

Our Lenten Offering

Anthems offered to the Glory of God by
The Choir of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Holmes Beach, FL
Lent 2011

Dear Member, Friend, Guest –

It is our wish that the words of these offerings will speak to your heart and bring you ever closer to Christ during our journey to the cross.

The music of Lent is some of the most profound music of the church year. It is by far the most moving and introspective music that is sung, played, or experienced, by congregant and musician alike.

The music we will offer will come from across the ages, the words and music over 1000 years and all still relevant in our time. Music is a powerful gift from God.

We hope that you will be with us for every service during this Lenten Season, but if that is not possible, may these words bring you comfort as we all make our journey to the cross.

In Christ's love,

David Stasney, Organist & Choir Master and the Choir of Gloria Dei.

A fitting way to begin our Lenten journey is to take up our cross and follow in the footsteps of Christ.

Ash Wednesday – March 9th, 2011

Take Up Your Cross

Music by Austin C. Lovelace (1919 – 2010)

Words by Charles W. Everest / Matthew 16:24; mark 8:34

“Take up your cross”, the Savior said, “If you would my disciple be;
Deny yourself, forsake the world, and humbly follow after me.”
Take up your cross, let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm;
His strength shall bear your spirit up, and brace your heart and nerve your arm.
Take up your cross, nor heed the shame; nor let your foolish pride rebel;
Your Lord for you the cross endured, to save your soul from death and hell.
Take up your cross and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down;
For only those who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.

This simple canon is a gem of musical literature, the words are so profound. Amazing how music that was written during Colonial America is still relevant today! The choir will be divided up into four groups in different areas of the sanctuary – listen carefully as the a cappella music surrounds you.

The First Sunday in Lent – March 13th, 2011

When Jesus Wept

Music by William Billings (1746 – 1800)

When Jesus wept, the falling tear, In mercy flowed beyond all bound,
When Jesus groaned a trembling fear, Seized all the guilty world around.

In this offering the words and music offer to us the full range of emotions of a mother, as she holds her son throughout his life. It gives us a glimpse of God's suffering in giving us his Son.

The Second Sunday in Lent – March 20th, 2011

Pieta

Words & Music by Joseph Martin (b. 1959)

In the shadow of a manger, by a candle's dancing flame,
tender Mary holds her baby, and she breathes His holy name.

“Jesus, rest your weary head, close your weeping eyes.”

As evening falls, she starts to sing a lullaby.

Lu-lay, lu-lay, peace be yours tonight.

In the shadow of the temple, in a place so far from home,
Mary sees her child of wonder, and she marvels how He's grown.

“Jesus, rest your weary head, and think on gentle things.”

With loving arms she holds her Savior and she sings,

“Lu-lay, lu-lay peace be yours tonight.”

In the shadow of Golgotha, underneath a darkened sky,
Mary gently cradles Jesus. Through her tears she says good bye.

“Jesus, rest your weary head. Your work on earth is done.”

And as the darkness falls, she whispers to her son,

“Lu-lay, lu-lay, peace be yours tonight.”

Here we experience each of the wounds of Christ. His head pierced with thorns; the nails that pierced his hands, his feet. His life offered up for our salvation!

The Third Sunday in Lent – March 20th, 2011

O Dearest Lord, Thy Sacred Head

Arranged by David N. Johnson (1922 – 1987)

Melody from Supplement to Kentucky Harmony, 1822

Words by Father Andrew (Henry Ernest Hardy) 1930

O dearest Lord, thy sacred head with thorns was pierced for me;

O pour thy blessings on my head that I may think for thee.

O dearest Lord, thy sacred hands with nails were pierced for me;

O shed thy blessing on my hands, that they may work for thee.

O dearest Lord, thy sacred feet with nails were pierced for me;

O pour thy blessing on my feet that they may follow thee.

O dearest Lord, thy sacred heart with spear was pierced for me;

O pour thy Spirit in my heart that I may live for thee.

A powerful and thought provoking anthem, that places us at the foot of the cross. An experience that is difficult as we come face to face with the suffering and death of our Savior.

The Fourth Sunday in Lent – March 27th, 2011

The Day the Cross Held Up the Sky

Words and Music by Douglas Nolan

With a broken heart, with tearful eyes, the Savior stands condemned to die.
Can we know the pain He felt inside on the lonely day the cross held up the sky?

At the sound of wood, at the bird's first cry, the cross is lifted up on high.
See the Lamb of God begin to die on the lonely day the cross held up the sky.
What wondrous love, what perfect grace that God sent His Son to die in our place.
Christ suffered and died while the wind moaned and sighed, yet He loved us.

