

SATB

THE LIVING LAST WORDS

...forgive them,
...they don't know...

...is...

FOR CHOIR, SPEAKERS, AND OPTIONAL SMALL ORCHESTRA

A DRAMATIC MUSICAL EXPERIENCE FOR
HOLY WEEK

“THE LIVING LAST WORDS”

A Dramatic Musical

ACTORS

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SOLDIER.....

I'VE PUT LOTS OF MEN ON CROSSES, AND I NEVER GET USED TO IT.

IT'S ONE OF THOSE PARTS OF MY JOB AS A SOLDIER THAT I DO BECAUSE I HAVE TO DO IT.

NO QUESTIONS ASKED.

BUT THE SOUNDS, THE SIGHTS,

THE SMELL.....IT'S DISGUSTING!

A WRETCHED WAY TO DIE, TOO.....MISERABLE.

BUT MURDERERS AND THIEVES DON'T DESERVE ANYTHING LESS...

THESE PEOPLE MUST HATE THIS MAN IN THE MIDDLE.

I WONDER WHAT HE EVER DID TO THEM.....

DOESN'T REALLY LOOK LIKE A THIEF OR A MURDERER, BUT. THEN....

YOU NEVER CAN TELL.

HAD THIS REALLY NICE ROBE, TOO....WOVEN IN ONE PIECE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM.

WE SPLIT UP HIS OTHER CLOTHES AMONG US-----THE TUNIC, THE SANDALS AND

HIS OTHER GARMENTS.

BUT THIS CLOAK! IT'S A BEAUTY.....

ALMOST REGAL.

WE DECIDED RATHER THAN RIP IT UP, WE WOULD CAST

LOTS.....AND , I WON.

I'VE FORGOTTEN MOST OF THE OTHER MEN THAT HAVE DIED HERE.

BUT I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER FORGET THIS ONE.

HE SEEMSMORE THAN INNOCENT.....RIGHTEOUS SOMEHOW.

I WONDER WHAT HE DID TO THESE PEOPLE.....

"FATHER, FORGIVE THEM"

ON THIS HILL THE SUN IS BLAZING.

ON THE CROSSES THE SOLDIERS ARE GAZING,

THOUGH THEY'VE SEEN THIS SIGHT BEFORE,

NEVER HAVE THEY HEARD ANYTHING LIKE JESUS' WORDS.

HE SAID, "FATHER, FORGIVE THEM, THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY DO"

THEY'RE JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS; THEY'RE SOLDIERS THROUGH AND THROUGH.

THEY DON'T KNOW HIM, THEY DON'T REALIZE THIS IS GOD'S SON.

IN THEIR EYES HE'S A CRIMINAL, CONDEMNED TODAY TO DIE.....

HE SAID, "FATHER, FATHER,.....FORGIVE THEM."

HE SAID, "FATHER, FORGIVE THEM." IT'S ALL PART OF THE PLAN FOR REDEMPTION;

THE SACRIFICE OF CHRIST, THE SPOTLESS LAMB.

THEY DON'T KNOW HIM; THEY DON'T REALIZE THIS IS GOD'S SON.

IN THEIR EYES HE'S A CRIMINAL, CONDEMNED TODAY TO DIE.

HE SAID, "FATHER,.....FATHER,.....

FORGIVE THEM,.....FORGIVE THEM.".....

THIEF'S SISTER.....

MY POOR BROTHER. HE HAD IT ROUGH, LIVING A LIFE OF POVERTY,
TURNING TO CRIME, RUNNING AND HIDING FROM THE LAW,
GETTING CAUGHT STEALING,....AND NOW DYING LIKE THIS,
IT'S HORRIBLE. HE'S REALLY NOT A BAD PERSON; HE JUST GOT IN WITH
THE WRONG CROWD WHEN HE WAS YOUNG.

IF HE HAD ONLY MET JESUS SOONER,....PERHAPS HIS LIFE WOULD HAVE BEEN
TURNED AROUND.....AS MINE WAS.....

JESUS HASN'T DONE ANYTHING TO DESERVE THE PUNISHMENT OF CRUCIFIXION....

I'VE SEEN HIM DO NOTHING BUT GOOD!

I'VE SEEN HIM HEAL SICK PEOPLE WITH A SINGLE TOUCH.

WATCHED HIM PROVIDE FOOD FOR THOUSANDS WHO CAME TO LISTEN
TO HIM PREACH.....

