

Libretto

# The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

According to St. John



WILLIAM HAWLEY

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Oratorio In Two Parts

Based upon the Authorized King James Version of  
The Gospel of John,  
Revelation, Zechariah, Psalms,  
English and American Verse,  
and Traditional Hymns.

Texts Selected by William Hawley

## Voices

### Soloists:

Soprano (solos),  
Mezzo-Soprano (solos),  
Tenor (Servant, solos),  
Baritone (Jesus),  
Bass (Peter, Pilate, Officer, solos)

### Evangelist Choir

(4S 4A 4T 4B)

### Chorus

(SSAATTBB)

## Orchestra

2 Flutes  
2 Oboes  
2 Clarinets in B $\flat$   
2 Bassoons  
2 Horns in F  
2 Trumpets in B $\flat$   
2 Trombones  
1 Bass Trombone

Timpani

Harp

Organ

Strings

## Part I

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

<b>Chorus</b>	John 1:1	In the beginning was the Word, and the Word as with God, and the Word was God. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
	1:14	And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. And we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
	1:16	And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace.
	3:16-17	For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.
<b>Jesus</b>	17:25-26	O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.
<b>Choir</b>	18:1-2	When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples. And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples.
<b>Chorus</b>	Christina Rossetti	<p>Leaf from leaf Christ knows; Himself the Lily and the Rose: Sheep from sheep Christ tells; Himself the shepherd, no one else: Star and star He names, Himself outblazing all their flames: Dove by dove, he calls To set each on the golden walls: Drop by drop He counts The flood of ocean as it mounts: Grain by grain His hand Numbers the innumerable sand Lord, I lift to Thee In peace what is and what shall be: Lord, in peace I trust To Thee all spirits and all dust.</p>
<b>Choir</b>	John 18:3-9	Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons. Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them,
<b>Jesus</b>		Whom seek ye?
<b>Choir</b>		They answered him,
<b>Chorus</b>		Jesus of Nazareth.
<b>Choir</b>		Jesus saith unto them,
<b>Jesus</b>		I am he.

<b>Choir</b>		And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground. Then asked he them again,
<b>Jesus</b>		Whom seek ye?
<b>Choir</b>		And they said,
<b>Chorus</b>		Jesus of Nazareth.
<b>Choir</b>		Jesus answered,
<b>Jesus</b>		I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way:
<b>Choir</b>		That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none.
<b>Duet: Soprano and Mezzo- Soprano Soloists</b>	George Herbert, "Virtue"	Sweet day, so cool, so calm, so bright, The bridal of the earth and sky; The dew shall weep thy fall to night; For thou must die.  Sweet rose, whose hue angry and brave Bids the rash gazer wipe his eye: Thy root is ever in its grave, And thou must die.  Sweet spring, full of sweet days and roses, A box where sweets compacted lie; My music shows ye have your closes, And all must die.  Only a sweet and virtuous soul, Like seasoned timber, never gives; But though the whole world turn to coal, Then chiefly lives.
<b>Chorus</b>		
<b>Choir</b>	John 18:10-11	Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. Then said Jesus unto Peter,
<b>Jesus</b>		Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?
<b>Choir</b>	John 18:12-14	Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him, And led him away to Annas first; for he was father in law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year. Now Caiaphas was he, which gave counsel to the Jews, that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.
<b>Choir, Chorus</b>	Anglican Hymn	Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended, That man to judge thee hath in hate pretended? By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted. Amen
<b>Choir</b>	John 18:15-18	And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple: that disciple was known unto the high priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest. But Peter stood at the door without. Then went out that other disciple, which was known unto the high priest, and spake unto her that kept the door, and brought in Peter. Then saith the damsel that kept the door unto Peter, Art not thou also one of this man's disciples? He saith,
<b>Peter (B. Solo)</b>		I am not.
<b>Choir</b>		And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself.

