PRAYER GUIDE FOR LENT & EASTER WEEK 2017

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INTRODUCING LENT

During the early centuries of the church, the liturgical calendar was developed as a tool to help the people of God remember and celebrate the full mystery of the Gospel as revealed and fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Redeemer of the world. The liturgical seasons are: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. (Some traditions refer to the season after Pentecost Sunday as Ordinary Time). Each season helps us enter the mystery of the Gospel drawing our attention to different aspects of the life, death, resurrection, ascension and promised return of Jesus.

Lent, specifically, draws our attention to Jesus' suffering and self-sacrifice. Purple is used throughout the season because it symbolizes royalty, suffering and repentance. As Lent draws our attention to Jesus' suffering, the season invites us into spiritual practices that help us consider our own role in Jesus' suffering and to grow in his selfless likeness.

We all have different reactions to the season of Lent and its practices. Some of us come from traditions and congregations that observe Lent and explain it well. Some of us observe Lent by practicing some measure of austerity but without really understanding why. Some of us know Lent only by what immediately precedes it: Mardi Gras or Carnival. Still, there are those of us who never have observed it and do not know why we should. Regardless of our experiences and reactions, it is important to consider the meaning of Lent, as well as how and why we should observe it.

THE MEANING OF LENT

The origins of Lent lie in the early church, which reserved Easter for baptism, the sacrament of initiation into the household of God. Catechumens (or people seeking baptism) would spend a season preparing themselves for Easter and the sacrament. By the early 4th Century, this season had become a 40-day period (beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday) used not only by catechumens, but also their entire congregations to remember their own baptisms and prepare for the celebration of Easter.

There's much wisdom in preparing for Easter for 40 days because Easter itself is a 40-day celebration in response to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, his victory over sin and death, and his gift of new and everlasting life. Easter is much more than a fun weekend of chocolates, pastel outfits, egg hunts, and spiral hams! If we take time to prepare for a wedding, an anniversary, a birthday, a graduation, a vacation, an athletic competition or any other special occasion, how much more should we prepare for Easter, the feast of feasts?

As a preparatory season, Lent has always focused on repentance. To repent is to re-orient the heart, mind and soul away from self and towards God. It's the acknowledgement that life lived apart from God is the way of sin and death. And as we repent, we discover that God is our lover who always first moves towards us and is already doing everything in his power to lead us into his way of life, which he opened to us through Jesus Christ.

Even though Christians should always be marked by a repentant spirit—as Martin Luther famously taught, the Christian life in its totality is a life of repentance—it is still appropriate that certain times be set aside for a particular focus on repentance. So it may be helpful to think of the Lenten season as the spiritual equivalent of an annual physical exam: it's a time ask the Holy Spirit to take stock of our lives and hearts and to restore our spiritual health.

KEEPING LENT

So how do we keep a holy Lent? We encourage you to consider the following four, overlapping historic ways:

Self-examination: Self-examination is critical to keeping Lent because without it, repentance is impossible. As Lamentations 3:40 says: "Let us examine and probe our ways, and let us return to the LORD." So, use Lent as an opportunity to ask yourself some hard questions about your desires and habits, your ambitions and failures, your hopes and fears, and your pride and shame. The Holy Spirit uses this kind of intentional self-examination to reveal our sin and idolatry, or all the ways we seek life apart from God.

Self-denial: Consider fasting during Lent. This kind of self-discipline and self-denial help us to remember that we do not live by bread alone (Matthew 4:4) and that Jesus is the true bread of life (John 6:35). How? As we abstain from food and other excesses, we deprive ourselves of the things that make us feel self-sufficient and protected. It's in this place where we confront the temptation to live apart from God as our own gods. It's in this place that we can confront our sin and hear with fresh ears the Good News that Jesus defeated sin and death and now invites us to live anew with him.

We recommend fasting by giving up a food, beverage, or activity that you often turn to for comfort. Perhaps this is chocolate, chips, beer or wine. Perhaps it is watching TV or spending time on social networks. As you consider what to abstain from, you may feel

the need to abstain from more than one thing. Another way to fast is to give up one meal a day, especially if you're in the habit of eating out. If you would like to practice a full day of complete fasting (no food, but water/juice allowed), we recommend doing so on Ash Wednesday or Good Friday. These are the traditional days for full fasting for many Christians around the world.

Please note that Sundays are never fast days; they are feast days. Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week, and we celebrate that fact every Sunday, even during Lent! This is why the Sundays in Lent are not part of the season. So during Lent, take a break from fasting on Sundays and remember with joy that our salvation is a gracious gift from God!

Self-giving: As self-examination and self-denial turn us away from self to God, the practices also create more and more room in our lives for others. So for centuries, Christians have used Lent as a time to cultivate compassion, or love of neighbor, especially the poor, oppressed and marginalized.

There are many ways to do this. Here are a few suggestions: Consider taking any money saved from fasting and giving it to the Resurrection Brooklyn Mercy Fund and to other ministries dedicated to mercy and justice. Join or recommit to a church ministry like the Mercy Team or Prayer Team to practice "love in action." Get to know the community non-profits your congregation already partners with, and reach out to others. Learn what the needs of your community are by listening well, and help mobilize your congregation to meet those needs. A final suggestion is to commit to praying for your neighborhoods, asking God to open your eyes to its needs.

The Means of Grace: Finally, undergirding self-examination, self-denial and self-giving are the means of grace. Historically, the church has said there are three means of grace, or instruments through which God helps us turn to him and grow more and more like Christ: prayer, scripture and sacraments.

As we turn to God, prayer becomes natural. We offer to God our hearts, souls and minds in prayer, and in turn, we discover God's attention is already fixed on us and that he's listening and ready to speak to us. In Scripture, we hear God's life giving word to us and we are reminded over and over again of the Good News, that he comes to us in Jesus Christ. In the Sacraments, we physically experience the presence of God and his promises. Moreover, the Sacraments remind us that we are to experience the entirety of our Christian lives in community with our brother and sisters in Jesus Christ.

So, if regular times of Bible study and prayer have never been part of your life or they once were but have become less so, then Lent is a wonderful time to re-engage: Consider framing your days with short times of prayer and study in the mornings or evenings or both. Join a small group or ask your family or roommates to join you in periodic devotionals.

And make it a point to attend Sunday services. Our faith is a communal faith. We are not meant observe Lent alone. We are not meant to follow Jesus on our own. There are many today who identify themselves as Christians but for whom the church is peripheral and tangential. If this sounds like you, then use this Lenten season to commit yourself to the community of God's people.

If you are a follower of Christ and yet have never been baptized, then make every effort to be baptized as soon as possible. If you have been baptized, remember that in baptism you were incorporated into a community, the family of God, and that you are to join in the family meal, the Eucharist. And parents, the Lenten season is a wonderful time to help your children realize that the church is their family, that worship is their first duty and greatest joy. And if your children understand the gospel, then this season could be a wonderful time to take the steps toward having them admitted to the Lord's Table.