HE TRULY CARES ABOUT THE NEEDS OF THE INDIVIDUAL....

PERHAPS HE CAN OFFER MY POOR BROTHER SOME HOPE IN HIS DYING HOURS.

I'VE SEEN JESUS CHANGE ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE,.....

FORGIVE ALL KINDS OF INDISCRETIONS.

I EVEN HEARD HIM PRAY FOR GOD TO FORGIVE HIS EXECUTIONERS.

I KNOW IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR MY BROTHER TO BE FORGIVEN AND REDEEMED....

AND I BELIEVE JESUS HAS THE POWER TO DO IT.

"YOU WILL BE WITH ME"

THIEF ON HIS LEFT... THIEF ON HIS RIGHT.....

EACH PAYING DEARLY FOR A LIFE OF CRIME.

ONE JEERS AND MOCKS HIM, STEEPED IN CONDEMNATION;

ONE BEGS FOR MERCY AND IS OFFERED SALVATION.

HE HEARS JESUS SAY,

"TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME,"GLORIOUS PROMISE!

"TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE,...PARADISE."

TODAY YOU HAVE BEEN SET FREE; NOTHING ON EARTH CAN BIND YOU,

YOUR PAIN FAR BEHIND YOU.....YOUR SINS ERASED.

"TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME."

ALL WHO SEE BEYOND THE SUFFERING MAN AND ACCEPT HIM AS SAVIOUR

ACCORDING TO GOD'S PLAN,.....

EVEN THE SINNERS, STEEPED IN CONDEMNATION, ARE GIVEN FORGIVENESS

AND ARE OFFERED SALVATION.

ONE DAY THEY WILL HEAR HIM SAY.

"TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME.".....GLORIOUS PROMISE!

"TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE,.....PARADISE."

TODAY YOU HAVE BEEN SET FREE;...NOTHING ON EARTH CAN BIND YOU,

YOUR PAIN FAR BEHIND YOU... YOUR SINS ERASED.

"TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME.....WITH ME!

TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME."

THE PRIEST

FINALLY, WE ARE ABOUT TO BE FREE OF THIS FALSE PROPHET....

CALLS HIMSELF KING OF THE JEWS.....

HE IS NOT...MY...KING!

IF HE IS THE SON OF GOD, LET'S SEE HIM GET HIMSELF DOWN OFF THAT CROSS.

THEN...I MIGHT BELIEVE.....

THEN WE ALL...MIGHT BELIEVE!

THINKS HE'S SO POWERFUL.

WHY DOESN'T HE SAVE HIMSELF?

HE CLAIMED HE COULD DESTROY A TEMPLE ANDE BUILD IT AGAIN IN THREE DAYS.

HA!...THREE DAYS!.....IMPOSSIBLE!

SURELY ... THIS WILL BREAK UP THIS LITTLE BAND OF BROTHERS.

WITHOUT THEIR CHARISMATIC LEADER, THEY WILL FALL APART,

AND WE WILL RID OURSELVES OF THIS THREAT.

"BEHOLD YOUR SON"

EVER THE LOVING SAVIOR, EVER THE LOVING SON,
EVER CONCERNED FOR THE NEEDS OF THOSE HE LOVED,
AND HE LOVED EVERYONE;
SEEING HIS WEEPING MOTHER STANDING NEXT TO HIS GRIEVING FRIEND,
HE SAID TO HER, HE SAID TO HIM, TO THEM,.....

"WOMAN, BEHOLD YOUR SON:

JOHN, BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER!"

CLING TO THE FAITH THAT BINDS US,CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER.

HE SAID, "WOMAN, BEHOLD YOUR SON;

MY FRIEND BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER!"

WHEN HE IS GONE, WE MUST CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER,.....

"WOMAN, BEHOLD YOUR SON; JOHN, BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER!"

CLING TO THE FAITH THAT BINDS US, CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER.

HE SAID,"WOMAN, BEHOLD YOUR SON;

JOHN, BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER!"

WHEN HE IS GONE, WE MUST CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER,

LOVE ONE ANOTHER.....

WHEN HE IS GONE, CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER.....