<b>Soprano, Mezzo- Soprano, Tenor, Bass Soloists</b>	Christina Rossetti, “Vigil of St. Peter”	<p>O Jesu, gone so far apart Only my heart can follow Thee, That look which pierced St. Peter’s heart Now turn on me.</p> <p>Thou who dost search me through and through And mark the crooked ways I went, Look on me Lord, and make me too Thy penitent.</p> <p>O Jesu, better than Thy saints Art Thou Thine only Self to us! The heart faints and the spirit faints For only Thee, all-Glorious.</p>
<b>Choir</b>	John 18: 19-25	The high priest then asked Jesus of his disciples, and of his doctrine. Jesus answered him,
<b>Jesus</b>		I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing. Why askest thou me? Ask them which heard me, what I have said unto them: behold, they know what I said.
<b>Choir</b>		And when he had thus spoken, one of the officers which stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying,
<b>Officer (B. Solo)</b>		Answerest thou the high priest so?
<b>Choir</b>		Jesus answered him,
<b>Jesus</b>		If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil: but if well, why smitest thou me?
<b>Choir</b>		Now Annas had sent him bound unto Caiaphas the high priest. And Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. They said therefore unto him, Art not thou also one of his disciples? He denied it, and said,
<b>Peter (B. Solo)</b>		I am not.
<b>Soprano Solo</b>	William Hawley, “Song of Peter’s Soul”	<p>Jesus mine, Jesus mine, How came I to deny thee? Redeemer mine, Saviour mine, Shall I go on without thee? Thou prophesied, One would betray thee, Judas was he, yet I too Have betrayed thee.</p> <p>Christus mine, Christus mine, What will become of thee? Counselor mine, Lamb of mine, Shall I never again see thee? Thou prophesied, One would deny thee, I am he, and I now Have betrayed thee.</p>
<b>Choir</b>	John 18:26-30	One of the servants of the high priest, being his kinsman whose ear Peter cut off, saith,
<b>Servant (T. Solo)</b>		Did not I see thee in the garden with him?

<b>Choir</b>		Peter then denied again: and immediately the cock crew. Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover. Pilate then went out unto them, and said,
<b>Pilate</b>		What accusation bring ye against this man?
<b>Choir</b>		They answered and said unto him,
<b>Chorus</b>		If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee.
<b>Choir, Chorus</b>	Patti Smith, "Wild Leaves"	<p>Wild leaves are falling  Falling to the ground  Every leaf a moment  A light upon the crown  That we'll all be wearing  In a time unbound  And wild leaves are falling  Falling to the ground</p> <p>Every word that's spoken  Every word decreed  Every spell that's broken  Every golden deed  All the parts we're playing  Binding as the reed  And wild leaves are falling  Wild wild leaves</p> <p>The spirits that are mentioned  The myths that have been shorn  Everything we've been through  And the colors worn  Every chasm entered  Every story wound  And wild leaves are falling  Falling to the ground</p> <p>As the campfire's burning  As the fire ignites  All the moments turning  In the stormy bright  Well enough the churning  When enough believe  The coming and the going  Wild wild leaves</p>
<b>Choir</b>	John 18:31-40	Then said Pilate unto them,
<b>Pilate</b>		Take ye him, and judge him according to your law.
<b>Choir</b>		The Jews therefore said unto him,
<b>Chorus</b>		It is not lawful for us to put any man to death:
<b>Choir</b>		That the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spake, signifying what death he should die. Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him,
<b>Pilate</b>		Art thou the King of the Jews?
<b>Choir</b>		Jesus answered him,
<b>Jesus</b>		Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me?

