth notes. The keyboard accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and a bass line.

CANTOR/ASSEMBLY:

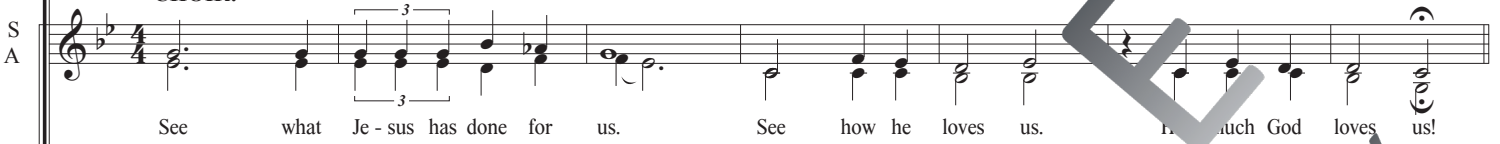
15



See what Je - sus has done for us. See how he loves us. How much God loves us!

CHOIR:

S
A



See what Je - sus has done for us. See how he loves us. How much God loves us!

T
B

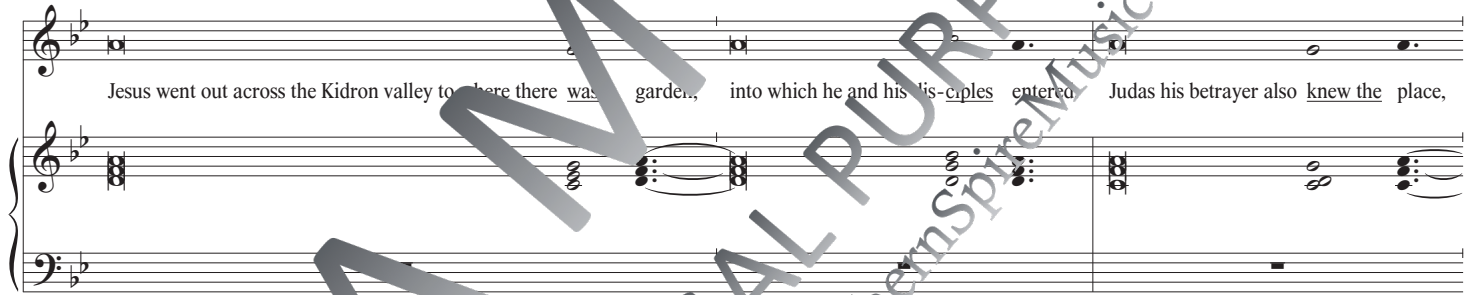


See what Je - sus has done for us. See how he loves us. How much God loves us!

15

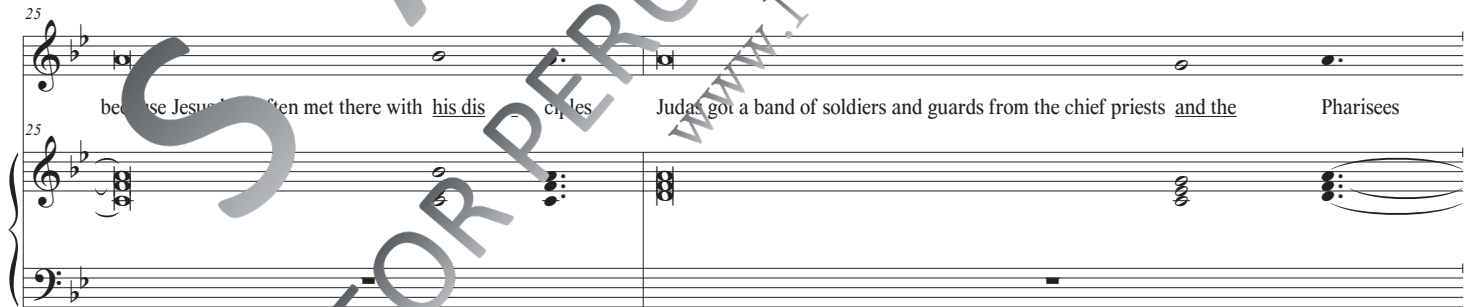


A EVANGELIST:



Jesus went out across the Kidron valley to where there was a garden, into which he and his disciples entered. Judas his betrayer also knew the place,

25



because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. Judas got a band of soldiers and guards from the chief priests and the Pharisees

SAMPLE

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27

and went there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. Jesus, knowing everything that was going to happen to him, went out and said to them,

30

EVANGELIST: They answered him, **EVANGELIST:** He said to them, **JESUS:**

JESUS: "Whom are you look - ing for?" **EVANGELIST:** "Je - sus the Naz - o - re - am." **JESUS:** "I _____ AM."