THE GUIDE

To help you, we offer this guide. The guide begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the Saturday after Easter. It includes daily Scripture readings drawn mostly from the Gospel of Matthew. It also includes prayers of confession and thanksgiving for each week of Lent, as well as a meditation based on different Lenten images and historic crosses.

The guide and our recommendations for Lent not meant to burden you. They are meant to help you enter into the death and resurrection of Christ and find new life. So, our final encouragements: Practice Lent as best as you can. This season is not about perfection! Start with a few practices and build on them, or go deeper in the practices you already have. Use the guide on your own and with your family, friends, or small group.

It is a great joy for us to be your pastors. We are so thankful that God has brought us together and we are honored to be able to worship and serve our Lord together with you. May Christ grant us all a blessed Lent and Easter!

WITH GREAT LOVE FOR YOU ALL,
The Pastoral Staff of Resurrection Brooklyn

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[1] *Please note: Portions of this guide have been adapted from "On Keeping a Holy Lent" by Craig Higgins. Several of the weekly meditations have been adapted from Lenten materials from Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, MI. The schedule of readings is adapted from "Lent for Everyone: Year A" by N.T.. Wright*

[2] *PDF versions of the guide are available at www.resurrectionbrooklyn.org/lentenguides/. A PDF song book of all the recommended music is also available there. In addition, for the season of Lent, Resurrection Daily Prayer emails will be adapted according to this guide and will include links to the hymns and lyrics each week. To sign up for the prayer emails, visit: www.resurrectionbrooklyn.org/dailyprayer/.*

MEDITATION – ASHES

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday; the day many Christians receive a cross of ashes on their foreheads. Why? In Scripture, ashes are a public sign of confession and repentance, as well as a plea for God's help, mercy, compassion and forgiveness. Ashes are also a sign of human frailty and dependence on God, the creator of all things. Consider attending a local Ash Wednesday service. As Lent begins, prayerfully consider the question:
What hopes of healing do I have for myself and the world around me?
And ask God to surprise you this Lent with his help and healing.

START OF LENT

OPENING PRAYER

Father in Heaven, the light of your truth gives sight to the darkness of sinful eyes. May this season of repentance bring us the blessing of Your forgiveness and the gift of Your light. Grant this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*
—A Prayer for Lent from the International Committee on English in the Liturgy

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, the house of my soul is narrow; enlarge it that you may enter in. It is ruinous, O repair it! It displeases Your sight. I confess it, I know. But who shall cleanse it, to whom shall I cry but to you? Cleanse me from my secret faults, O Lord, and spare Your servant from strange sins. *Amen.*
—A Prayer from St. Augustine of Hippo (AD 354-430)

READINGS

- Ash Wednesday: Matthew 1-2, focus 1.18-25
- Thursday: Matthew 3, focus on 3.1-12
- Friday: Matthew 4, focus on 4.1-11
- Saturday: Matthew 4, focus on 4.18-25

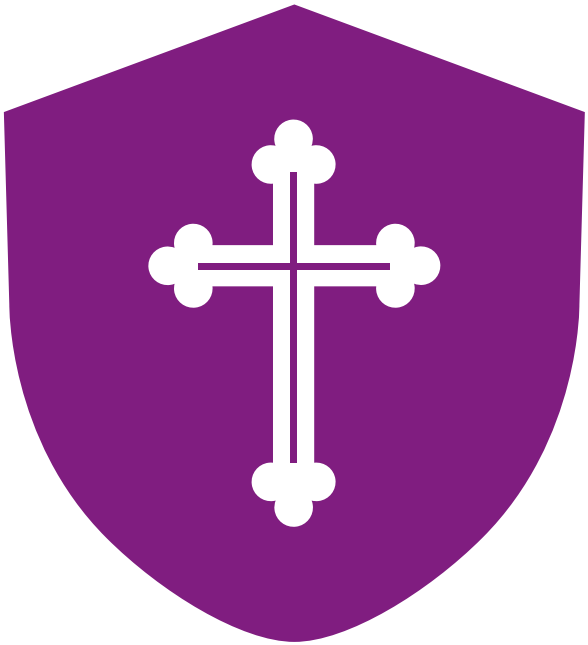
SONG

In Christ Alone
(downloadable song book available at www.resurrectionbrooklyn.org/lentenguides/)

THE LORD'S PRAYER OR THE APOSTLES' CREED *(See page 22)*

CLOSING COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. *Amen.*



MEDITATION – THE TREFOIL CROSS

See the small buds at the end of each arm? They help us remember the unity of the Trinity—The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They also represent the Christian virtues of faith, hope and love (1 Cor 1:13). This week, prayerfully consider these virtues. Ask yourself where you lack faith, hope and love. Ask the Holy Spirit to cultivate these virtues in you and your congregation, household, and neighborhood this Lent.

WEEK 1

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, as you speak to us, give us ears to listen to what you have to say to us. And as you reveal yourself to us, may we give ourselves to you. *Amen.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord and Master of my life, give me not the spirit of laziness, despair, domination, and idle talk. But give rather the spirit of sobriety, humility, patience and love to your servant. Yes, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. *Amen.*
—A Prayer of Confession from St. Ephraim the Syrian (AD 305-373)

READINGS

- Sunday: *Psalm 2*
- Monday: *Matthew 5, focus on 5.1-12*
- Tuesday: *Matthew 6, focus on 6.5-15*
- Wednesday: *Matthew 7, focus on 7.15-23*
- Thursday: *Matthew 8, focus on 8.23-34*
- Friday: *Matthew 9, focus on 9.9-17*
- Saturday: *Matthew 10.1-15*

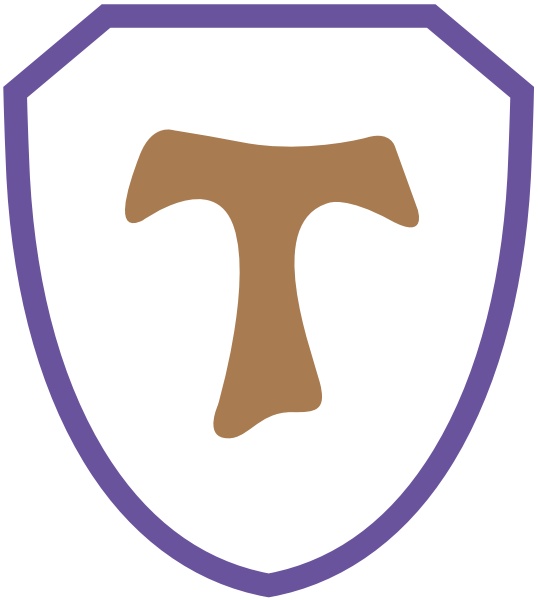
SONG

How Deep the Father's Love For Us
(downloadable song book available at www.resurrectionbrooklyn.org/lentenguides/)

THE LORD'S PRAYER OR THE APOSTLES' CREED *(See page 22)*

CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan; Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*



MEDITATION – THE TAU CROSS

Resembling the last letter in the Hebrew alphabet, tau, this cross has long symbolized the fulfillment of all the promises of God in Jesus Christ, the first and the last who quenches our deepest thirst for true life (Rev. 21:6-7). This week, prayerfully consider the promises of God and the habits that break your trust in God to satisfy you. Ask the Holy Spirit to cultivate new habits that renew your trust.