SHEPHERD

I REMEMBER WHEN JESUS WAS BORN. MY FRIENDS AND I WERE TENDING OUR SHEEP IN THE HILLS OUTSIDE OF BETHLEHEM. AN ANGEL APPEARED, AND WE WERE TERRIFIED, BUT HE TOLD US THAT OUR SAVIOR HAD BEEN BORN.....THE LONG-AWAITED MESSIAH.

SUDDENLY THE HEAVENS WERE FILLED WITH THE SOUND OF A THOUSAND ANGEL VOICES PRAISING GOD. IT WAS MIRACULOUS!

WE RAN TO THE LITTLE STABLE BEHIND THE INN.I SAW HIM...A BRAND NEW BABY.. JUST A TINY LITTLE THING. HIS MOTHER HAD WRAPPED HIM IN SWADDLING CLOTHES AND LAID HIM IN THE MANGER, JUST LIKE THE ANGEL SAID.

OH...I WILL NEVER FORGET THAT HOLY NIGHT.

WHERE ARE THE ANGELS NOW?

WHY DON'T THEY COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN WITH SWORDS AND SPEARS AND SMITE THESE EVIL PEOPLE?

HOW CAN THEY WATCH GOD'S SON GO THROUGH THIS? HOW CAN GOD ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN?

"WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"

BENEATH THE WEIGHT OF THE SINS OF THE WORLD, HE GROANS,
PROFOUNDLY ALONE...ALONE !

THE SKY STARTS TO DARKEN; THE FATHER HAS TURNED AWAY,
ALL ALONE IN DESPAIR, JESUS PRAYS:

"ELI, ELI, LA MA SABACHTHANI!" HE CRIES "MY GOD, WHY,
MY GOD WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"

THE ANGELS ARE SILENT, ANGELS THAT LEAPT FOR JOY AT THE BIRTH
OF A TINY BABY BOY...

THE DARKNESS IS BLINDING; THE SUN THAT WAS GOLDEN AND BRIGHT NOW IS
VEILED BY A BLACKNESS LIKE NIGHT.

"ELI, ELI, LA MA SABACHTHANI!" HE CRIES..... "MY GOD, WHY,
MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"

(WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?)

BENEATH THE WEIGHT OF THE SINS OF THE WORLD, HE GROANS....

ALONE.....ALONE.....

MARY

MY SON.....MY SON!

OH JEHOVAH GOD, GIVE ME STRENGTH TO ENDURE THIS. WE HAVE KNOWN THIS DAY
WAS COMING.....

MY PRECIOUS SON.....WOUNDED FOR MY TRANSGRESSIONS, BRUISED FOR
MY INIQUITIES....

OH GOD! FORGIVE MY UNBELIEF! YOU ARE LAYING ON MY SON, MY SAVIOR,
ALL THAT I HAVE DONE, ALL THAT EVERY ONE OF US HAS DONE.
MY PRECIOUS SON IS THE SPOTLESS LAMB, SUFFERING MY PUNISHMENT.

EVERYTHING JESUS HAS DONE IN HIS LIFE HAS LED TO THIS MOMENT.
HIS MIRACLES, HIS MINISTRY, THE WAY HE HAS FULFILLED EVERY PROPHECY,
OBEYED EVERY LAW AND COMMANDMENT,

HE NEVER FALTERED. HE NEVER SHRANK AWAY FROM THE PAINFUL,
DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR PLAN.

WHEN YOUR SPIRIT LED HIM TO THE WILDERNESS TO PRAY ALONE FOR FORTY DAYS,
THE DEVIL TEMPTED HIM WHILE HE CALLED UPON YOU FOR STRENGTH TO FACE THE
COMING DAYS. I KNOW YOUR ANGELS MINISTERED TO HIM THEN.....
PLEASE,,,,SOMEHOW...MINISTER TO HIM NOW.

MY SON, I HELD HIM IN MY ARMS WHEN HE WAS A HELPLESS BABY; I HEARD HIS
FIRST TINY, FLEDGLING CRIES. NOW I LISTEN TO HIM BREATHE HIS LAST WORDS.....
WORDS OF COMFORT AND FORGIVENESS, WORDS OF GRIEF AND PAIN, WORDS OF
LOVE AND LIFE.

OH FATHER GOD....GIVE ME STRENGTH.

"I THIRST"

A BABY IN A CRADLE IS SLEEPING SOUNDLY IN THE NIGHT, UNTIL A PANG
OF HUNGER BEGINS TO STIR HIS APPETITE.....

HE TRIES TO MAKE HIS WISHES KNOWN WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF WORDS...

