

**A Choral Setting of the
Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke (23: 1–56)**

for SATB Choir, 6 soloists, Congregation, and Organ

David Sinden (b. 1982)

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This setting of the Luke Passion (NRSV) for choir, soloists, congregation, and organ is based on Hymn 158 from the Episcopal Hymnal 1982: "Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended." Nearly all of the material sung by the soloists and choir is derived in some way from this hymn.

The stanzas of Hymn 158 are meant to be sung by all present as indicated in the course of this setting (N.B. the full hymn is printed on the last page).

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| stanza 1 | immediately before the Passion |
| stanza 2 | before v. 13 |
| stanza 3 | before v. 26 |
| stanza 4 | before v. 32 |
| stanza 5 | before v. 48 |

The bulk of the singing is carried by the Narrator and Jesus. The Narrator and Jesus each have their own distinctive tone for the changing of the majority of their material.

Narrator tone:



Jesus' tone:



When a question is asked the tone is altered and is notated in the score. In longer recitations, the Narrator and Jesus may add intermediary tones (a flex) *ad libitum*. In the case of short recitations, such as "he said," the ending notes of the tone will need to be slurred, or the tone may be omitted and the words monotoned.

Note that when the Narrator or Jesus offer a quotation, the tone is raised. This is meant to draw a distinction between the words of the speaker and that of the quoted text. The vocal quality may be changed in these places, perhaps to a *legatissimo*, or another effect.

The final section of the Passion is sung to the traditional planctus tone in the edition of the Passion according to Luke (NRSV) edited by Bruce E. Ford (pages 21–22).

The soloists required are (in order of appearance):

Narrator tenor

Jesus bass

Pilate tenor

Criminal 1

Criminal 2 baritone

Centurion

Criminal 1 and the Centurion may be sung by any voice type.

This setting was initially composed for the Parish Choir of St. Paul's, Richmond for Palm Sunday, March 24, 2013. The current version is shortened from the original, and was prepared for the Choir of St. Peter's, St. Louis for Palm Sunday, April 14, 2019.

David Sinden
March 14, 2019
St. Louis, Mo.

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke (23: 1–56)

¶All stand.

All sing Hymn 158, stanza 1: “Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended”

¶The Congregation sits. The Choir remains standing throughout.

Narrator



The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ accord/ing to Luke.

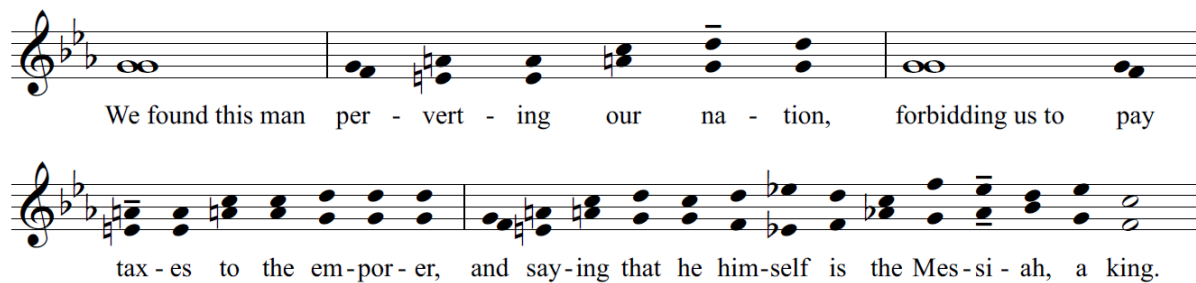
ORGAN – start drone



Narrator

Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to ac/cuse him, saying,

WOMEN OF THE CHOIR

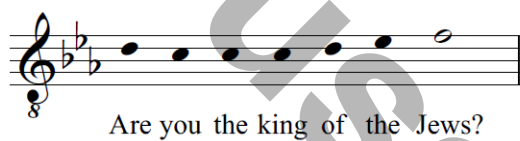


We found this man per - vert - ing our na - tion, forbidding us to pay
tax - es to the em-por - er, and say-ing that he him-self is the Mes-si - ah, a king.

Narrator

Then / Pilate asked him,

Pilate



Are you the king of the Jews?

Narrator (monotoned)

He answered,

Jesus

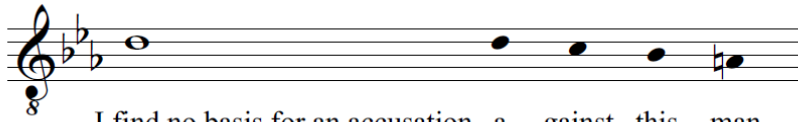


You say so.