WEEK 2

OPENING PRAYER

Convert us anew this Lenten season, O God our Savior, and shape our lives with your word of truth. Teach us to forgive as you forgive. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Heavenly Father, like Adam and Eve we often listen to the wrong voice, turning away from your Word. We are shamed by our disobedience, our deafness, our limited ability to do the right thing at the right time, or even sometimes to know what is the right thing and the right time. Forgive us, Lord, for we are weak. *Amen.*
—A Lutheran Prayer of Confession for Lent.

READINGS

- Sunday: *Psalm 118*
- Monday: *Matthew 10.16-42, focus on 10.16-25*
- Tuesday: *Matthew 11, focused on 11.1-19*
- Wednesday: *Matthew 12.1-21, focus on 12.15-21*
- Thursday: *Matthew 12:22-50, focus on 12.27-32*
- Friday: *Matthew 13, focus on 13.1-12*
- Saturday: *Matthew 13, focus on 13.31-33, 44-46*

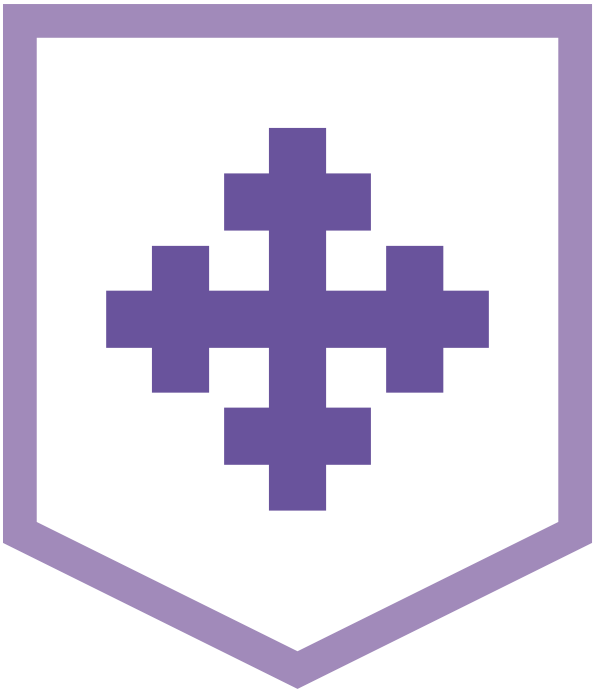
SONG

Amazing Grace
(downloadable song book available at www.resurrectionbrooklyn.org/lentenguides/)

THE LORD'S PRAYER OR THE APOSTLES' CREED *(See page 22)*

CLOSING COLLECT

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*



MEDITATION – THE CROSSLET CROSS

Look carefully. Do you see the four crosses woven together in this cross? This cross helps us remember that Jesus died for the world and that he gathers his family from every language, nation, tongue and tribe. This week, prayerfully consider this week the habits and practices that breed division in your relationships and communities. Consider how you may extend God's gracious welcome to others.

WEEK 3

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord, who has mercy upon all, take away from me my sins, and mercifully kindle in me the fire of thy Holy Spirit. Take away from me the heart of stone, and give me a heart of flesh, a heart to love and adore Thee, a heart to delight in Thee, to follow and enjoy Thee, for Christ's sake. *Amen.*
– A prayer from St. Ambrose of Milan

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. *Amen.*
—Based on Psalm 51

READINGS

- Sunday: *Psalm 69*
- Monday: *Matthew 14, focus on 22-33*
- Tuesday: *Matthew 15.1-20, focus on 15.1-9*
- Wednesday: *Matthew 15.21-38, focus on 15.21-28*
- Thursday: *Matthew 16: focus on 16.21-28*
- Friday: *Matthew 17, focus on 17.1-9*
- Saturday: *Matthew 17, focus on 17.14-20*

SONG

Before the Throne of God Above
(downloadable song book available at www.resurrectionbrooklyn.org/lentenguides/)

THE LORD'S PRAYER OR THE APOSTLES' CREED *(See page 22)*

CLOSING COLLECT

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

MEDITATION – THE ANCHOR CROSS

From Hebrews 6:19, this ancient cross is a reminder that the only hope we have in life is Jesus Christ and that we must anchor our hope in him. Prayerfully consider this week your anxieties and fears and the ways they keep you from knowing the steadfast love of God. As you practice Lenten disciplines and the means of grace this week, however imperfectly, remember God is truly present with you and anchoring you in his love!

WEEK 4

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, by the grace of Jesus Christ you know the tests and trials we face. Walk with us through this wilderness. Come to us with ministers of healing and visit us with messengers of hope, so that we may return to you in faith, believing the good news of the gospel; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*
—A Presbyterian Prayer for Lent

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Good God, we confess how we have rebelled against you. We are controlled by doubt and fear, and in our doubt we have gone our own way. We have been quick to blame others for our weakness and slow to accept responsibility for ourselves. Forgive us, and grant us your peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

READINGS

- Sunday: *Psalm 102*
- Monday: *Matthew 18, focus on 19.21-35*
- Tuesday: *Matthew 19, focus on 19.16-26*
- Wednesday: *Matthew 20, focus on 20.1-16*
- Thursday: *Matthew 21.1-22, focus on 21.1-17*
- Friday: *Matthew 21.23-46, focus on 21.33-45*
- Saturday: *Matthew 22, focus on 22.1-14*

SONG

O Love that Will Not Let Me Go
(downloadable song book available at www.resurrectionbrooklyn.org/lentenguides/)

THE LORD'S PRAYER OR THE APOSTLES' CREED *(See page 22)*

CLOSING COLLECT

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

MEDITATION – THE COVERED CROSS

Purple has long been the color of Lent. It symbolizes repentance and the humiliation of Jesus, who was made to wear a purple cloth throughout much of his passion (Mark 15:17). Many Christian traditions cover the cross with purple cloth during the last few weeks of Lent as a visual reminder of Christ's suffering on our behalf of our sin in order to reconcile us to God. This week, prayerfully consider the work of Christ and reflect on the many ways you try to make yourself right with God. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you rest in God's love for you.