HIS MOTHER HEARS HIS CRY AND KNOWS HE SAID: "I THIRST.....

I THIRST,.....I THIRST."

FROM DEEP WITHIN HIS SOUL, THE SAVIOR CRIES....."I THIRST."

FOR FORTY DAYS HE WANDERS OUT IN THE WILDERNESS ALONE;

HIS HUMAN SUFF'RING TAKES ITS TOLL...HE HAS NO FOOD OR WATER...

NO FRIEND TO SOOTHE HIS TROUBLED SOUL

SO EARNESTLY HE FASTS AND PRAYS FOR STRENGTH TO FACE WHAT LIES AHEAD,

, RESISTING SATAN'S URGE TO TURN THE STONES TO BREAD.....

HE IS THE LIVING WATER, HE IS THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE "I THIRST"

BETWEEN TWO THIEVES, HE'S DYING...

HIS SOUL IN MISERY IMMERSSED; FORSAKEN AND REJECTED, HIS ACHING HEART

WOULD SURELY BURST.....

HE CRIES OUT LOUD IN AGONY THE THUNDER ECHOING HIS WORDS;

THE SOLDIERS HEAR HIS CRY, AND KNOW HE SAID; "I THIRST,....I THIRST,."

HE IS THE LIVING WATER....HE IS THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE....."I THIRST"

FROM DEEP WITHIN HIS SOUL THE SAVIOR CRIES, "I THIRST,....I THIRST,....."

JOHN.....

JESUS...MY DEAR FRIEND. HOW I HAVE WATCHED HIM SUFFER TODAY FOR OUR SAKE,
SECURING OUR ETERNAL LIFE WITH HIS OWN.

HE CAME TO EARTH, TO HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE, SENT BY GOD THE FATHER, AND
THEY HAVE DESPISED AND REJECTED HIM.

REJECTED HIM! GOD GAVE HIS OWN SON...HIS ONLY SON...TO BE THE LIGHT
OF THE WORLD. YET THEY REFUSE TO ACCEPT THIS GIFT, TO OPEN THEIR EYES
AND TO SEE THE TRUTH.

JESUS TOLD US HE HAD COME TO SAVE THE WORLD, TO SHOW US THE FATHER.
HE SAID HE HAD TO GO AWAY, AND THAT WE COULD NOT FOLLOW.

HE ALSO SAID WE WOULD SEE HIM AGAIN. HE SAID THAT IF WE UNDERSTOOD
THESE THINGS, WE WOULD REJOICE. REJOICE?

OH, HEAVENLY FATHER, HELP ME TO UNDERSTAND.

I PRAY THAT HIS SUFFERING WILL END SOON. FATHER, TAKE HIM!

HE HAS FINISHED THE WORK YOU GAVE HIM TO DO.

TAKE HIM.....SO THAT HE MIGHT RETURN TO US..AS HE PROMISED.

SOMEHOW, TURN THIS SORROW INTO REJOICING.

"INTO YOUR HANDS"

HIS BODY BROKEN...HIS SOUL OPPRESSED, ...HIS WEARY HEAD SLOWLY FALLS
TO HIS CHEST; HIS WORK COMPLETE, HE EMBRACES HIS DEATH,...AND TO HIS
FATHER HE CRIES WITH HIS DYING BREATH;

"INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT"

INTO YOUR HANDS I ENTRUST MY LIFE.

DEATH IS A DOORWAY TO HEAVEN'S GLORY.

A SOUL IS SAFE WHEN IT HAS BEEN PLACED INTO YOUR HANDS.

SO, JESUS PRAYS;.....A CLEARER MESSAGE COULD NOT BE HEARD THAN THAT
CONTAINED IN JESUS' LAST WORDS, WHEN DEATH APPROACHES, WE WILL NOT FEAR;
HE WILL BE WAITING,...AND OUR HUMBLE PRAYER HE'LL HEAR;

"INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT"

INTO YOUR HANDS I ENTRUST MY LIFE, DEATH IS A DOORWAY TO HEAVEN'S GLORY,
A SOUL IS SAFE WHEN IT HAS BEEN PLACED INTO YOUR HANDS,.....

SO, JESUS CRIES, WITH HIS DYING BREATH;

"INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT"

IT IS FINISHED.....

CENTURION.....

TRULY THIS MAN WAS THE SON OF GOD!