<b>Choir</b>		Pilate answered,
<b>Pilate</b>		Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done?
<b>Choir</b>		Jesus answered,
<b>Jesus</b>		My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.
<b>Choir</b>		Pilate therefore said unto him,
<b>Pilate</b>		Art thou a king then?
<b>Choir</b>		Jesus answered,
<b>Jesus</b>		Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.
<b>Choir</b>		Pilate saith unto him,
<b>Pilate</b>		What is truth?
<b>.Choir</b>		And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them,
<b>Pilate</b>		I find in him no fault at all. But ye have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the passover: will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews?
<b>Choir</b>		Then cried they all again, saying,
<b>Chorus</b>		Not this man, but Barabbas.
<b>Choir</b>		Now Barabbas was a robber.
<b>Chorus</b>	Revelation 1:7; John 1:51;  Revelation 2:10	Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.  Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.
<b>Soloists, Choir, Chorus</b>	George Herbert, "Heaven" lines 1-8	O who will show me those delights on high? Echo. I. Thou Echo, thou art mortal, all men know. Echo. No. Wert thou not born among the trees and leaves? Echo. Leaves. And are there any leaves, that still abide? Echo. Bide.
<b>Soprano, Mezzo- Soprano Soloists, Chorus</b>	John Milton, "Paradise Lost", Book III, Lines 1-12	Hail, holy Light, offspring of Heaven first-born! Or of the Eternal coeternal beam May I express thee unblamed? since God is light, And never but in unapproachèd light Dwelt from eternity, dwelt then in thee, Bright effluence of bright essence increate Or hear'st thou rather pure Ethereal Stream, Whose fountain who shall tell? Before the Sun, Before the Heavens, thou wert, and at the voice Of God, as with a mantle, didst invest The rising World of waters dark and deep, Won from the void and formless Infinite!

<b>Chorus</b>	213-216	Say, Heavenly Powers, where shall we find such love? Which of ye will be mortal, to redeem Man's mortal crime, and just, the unjust to save? Dwells in all Heaven charity so dear?
	51-55	So much the rather thou Celestial light Shine inward, and the mind through all her powers Irradiate, there plant eyes, all mist from thence Purge and disperse, that I may see and tell Of things invisible to mortal sight.
Revelation 2:10		Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.





## Part II

non turbetur cor vestrum

<b>Chorus</b>	John 14:1-4	Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.
<b>Choir</b>	John 19:1-3	Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him. And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, and said,
<b>Chorus</b>		Hail, King of the Jews !
<b>Choir</b>		And they smote him with their hands.
<b>Chorus</b>	Hymnal 1940 (75) (Gerhardt/Bridges/ Hassler)	O sacred head, sore wounded, Defiled and put to scorn; O kingly head surrounded With mocking crown of thorn: What sorrow mars thy grandeur? Can death thy bloom deflower? O countenance whose splendor The hosts of heav'n adore!
	Thomas O'Hagan, from "The Crowning With Thorns" (1886)	Who plucked you from your stem, ye thorns, to twine The ruthless Diadem? Whose fingers pressed Your downward points upon His forehead blessed? 'Twas chance that chose you, but the guilt was mine.  These hands, these hands, around that brow divine Did plait your cruel crown; the root my breast, Wherein your evil harvest reared its crest; And thence I took you for the fell design.
<b>Choir</b>	John 19: 4	Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them,
<b>Pilate</b> (B. Solo)		Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him.
<b>Choir</b>	John 19: 5-12	Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them,
<b>Pilate</b>		Behold the man!
<b>Choir</b>		When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying,
<b>Chorus</b>		Crucify him, crucify him.
<b>Choir</b>		Pilate saith unto them,
<b>Pilate</b>		Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him.
<b>Choir</b>		The Jews answered him,
<b>Chorus</b>		We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.