WEEK 5

OPENING PRAYER

O God, you desire that all people should eat and be satisfied. As we follow Jesus and are transformed by his death and resurrection, may we spend our lives in his ways of love and hospitality so that all may share in your bounty. *Amen.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Our Father, have pity and mercy on us. We have sinned against heaven and you. We are not worthy to be called your children. Accept us at least as hired servants. O merciful God, forgive us all the sins we have committed against you. We pray this in the name of Jesus. *Amen.*
—Based on Luke 15

READINGS

- Sunday: *Psalm 110*
- Monday: *Matthew 23, focus on 23.29-39*
- Tuesday: *Matthew 24, focus on 24.15-28*
- Wednesday: *Matthew 24, focus on 24.45-51*
- Thursday: *Matthew 25, focus on 25.14-30*
- Friday: *Matthew 25, focus on 25.31-46*
- Saturday: *Matthew 26.1-29*

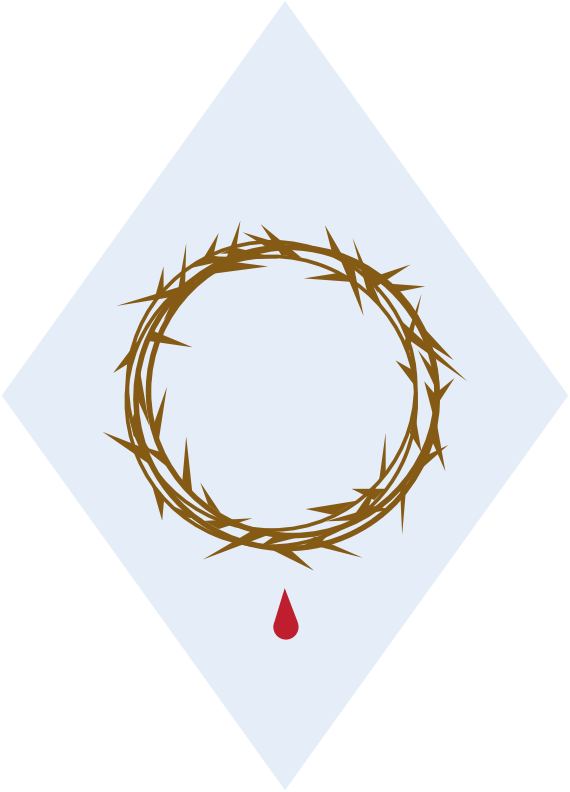
SONG

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
(downloadable song book available at www.resurrectionbrooklyn.org/lentenguides/)

THE LORD'S PRAYER OR THE APOSTLES' CREED *(See page 22)*

CLOSING COLLECT

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*



MEDITATION – THE CROWN OF THORNS

During his trial, Pilate ordered Jesus to wear a crown of thorns (John 19:2) to mock Jesus' true kingship. This crown reminds us of the suffering, injustice and separation from God that Jesus endured for us. This week, prayerfully consider all the ways you deny Jesus as King and avoid suffering for God and others. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you respond to God's love with joyful obedience.

HOLY WEEK

OPENING PRAYER

Merciful God, this Holy week we turn our hearts again to Jerusalem, and to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Stir up within us the gift of faith that we may not only praise him with our lips, but may follow him in the way of the cross. Through Jesus, *Amen.*
—A prayer for Lent from the Reformed Church in America.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess we are rebellious. Our faith is often more show than substance, our hearts are in need of cleansing. Have mercy on us. Help us to lay at your feet all that we have and all that we are, trusting you to forgive what is sinful, to heal what is broken, to welcome our praises and to receive us as your own. *Amen.*

READINGS

- Palm Sunday: *Psalm 22*
- Monday: *Matthew 26.30-46*
- Tuesday: *Matthew 26.47-56*
- Wednesday: *Matthew 12.1-21, focus on 12.15-21*
- Maundy Thursday: *Matthew 27.1-32*
- Good Friday: *Matthew 27.33-56*
- Holy Saturday: *Matthew 27.57-66*

SONG

Were You There
(downloadable song book available at www.resurrectionbrooklyn.org/lentenguides/)

THE LORD'S PRAYER OR THE APOSTLES' CREED *(See page 22)*

CLOSING COLLECT

Almighty God, in your tender love for us you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross for us. Grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection. We ask this in the name of Jesus. *Amen.*

MEDITATION – THE LAMB OF GOD

John the Baptist names Jesus the "Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:21). Jesus is the Lamb of God because his death is the atoning sacrifice for all the world. And Jesus is not only the sacrificial lamb, but the victorious lamb! Through his death and resurrection, Jesus overcomes sin and death and offers the gift of new life freely to all who believe in his name. Spend a few moments considering the Good News of Easter. Give thanks for God's forgiveness and the ways, both big and small, that God is bringing forth new life in and around you.

FIRST WEEK OF EASTER

OPENING PRAYER

Christ our Savior, you call us by name, leading us from death into eternal life. Awaken and unbind us by your Word, so that we may live and grow in faith, sharing your saving love with others; for you are the resurrection and the life. *Amen.*
—Based on John 11

CONFESSION

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace. *Amen.*

READINGS

- Easter Sunday: *Matthew 28.1-10*
- Easter Monday: *Matthew 28.11-15*
- Easter Tuesday: *Matthew 28.16-20*
- Easter Wednesday: *Romans 5:1-11*
- Easter Thursday: *Romans 6:1-14*
- Easter Friday: *Colossians 2:6-15*
- Easter Saturday: *1 Peter 3:18-22*

SONG

And Can It Be
(downloadable song book available at www.resurrectionbrooklyn.org/lentenguides/)

THE LORD'S PRAYER OR THE APOSTLES' CREED *(See page 22)*

CLOSING COLLECT

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

APPENDIX

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil;
for thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. *Amen.*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

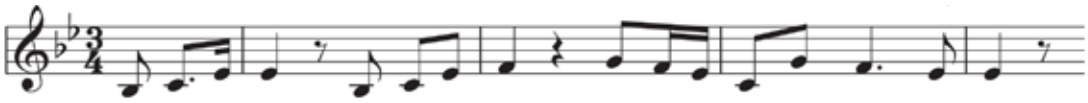
I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

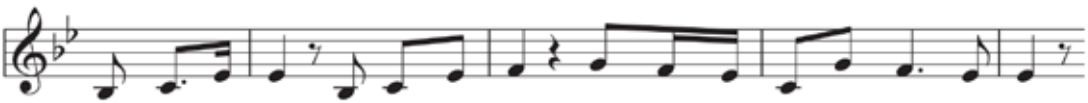
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

In Christ Alone

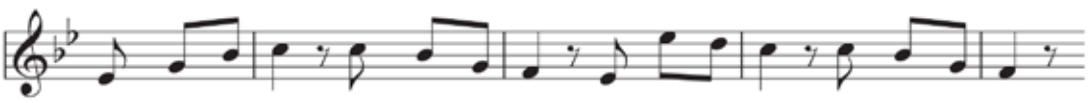
Keith Getty / Stuart Townend



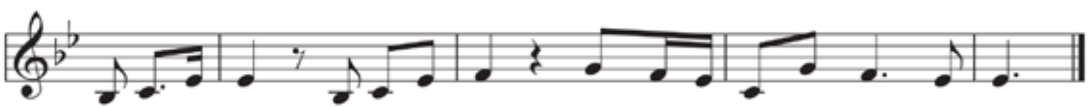
1. In Christ a - lone, my hope is found, he is my light, my strength my song;
2. In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in help - less babe!
3. There in the ground his bo - dy lay, light of the world, by dark - ness slain;
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me;



This cor - ner stone, this sol - id ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.
This gift of love and right - eous - ness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
Then, bursting forth in glo - rious day, up from the grave he rose a - gain!
From life's first cry to fi - nal breath, Je - sus commands my des - ti - ny.