Narrator

Then Pilate said to the chief priests / and the crowds,

Pilate



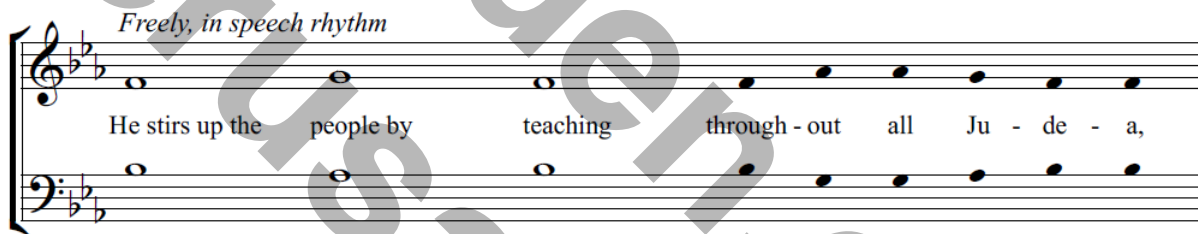
I find no basis for an accusation a - gainst this man.

Narrator

But they were insis/tent and said,

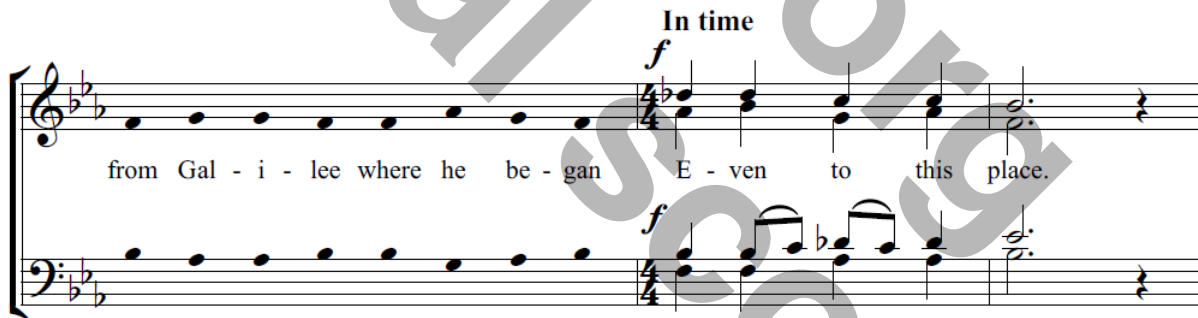
FULL CHOIR

Freely, in speech rhythm



He stirs up the people by teaching through - out all Ju - de - a,

In time



from Gal - i - lee where he be - gan E - ven to this place.

Narrator

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently

accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they / had been enemies.

All sing Hymn 158, stanza 2: “Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?”