S
A

T
B

35

EVANGELIST: Judas his betrayer was also with them. When he said to them, "I AM," they turned away and fell to the ground. So he again asked them,

EVANGELIST:

EVANGELIST:

39

JESUS:

They said,

Je - sus answered,

JESUS:

"Whom are you look-ing for?"

CROWD:

"I told you that I AM.

"Je-sus the Naz-o-re-an."

S
A

T
B

39

EVANGELIST:

44

(Jesus Cont.)

This was to fulfill what he had said, "I have not lost any of those you gave me."

So if you are looking for me, let these men go."

44

B

Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus.

50

Jesus said to Peter, **JESUS:**

"Put your sword in - to its scabbard. Shall I not drink the cup that the Father gave me?"

53 **EVANGELIST:**

So the band of soldiers, the tribune, and the Jewish guards seized Jesus, and bound him, and brought him to Annas first. He was the father-in-law of Caiaphas,

56

who was high priest then. It was Caiaphas who had counseled the Jews that it was better that one man should die rather than the people.

59

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Now the other disciple was known to the high priest, and he entered the courtyard of the high priest with Jesus.

62

But Peter stood at the gate out - side. So the other disciple, the acquaintance of the high priest, went out and spoke to the gatekeeper and brought Peter in.

65

Then the maid who was the gatekeeper said to Peter, **CROWD:** *Solo* 3 3 He said, "I am not."

"You are not one of this man's dis - ciples, are you?"

S
A

T
B

65

69

Now the slaves and the guards were standing around a charcoal fire that they had made, because it was cold, and were warming them - selves.

69

71

Peter was also standing there keeping warm. The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and a-bout his doctrine. Jesus answered him,

C JESUS:

"I have spoken publicly to the world. I have always taught in a synagogue or in a temple area where all the Jews gather, and in secret I have said nothing.

77

(Jesus Cont.)

When he had said this,

Why ask — me to ask those who heard me what I said to them. They know what I said."

EVANGELIST:

81

one of the temple guards standing there struck Jesus and said, "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" Jesus answered him,

EVANGELIST:

84

JESUS:

Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

"If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?"

87

S
A

Now Simon Peter was standing there keeping warm. And they said to him, CROWD:

T
B

"You are not one of his dis - ci - ples, are you?"

87

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91 **EVANGELIST:**

One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the one whose ear Peter had cut off, said,

CROWD:
Solo 3

"Did-n't I see you in the gar-den with him?"

S
A
T
B

96 **EVANGELIST:**

Again Peter de - nied it. And immediately, the cock crowed.

(brief pause)

(brief pause)

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D CANTOR/ASSEMBLY:

See what Je - sus has done for us. See how he loves us. How much God loves us!

CHOIR:

S
A
T
B

See what Je - sus has done for us. See how he loves us. How much God loves us!

106 EVANGELIST:

Then they brought Jesus from Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was morning. And they themselves did not enter the praetorium,

109 (Pilate:)

in order not to be defiled so that they could eat the Passover. So Pilate came out and said to them, "What charge do you bring against this man?"

112 (Ev.): **EVANGELIST:**

They answered and said to him. **CROWD:** At this, Pilate said to them,

"If he were not a crim-i-nal, we would not have hand-ed him o-ver to "

117 (Pilate:) (Ev.):

"Take him yourselves, and judge him according to your law." The Jews answered him, **CROWD:**

"We do not have the right to ex-e-cute an-y-one,"

121 **EVANGELIST:**

in order that the word of Jesus might be fulfilled that he said indicating the kind of death he would die.

E

(Pilate:) (Ev.):

So Pilate went back into the praetorium and summoned Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Je - sus answered,

126

JESUS: (Pilate:)

Pi - late answered, I am not a Jew, am I?

"Do you say this on your own or have others told you a -bout me?"

129

(Ev.):

Your own nation and the priests handed you over to me. What have you done?" Je - sus answered,

JESUS:

"My kingdom does not belong to this world."

