

Centurion:

Darkness....It was the darkness that made me notice; a deep, oppressive darkness that settled over the entire land. Something was different here. As a centurion, I tended to many crucifixions, and I had grown calloused to pain and suffering. But it wasn't the anguish of this victim that gripped me, though that was indeed present, it was the peace, the control, and above all, the love. It made this seeming tragedy an event of "worship". As the darkness descended, He looked down upon my men, trained in brutality, the source of His agony, and then asked His father to forgive them. Stunned, I looked about for His father, doubtless someone of great power with a capacity to forgive such barbaric action, but I saw no one.

I did see His mother, as did He, weeping at His feet. In total tenderness, He asked a friend to care for her and take her as his own. Then He comforted the poor thieves who were hanging next to Him and promised to meet them in paradise. There was no self-serving pity here, only concern for others.

Who was this man? The sign above His head proclaimed, "King of the Jews". It was strange. If He was their king, why were they killing Him?

From the depths of this scene mixed so oddly with hope and despair, there came a loud cry, an awful cry, "My God, my God! Why hast thou forsaken me?" Some of my men thought He called for Elias the prophet, and offered Him vinegar to drink, but not I. I came closer to look at this man who knew God so well.

As I drew near, He uttered his final words. "It is finished. Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." There it was again. Father. Could it be...dare I think it?

But my thoughts were interrupted by a storm's dark rumble which suddenly grew louder and more violent. I was scarcely able to stand, for the ground heaved and groaned beneath me. The earth itself seemed to be in terrible mourning over the death of this man. A mortal man? (music begins) No. A new thought swelled in my heart, bringing tears to my eyes and joy to my soul.

I looked again into the face of the one on the cross. "Truly, this was the Son of God!"

CALVARY (Gethsemane Reprise)

SATB with Violin or Flute

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The musical score is written for SATB choir and piano. It begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 120 and the instruction *Cantando*. The piano accompaniment starts with a dynamic of *mf* and includes a *poco accelerando* section. The vocal parts enter with the lyrics: "For truly, He is the Son of God, Wor - thy of". The score includes dynamics such as *f* and *p*, and performance directions like *cresc.*, *rit.*, and *f*. The piece concludes with a final *f* dynamic.

won - drous awe, — Fill - ing e - ter - nal law.

dimin.

flute or violin 21

mf 21

His an - guish — suf - fered on Cal - va - ry, — Dy - ing in ag - o - ny, —

mf

21

rit. *mf* *a tempo*

29

— Pay - ing the price for me. For sure - ly — He gave His life for me,

cresc. **f** *rit.*

Ans - wered the call for me, — Of - fered His all for me. — And

38 *Broadly*

38 *Broadly*

glad - ly — I'll give my life to Him, — Ans - wer the call from Him, — Of - fer my

38 *Broadly*

ff. *molto dim. e rit.* *Tempo I 49* *p*

ff. *Tempo I 49* *p*

ff all to Him. — *p* My Sa - vior bled for me, —

ff *molto dim. e rit.* *Tempo I 49* *p*

cresc. *mp*

cresc. *mp*

— Up - on the cross for me. He lived and died for me. I'll live for Him. —

cresc. *mp*