<b>Choir</b>		When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid; and went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus,
<b>Pilate</b>		Whence art thou?
<b>Choir</b>		But Jesus gave him no answer. Then saith Pilate unto him,
<b>Pilate</b>		Speakest thou not unto me? Knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?
<b>Choir</b>		Jesus answered,
<b>Jesus</b>		Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.
<b>Choir</b>		And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him:
<b>Soprano Soloist, Chorus</b>	Emily Dickinson	This world is not conclusion; A sequel stands beyond, Invisible, as music, but positive, as sound. It beckons and it baffles; Philosophies don't know, And through a riddle, at the last, Sagacity must go. To guess it puzzles scholars; To gain it, men have shown Contempt of generations, And crucifixion known.
<b>Choir</b>	John 19: 12-16	but the Jews cried out, saying,
<b>Chorus</b>		If thou let this man go, thou art not Cæsar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Cæsar.
<b>Choir</b>		When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. And it was the preparation of the Passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews,
<b>Pilate</b>		Behold your King!
<b>Choir</b>		But they cried out,
<b>Chorus</b>		Away with him, away with him, crucify him.
<b>Choir</b>		Pilate saith unto them,
<b>Pilate</b>		Shall I crucify your King?
<b>Choir</b>		The chief priests answered,
<b>Chorus</b>		We have no king but Cæsar.
<b>Choir</b>		Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away.
<b>Tenor Soloist, Choir, Chorus</b>	William Wordsworth (from "Ode. Intimations of Immortality")	Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting: The Soul that rises with us, our life's Star, Hath had elsewhere its setting, And cometh from afar: Not in entire forgetfulness, And not in utter nakedness, But trailing clouds of glory do we come From God, who is our home.

Choir	John 19: 17-27	And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst. And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin. Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate,
Chorus		Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews.
Choir		Pilate answered,
Pilate		What I have written I have written.
Choir		Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout.
Choir		They said therefore among themselves,
Chorus		Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be:
Choir		that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.
Choir		Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother,
Jesus		Woman, behold thy son!
Choir		Then saith he to the disciple,
Jesus		Behold thy mother!
Choir		And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.
Chorus	T.S. Eliot, from "Ash Wednesday" (1930)	Lady of silences Calm and distressed Torn and most whole Rose of memory Rose of forgetfulness Exhausted and life-giving Worried reposeful The single Rose Is now the Garden Where all loves end Terminate torment Of love unsatisfied The greater torment Of love satisfied End of the endless Journey to no end Conclusion of all that Is inconclusible Speech without word and Word of no speech Grace to the Mother For the Garden Where all love ends.

<b>Choir</b>	John 19: 28-30	After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith,
<b>Jesus</b>		I thirst.
<b>Choir</b>		Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said,
<b>Jesus</b>		It is finished:
<b>Choir</b>		and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.
<b>Choir, Chorus</b>	Emily Dickinson	At least to pray is left, is left. O Jesus! in the air I know not which thy chamber is, I'm knocking everywhere. Thou stirrest earthquake in the South, And maelstrom in the sea; Say, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Hast thou no arm for me?
<b>Choir</b>	John 19: 31-37	<p>The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day (for that Sabbath day was an high day), besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.</p> <p>Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.</p> <p>But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:</p> <p>But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.</p> <p>And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.</p> <p>For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled,</p>
<b>Soloists</b>		A bone of him shall not be broken.
<b>Choir</b>		And again another scripture saith,
<b>Soloists</b>		They shall look on him whom they pierced.
<b>Choir</b>	Revelation 1:7	And every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him.
<b>Soloists</b>	Zechariah 12:10	And they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.
<b>Choir</b>	John 19: 38-42	<p>And after this Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.</p> <p>And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight.</p> <p>Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.</p> <p>Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid.</p>

There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

**Chorus,  
Choir,  
Soloists**

George  
Herbert,  
from  
"Sepulchre"  
(first and last  
stanzas)

O blessèd body! Whither art thou thrown?  
No lodging for thee, but a cold hard stone?  
So many hearts on earth, and yet not one

Receive thee?

Yet do we still persist as we began,  
And should so perish, but that nothing can,  
Though it be cold, hard, from loving man  
Withhold thee.

**Chorus**

Hymnal 1940  
(69)  
(Fletcher/Gibbons)

Drop, drop, slow tears  
And bathe those beauteous feet  
Which brought from heaven  
The news and Prince of Peace.

**Choir,  
Soloists**

Revelation 21:4

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

**Chorus,  
Choir,  
Soloists**

Hymnal 1940  
(482)  
(Smith/Butler)  
"Sursum Corda"

"Lift up your hearts!" We lift them, Lord, to thee;  
Here at thy feet none other may we see.  
"Lift up your hearts!" E'en so, with one accord,  
We lift them up, we lift them to the Lord.

Revelation 22:3-5

And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him.  
And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.  
And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