133 (Jesus Cont.)

If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews.

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135

EVANGELIST: (Pilate:) (Ev.:)

(Jesus Cont.) So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?" Je - sus answered, JESUS:
 But as it is, my kingdom is not here." "You say I am a king.

140 (Jesus Cont.)

For this I was born and for this I came in-to the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

143 EVANGELIST: (Pilate:) (Ev.:) (Pilate:)

Pilate said to him, is truth?" When he had said this, he again went out to the Jews and said to them, "I find no guilt in him.

147 (Ev.:)

But you have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at Passover. Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" They cried out a-gain,

150 **EVANGELIST:**
Now Barabbas was a revo - lutionary. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged.

CROWD:
"Not this one, but Bar - ab-bas!"

155 And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said,

158 **EVANGELIST:** G
And they struck him re - peatedly. Once more Pilate went out and said to them,

CROWD:
"Hail, King of the Jews!"

161 (Pilate:) (Ev.:)

"Look, I am bringing him out to you, so that you may know that I find no guilt in him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple cloak.

163 (Pilate:) (Ev.:)

And he said to them, "Behold the man!" When the chief priests and the guards saw him they cried out, **CROWD:** Cru-ci-fy him! Cru-ci-fy-him!

S
A

T
B

166 EVALUATION: (Pilate:) (Ev.:)

Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him." The Jews answered,

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170 **CROWD:**

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"We have a law, and ac - cord-ing to that law he ought to die, be-cause he made him - self the Son of God."

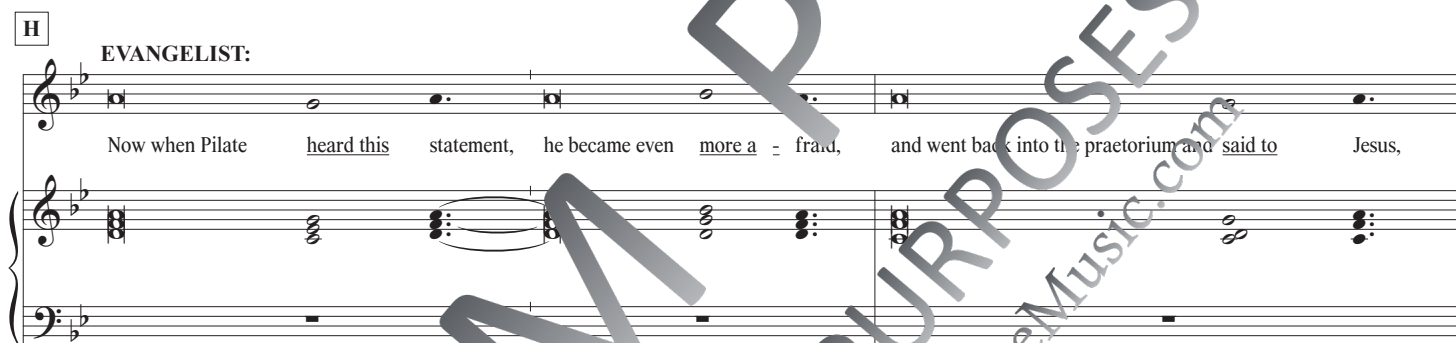
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H

EVANGELIST:

Now when Pilate heard this statement, he became even more a - fraid, and went back into the praetorium and said to Jesus,



178 **(Pilate:)** **(Ev.:** *(brief pause)* **(Pilate:)**

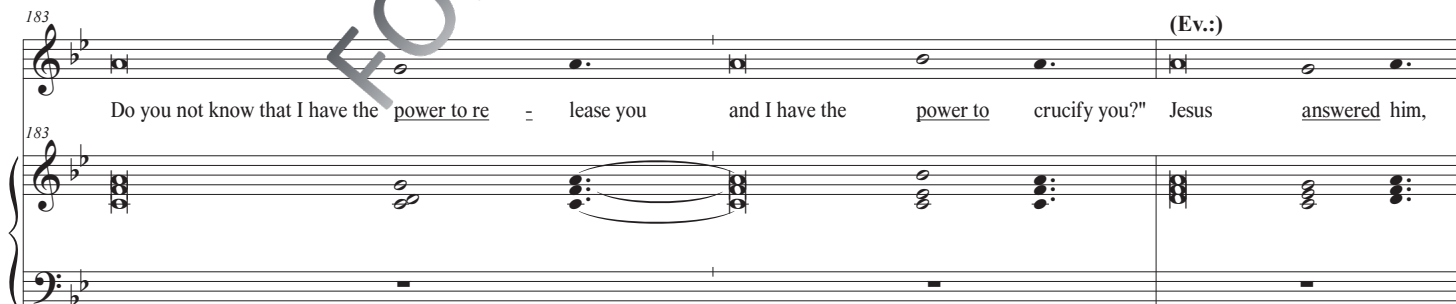
"Where are you from? Jesus did not answer him. So Pilate said to him, "Do you not speak to me?"