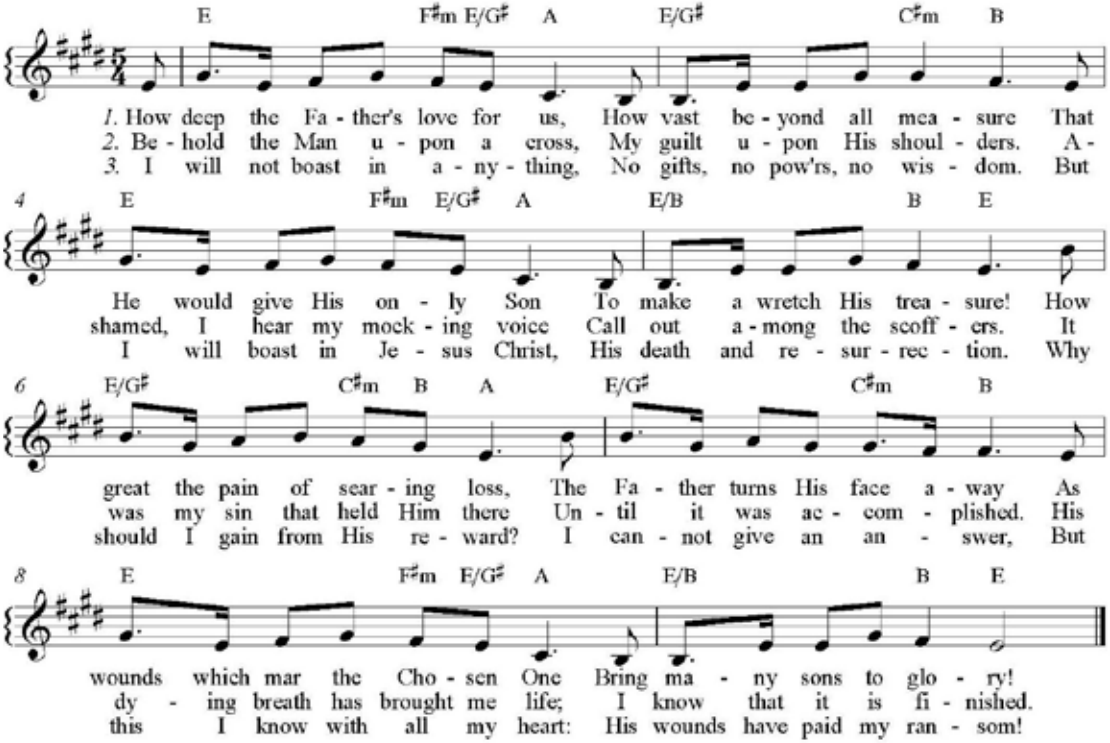
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
'Till on the cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sat - is - fied.
And as he stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ev - er pluck me from his hand;



My comfort - er my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.
For ev - 'ry sin on him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.
For I am his and he is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.
'Til he re - turns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

