

Christ, Who Saves Us by His Cross

Christus, der uns selig macht

Michael Weisse, 1531
after *Patris sapientia*

Michael Weisse, 1531; tr. composite

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The music is in common time (C) and the key signature has one sharp (F#). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the final four lines of the hymn. The music is a simple, homophonic setting of the text.

1 Christ, who saves us by His cross, And no sin com-mit - ted, In the dark of night for us
2 At the morn-ing's dawn-ing hour, As a rogue de-pict - ed, Christ was un - der Pi - late's pow'r
3 Then at Terce His flesh was torn, And by scour-ges fur - rowed And a cru - el crown of thorn
4 Then at Sext the Son of God In His cru - ci - fix - ion, Dressed in naught but streams of blood,
Was with shack - les fit - ted, Brought be - fore a wick-ed court False - ly charged, and smit - ten,
Brought to be con - vict - ed, Though he judged Him in - no - cent Of the charge of trea - son,
In His brow deep - bur - rowed; Mocked with robes of pur - ple rich, On all sides was chas - tised,
Prayed with great af - flic - tion, Those who hung or stood in view Had Him in de - ri - sion,
Spit up - on, and mocked in sport, As in Scrip - ture writ - ten.
Yet to Her - od was He sent Urged by mur - d'rous rea - son.
Made to bear the cross to which He would soon be fas - tened.
Till the sun her beams with - drew From so sad a vi - sion.

5 Then at Nones did Jesus call,
"How I am forsaken!"
Having vinegar and gall
Tasted but not taken,
Then His ghost to God He sent,
Shook the earth with wonder,
Gave the temple vail a rent,
Cleft the rocks asunder.

6 At the hour of Vesper-tide,
Robbers' shins were broken,
But a spear pierced Jesus' side,
For a lasting token:
Thence both blood and water flows,
To fulfill the Scriptures,—
As John's holy Gospel shows —
All for us poor creatures.

Text (sts. 1–7): © 2010 Matthew Carver

7 When the hour of Compline came,
And the day was ended,
Joseph took his Savior's frame
From the cross suspended,
Laying it with custom grace
In his stony chamber,
Where guards kept it safe three days,
As Matthew remembers.

8 Grant, O Christ, Thou Son of God,
By Thy bitter Passion,
That we, as Thy pain's reward,
Joy in Thy salvation,
That we ever weigh the cause
Of Thy death and suff'ring,
Yea, for this, though poor we are,
Bring Thee our thank-off'ring!