178 *(brief pause)*

183 **(Ev.:**

Do you not know that I have the power to re - lease you and I have the power to crucify you?" Jesus answered him,

183



186 JESUS:

"You would have no power over me if it had not been given to you from a - bove. For this reason the one who handed me over to you has the great-er sin."

188 EVANGELIST:

Consequently, Pilate tried to re - lease him; but the Jews cried out, CROWD:
"If you re-lease him, you are not a friend of Cae-sar."

193 EVANGELIST:

When Pilate heard these words he brought Jesus out
Ev' - ry - one who makes him - self a king op - pos - es Cae - sar."

197

and seated him on the judge's bench in the place called the Stone Pavement, in Hebrew, Gabbatha. It was preparation day for Passover,

199 (Pilate:) (Ev.)

and it was a - bout noon. And he said to the Jews, "Be - hold, your King!" They cried out,

CROWD:

S
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T
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203 "Take him a - way! Cru - cy him! Cru - ci - fy him! Cru - ci - fy him!"

"Take him a - way! Cru - ci - fy him! Cru - ci - fy him!"

"Take him a - way! Cru - ci - fy him!"

206 **EVANGELIST:** (Pilate:) (Ev.:

Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your king?" The chief priests answered,

209 **EVANGELIST:**

Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

CROWD:

"We have no king but Cae - sar."

J (brief pause) **CANTOR/ASSEMBLY:**

See what Je - sus has done for us. See how he loves us. How much God loves us!

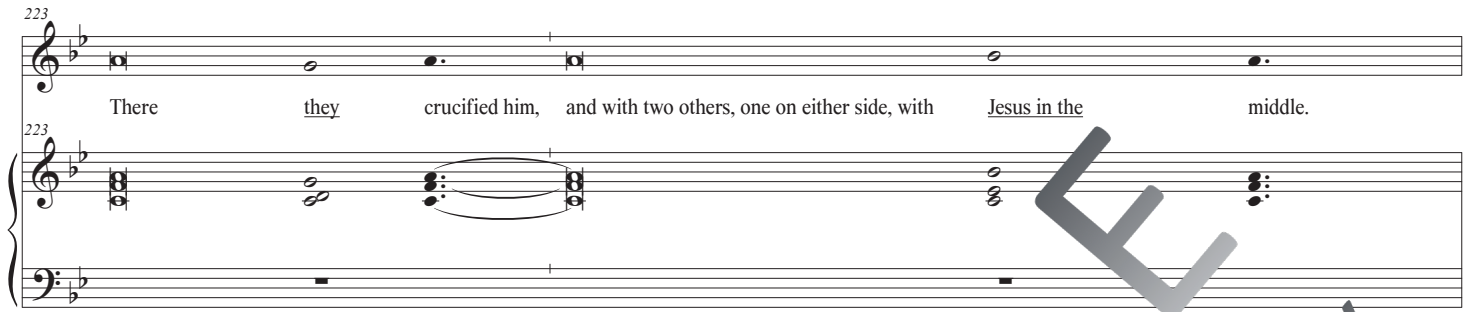
(brief pause) **CHOIR:**

See what Je - sus has done for us. See how he loves us. How much God loves us!