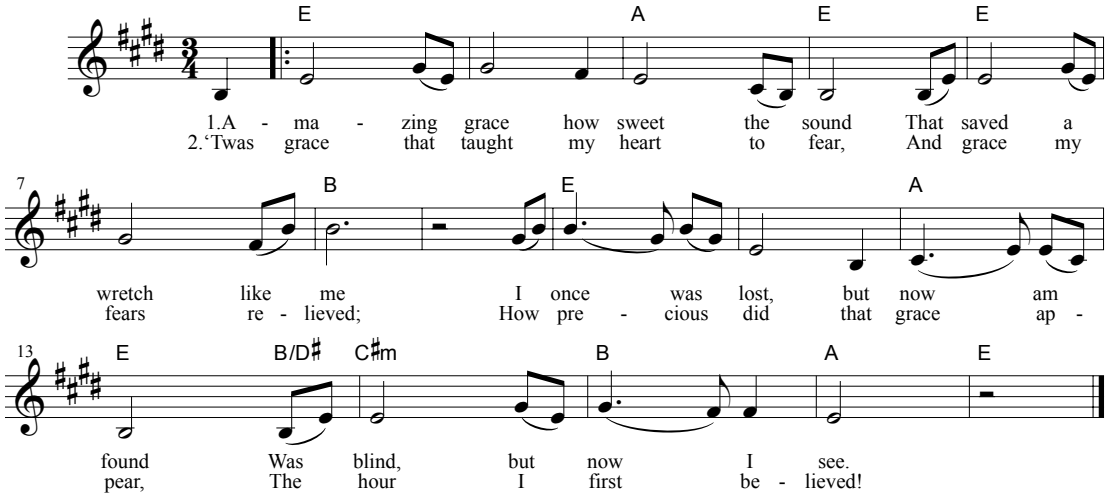
How Deep the Father's Love For Us

Stuart Townend



Amazing Grace

Words: John Newton & John Rees / Traditional American Tune



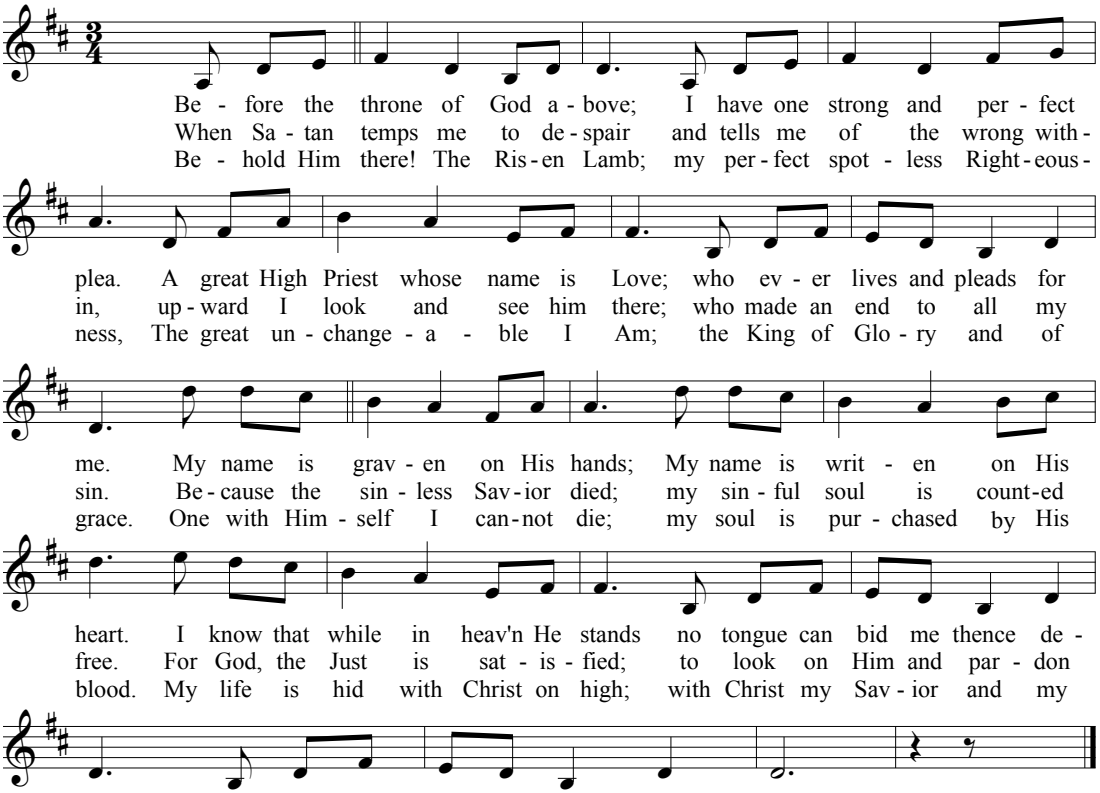
3. Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

4. And when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease;
I shall possess within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

5.When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise,
Than when we've first begun.