As the evening fell, as the end drew nigh, O Father forgive them His Spirit cried.
O love so amazing, so divine. On the lonely day the cross held up the sky.

We are held in awe that words penned nearly 1000 years ago – create vivid pictures for us of our Saviors suffering and death on the cross. Words which are still powerful now and for all time.

The Fifth Sunday in Lent – April 3rd, 2011

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Music by Hans Leo Hassler (1564 – 1612) Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750)
arr. Robert Leaf (1936 – 2005)

Words attributed to Bernard of Clairvaux (1091 – 1153);

Paul Gerhardt (1607 – 1676) translated by James Waddell Alexander (1804 – 1859)

O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown;

O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine!

Yet, in this time of sorrow, I joy to call thee mine.

As we journey through Palm/Passion Sunday – we begin in joy and happiness as the Savior makes a triumphal entry in to the city. As our worship progresses, we start to hear the darkness and pain of the events yet to come – our journey to the cross is nearing the end.

Palm/Passion Sunday – April 17th, 2011

Look, Now, Your King Is Coming

Words & Music by Deborah Govenor (b. 1956?)

Look, now, your King is coming, riding upon a donkey,
Hosanna to the One who comes in the name of the Lord!
Here He comes, our Lord and King! Hosanna, son of David!
Rocks and stones begin to sing! Hosanna, King of Kings!
He is our Lord! We are his people! Wave your palms, hosannas sing!
Hosanna tot eh one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Look, now, your King is coming, Riding upon a donkey,
Hosanna to the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Palms are strewn along His way! Hosanna, Son of David!
Sing and shout, your homage pay! Hosanna, King of kings! Jesus is King!
He reigns forever! Sing your praise this holy day!
Hosanna to the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Look, now, your king is coming, riding upon a donkey,
Hosanna to the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Our second Palm/Passion Sunday offering will set the tone for Holy Week – you can hear the darkness in the music and witness as the crowd crying ride on fades into the distance.

O Thou Eternal Christ, Ride On

Tune: Llangloffan Arranged by John Yarrington; Words by Calvin W. Laufer

O thou eternal Christ of God, ride on, ride on, ride on!
Establish thou forevermore the triumph now begun.
A mighty host, by thee redeemed, is marching in thy train,
Thine is the kingdom and the power, and thou the love shalt reign.

O Holy Savior of mankind, ride on, ride on, ride on!
We bear with thee the scourge and cross, if so they will is done
And be the road uphill or down, unbroken or well trod,
We go with thee the claim and build a city unto God.

O thou whose dreams enthrall the heart ride on, ride on, ride on!
Ride on till tyranny and greed are evermore undone.
In mart and court and parliament the common good increase.
Till men at last shall ring the bells of brotherhood and peace.

O thou who are the Life and Light, exalted Lord and King,
We hail thine august majesty and loud hosanna sing.
Until in every land and clime thine ends of love are won:
O Christ, Redeemer, Brother, Friend, ride on, ride on, ride on!

This short sweet anthem, echoes the words that Christ shared with the disciples.

Maundy Thursday – April 21st, 2011

Peace I Leave with You

Music by Matthew Glandorf (b. 1975 ?)/ Words from John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you;
not as the world gives do I give unto you.

Feel the full weight of the agony, the loneliness, the humanness, the betrayal, the soldiers, the judgment, the angry mob crying for Jesus' blood, the crucifixion / Behold him, the Lamb of Calvary.

Good Friday – April 22nd, 2011 (Tenebrae)

Behold Him in Dark Gethsemane

Music by Jay Althouse / Words by Mary Kay Beall

Behold Him in dark Gethsemane. Behold Him alone in agony.

Hear the Savior softly pray, “Father, take this cup away.”

Behold him in dark Gethsemane.

Behold Him. The hour is drawing near. Behold Him.

At midnight they appear. See the soldiers bar His way.

Watch the kiss that will betray. Behold Him. The hour is drawing near.

Behold Him within the judgment hall. Behold Him. He answers not at all.

Hear the raging angry cry, “Crucify Him! Let Him die!”

Behold Him within the judgment hall.

Behold Him upon the shameful tree. Behold him for all eternity.

See the sky grow dark above. Kneel before God's Gift of love.

Behold Him upon the shameful tree.

Behold Him the Lamb of Calvary.

Our closing thought for you:

How splendid the cross of Christ! It brings life, not death; light not darkness; paradise, not loss. It is the wood on which the Lord, like a great warrior was wounded in hands and feet and side, but healed thereby our wounds. A tree destroyed us, a tree now brought us life. Theodore of Studio – IX century