221 **EVANGELIST:**

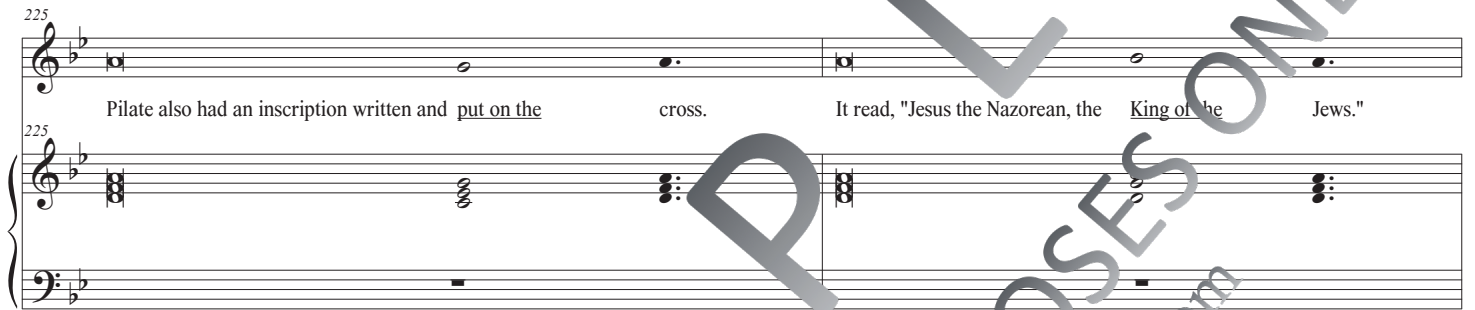
So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross him - self he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha.

223



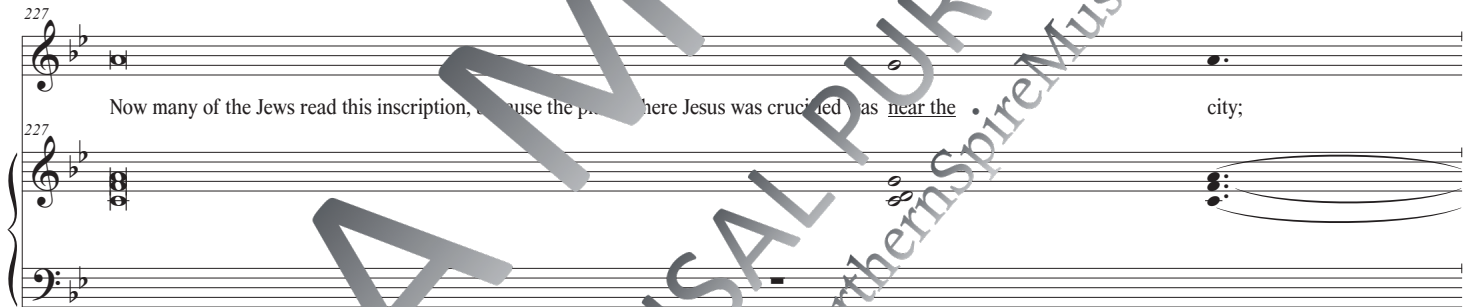
There they crucified him, and with two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle.

225



Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus the Nazorean, the King of the Jews."

227



Now many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city;

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228

S and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate,

A CROWD:

T "Do not write 'King of the Jews,' but that

B

233

S Pi late answered, "What I have written, I have written." When the soldiers had crucified Jesus,

A he said, 'I am the King of the Jews.'

T

B

EVANGELIST: (Pilate:)

K (E.v.)

238

S they took his clothes and divided them into four shares, a share for each soldier. They also took his tunic,

A

T

B

240

but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. So they said to one a - nother,

[L] EVANGELIST:

CROWD:

S in order that the passage of scripture might be fulfilled that says:

A "Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will"