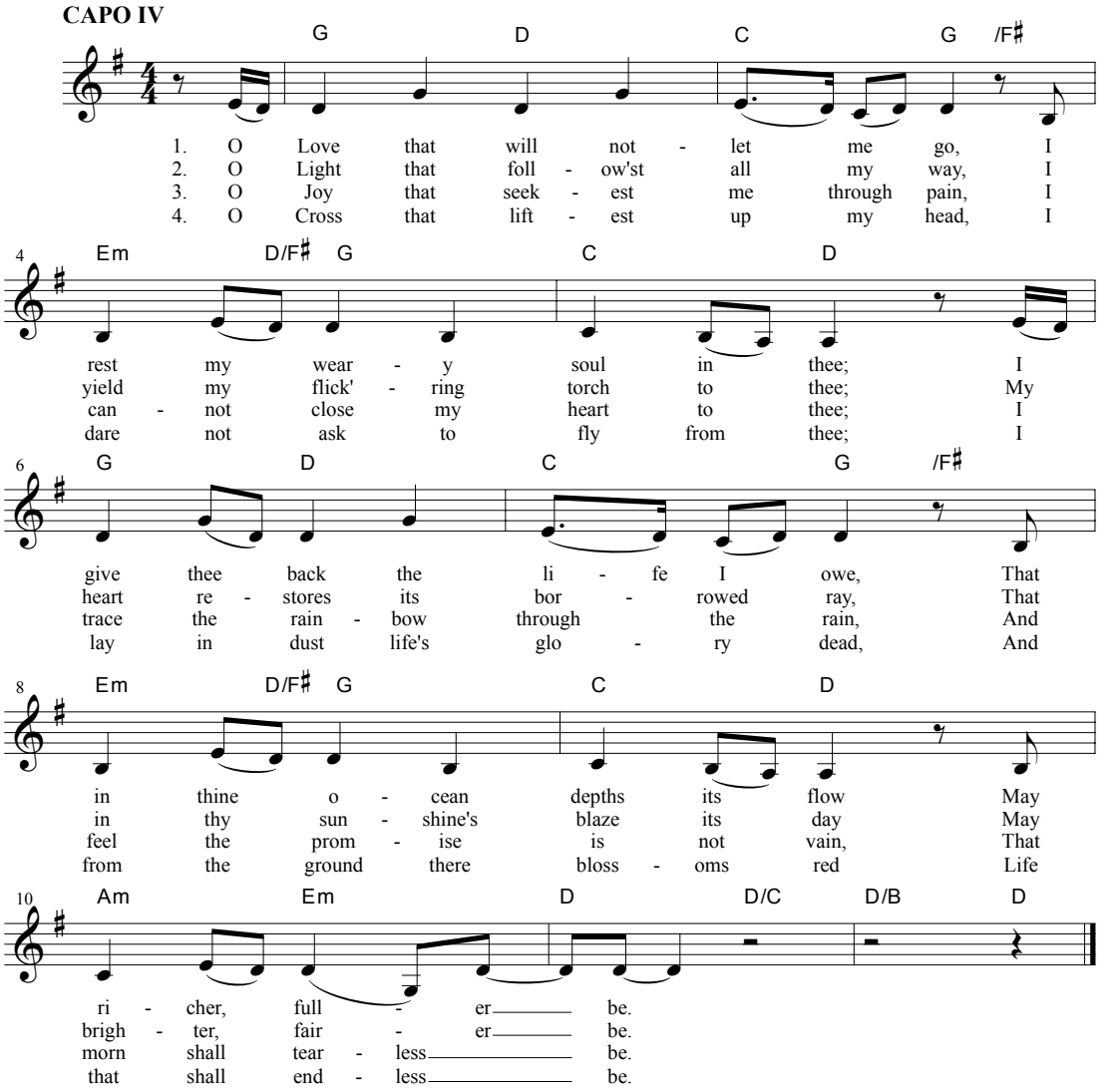
Before the Throne of God Above

Charatie Bancroft / William Badbury



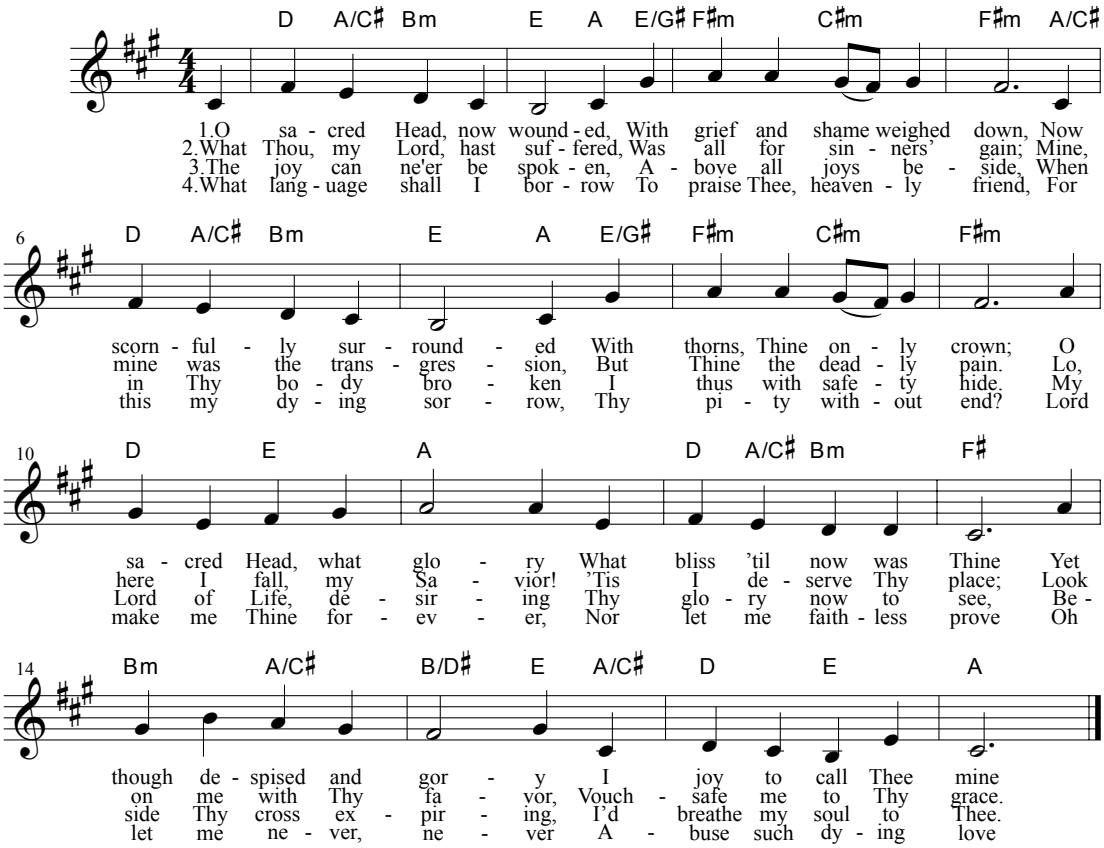
O Love that Will Not Let Me Go

Words: George Matheson / Music: Christopher Miner



O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Words: Bernard of Clairvaux / Trans. Jaems Alexander / Music: Hans Leo Hassler

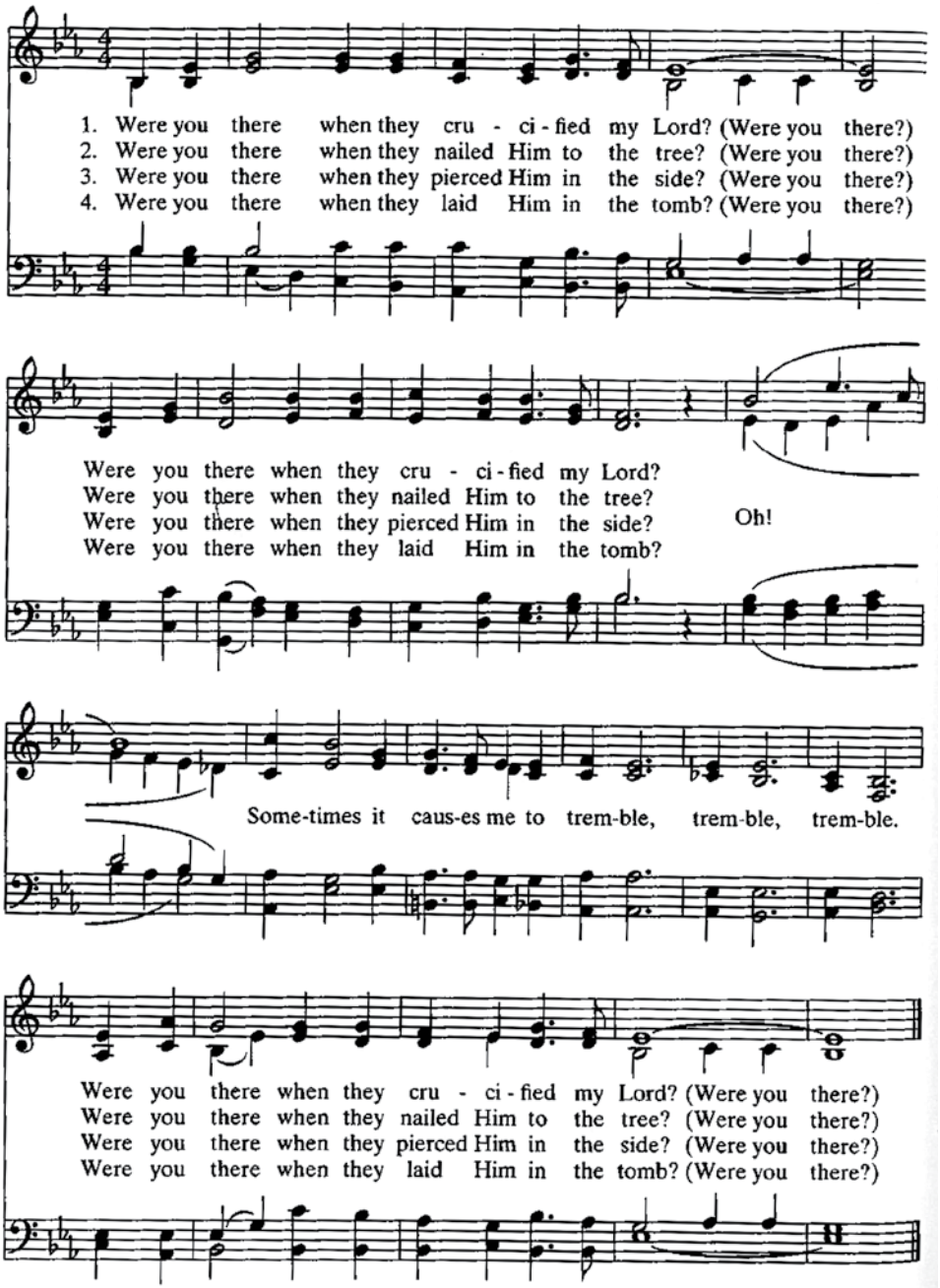


5. Forbid that I should leave Thee
O Jesus leave not me!
By faith I would receive Thee
Thy blood can make me free
When strength and comfort languish
And I must hence depart
Release me then from anguish
By Thine own wounded heart

6. Be near when I am dying
Oh show Thy cross to me
And for my succor flying
Come Lord and set me free
These eyes new faith receiving
From Jesus shall not move
For he who dies believing
Dies safely, through Thy love