T

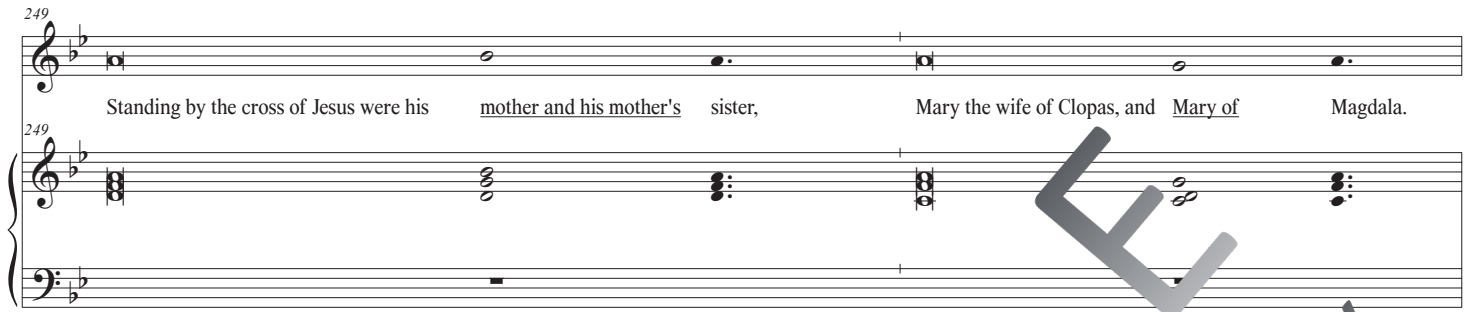
B

246

"They divided my garments a - mong them, and for my vesture they cast lots." This is what the soldiers did.

249

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala.

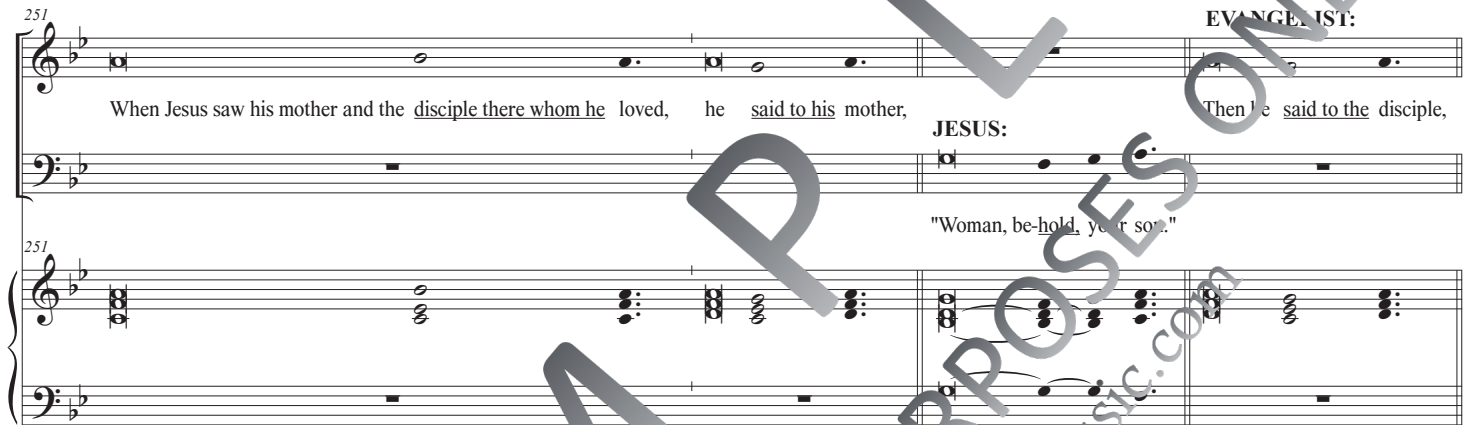


251

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, **JESUS:** Then he said to the disciple,

"Woman, be-hold, your son."

EVANGELIST:

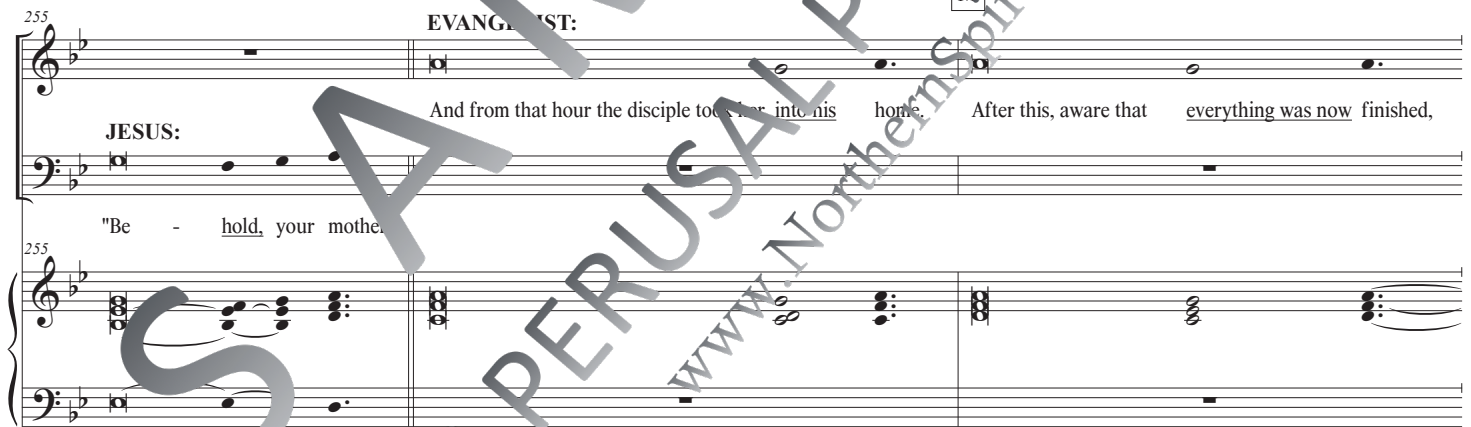


255

JESUS: And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. After this, aware that everything was now finished,

"Be - hold, your mother."

EVANGELIST:



258 **EVANGELIST:**
 in order that the scripture might be fulfilled, Je - sus said, **JESUS:** There was a vessel filled with common wine.
 "I _____ thirst."

258

262 So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said,

262

264 **EVANGELIST:** And bowing his head he handed over the spirit.
JESUS: "It _____ is finished"

G.P. (lunga)

264

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N CANTOR/ASSEMBLY:

S
A
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See what Je - sus has done for us. See how he loves us. How much God loves us!

CHOIR:
See what Je - sus has done for us. See how he loves us. How mu God loves us!

276 EVANGELIST:

Now since it was prepar-ation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one,

279
the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken, and that they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one

281

who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs,

284

but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true;

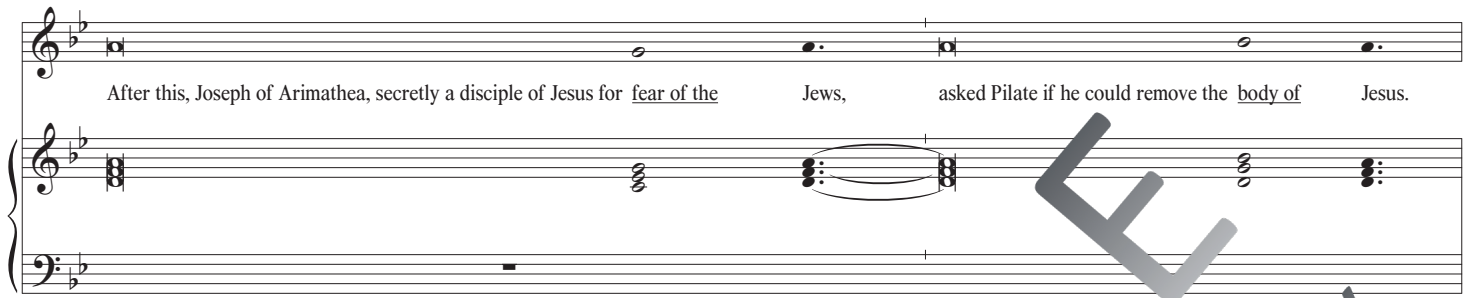
288

he knows that he is speaking the truth, that you may come to believe. For this happened so that the scripture passage might be ful-filled:

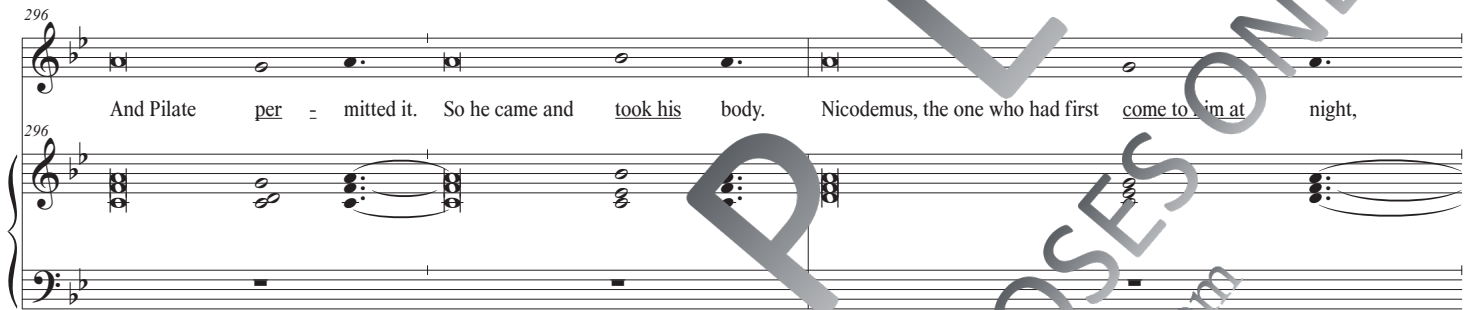
291

"Not a bone of it will be broken." And again another passage says: "They will look upon him whom they have pierced."