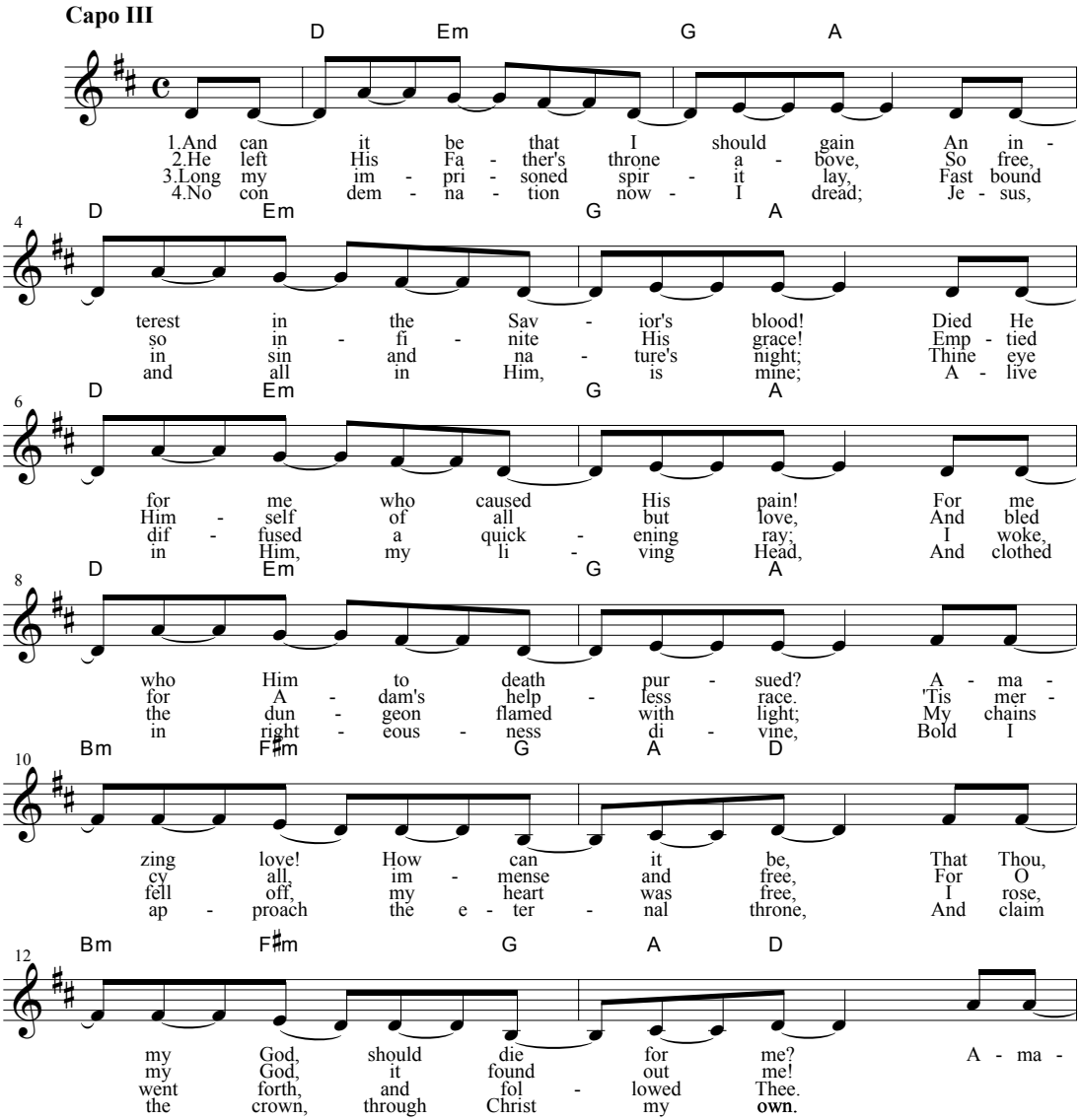
Were You There

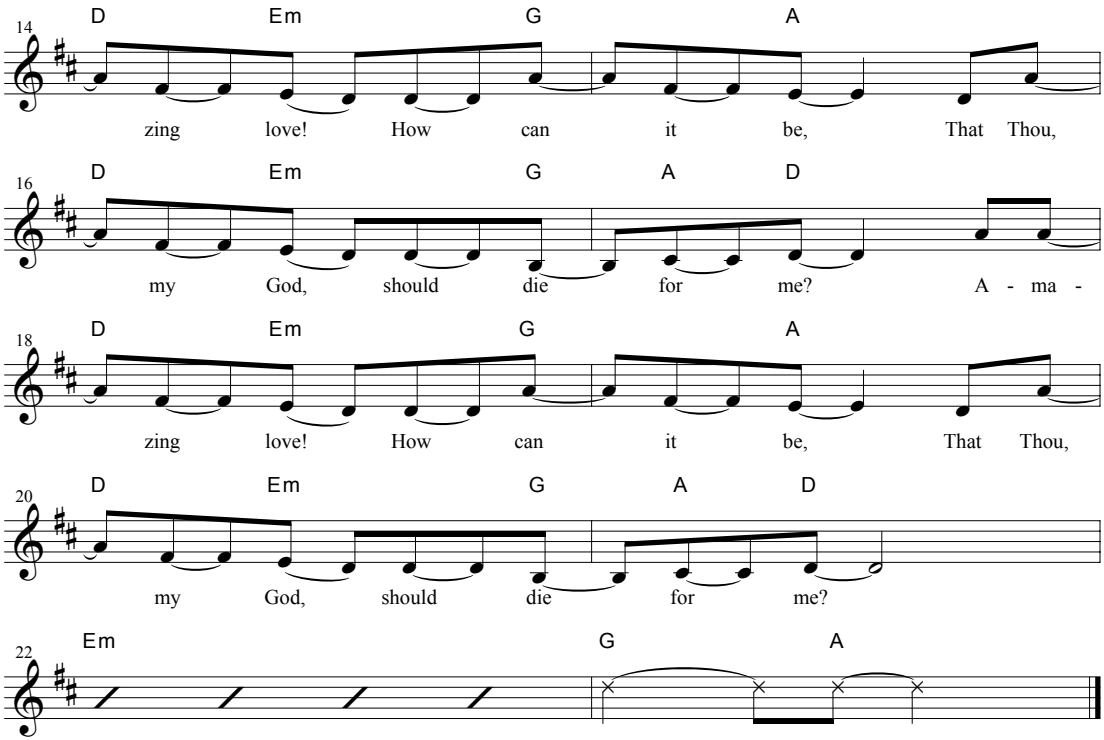
African-American Spiritual / Arr. Melva Wilson Costen



And Can It Be

Words: Charles Wesley / Music: Scott Roley




14
D Em G A
zing love! How can it be, That Thou,
16
D Em G A D
my God, should die for me? A - ma -
18
D Em G A
zing love! How can it be, That Thou,
20
D Em G A D
my God, should die for me?
22
Em G A

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