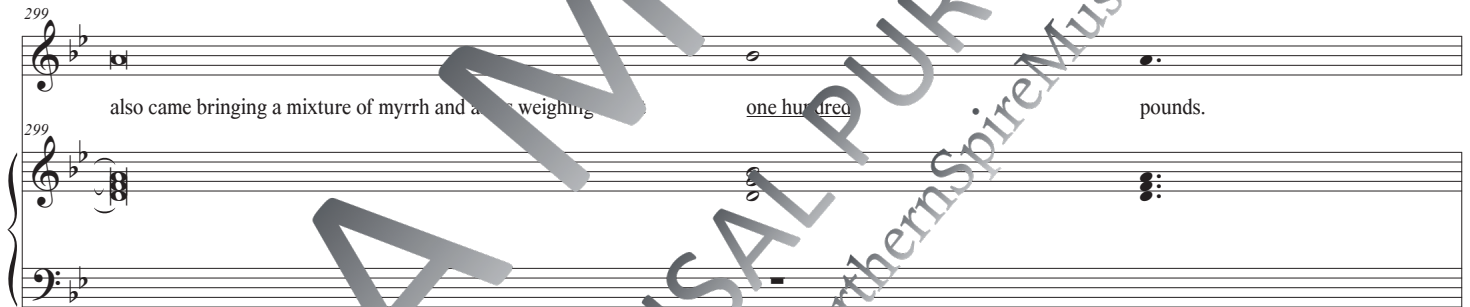
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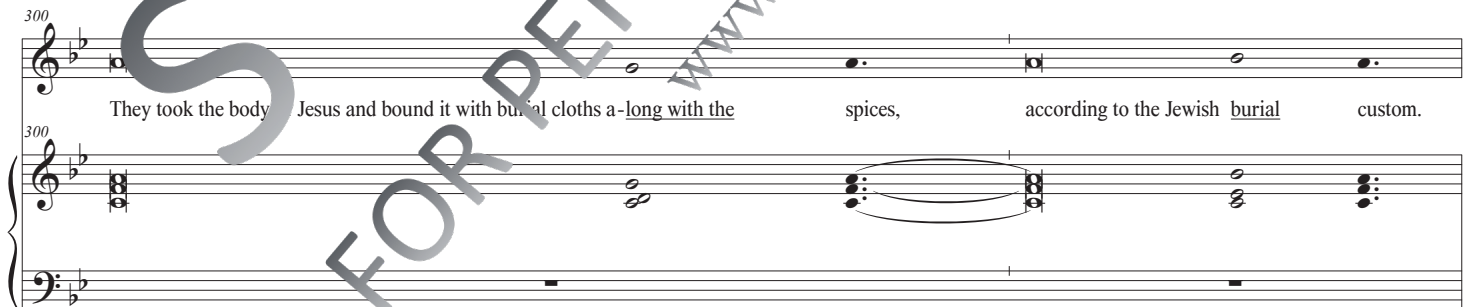
After this, Joseph of Arimathea, secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus.



296 And Pilate per - mitted it. So he came and took his body. Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night,



299 also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and spices weighing one hundred pounds.



300 They took the body of Jesus and bound it with burial cloths a-long with the spices, according to the Jewish burial custom.

302

Now in the place where he had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been buried.

304

So they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish prepa - ration day; for the tomb was close by.

P

(brief pause) **CANTOR/ASSEMBLY:**

(brief pause) See what Je-sus has done for us. See how he loves us. How much God loves us!

(brief pause) **CHOR:**

(brief pause) See what Je-sus has done for us. See how he loves us. How much God loves us!

(brief pause) *rit.*

ASSEMBLY REFRAIN:

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN
Philip Spaeth

Assembly Refrain

See what Jesus has done for us. See how he
loves us. How much God loves us!

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