ORGAN – start drone

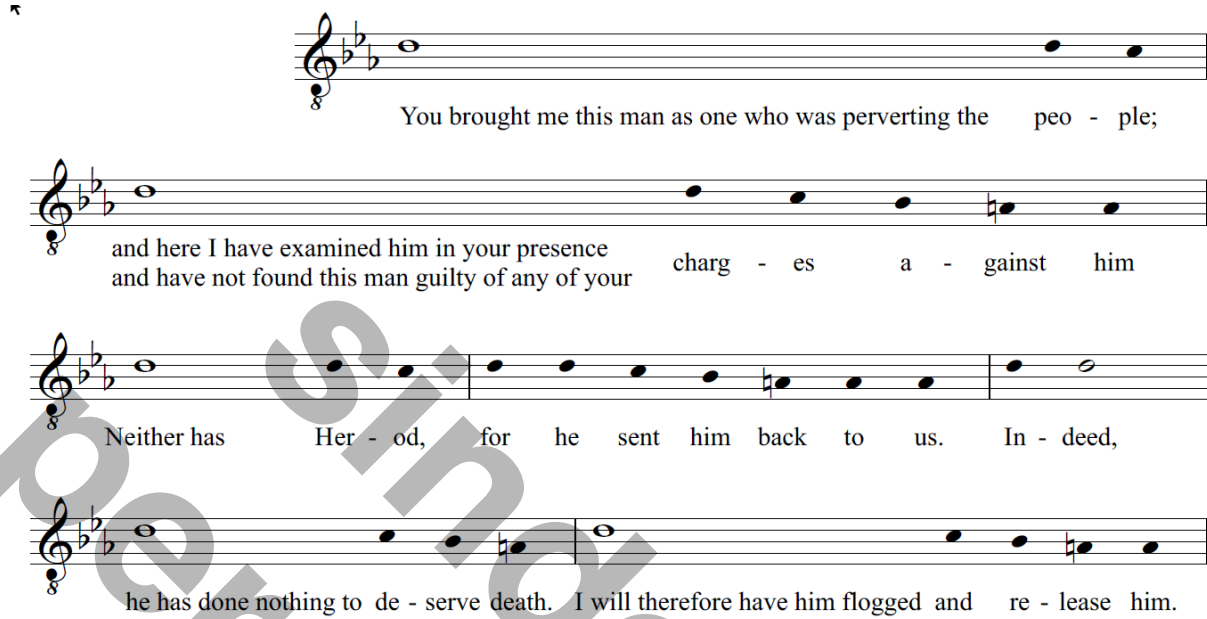


Narrator

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and / said to them,

Pilate

8



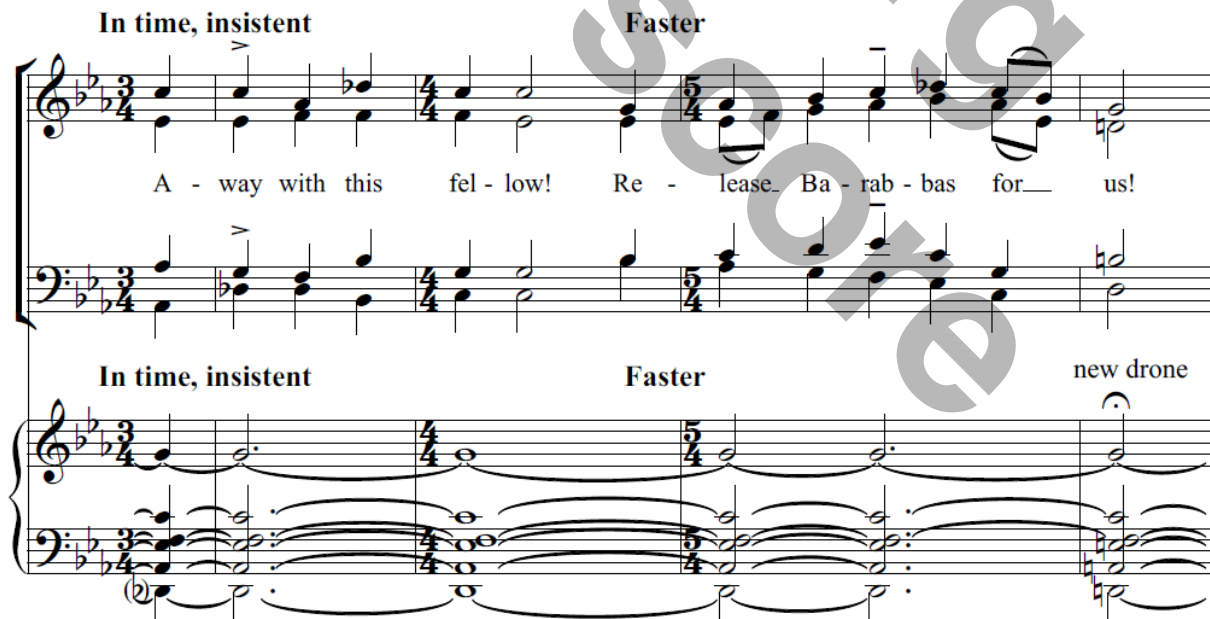
You brought me this man as one who was perverting the peo - ple;
and here I have examined him in your presence
and have not found this man guilty of any of your
charg - es a - gainst him
Neither has Her - od, for he sent him back to us. In - deed,
he has done nothing to de - serve death. I will therefore have him flogged and re - lease him.

Narrator

Then they all shouted / out together,

FULL CHOIR – with ORGAN change

In time, insistent **Faster**



A - way with this fel - low! Re - lease Ba - rab - bas for us!

In time, insistent **Faster** **new drone**

Narrator

(This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but / they kept shouting,

gradually release lower pitches during this section new drone

Organ

Ped.

The image shows a musical score for an organ. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The music features a series of sustained notes in the bass clef, with a 'Ped.' (pedal) marking below. The notes in the treble clef are sustained as well. Above the staves, there are two performance instructions: 'gradually release lower pitches during this section' and 'new drone'.

FULL CHOIR

Deliberately

Cru - ci - fy, cru - ci - fy — him!

The image shows a musical score for a full choir. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The music is marked 'Deliberately'. The lyrics are 'Cru - ci - fy, cru - ci - fy — him!'. The score includes a change in time signature from 4/4 to 3/4 in the second measure.

Narrator

A third time he / said to them,

Pilate

Why, what e - vil has he done?

I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death,

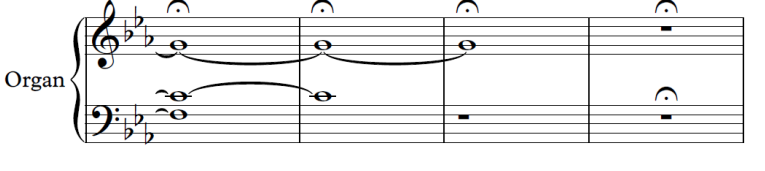
I will therefore have him flogged and then re - lease him.

The image shows a musical score for Pilate. It consists of three staves, all in treble clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The first staff has the lyrics 'Why, what e - vil has he done?'. The second staff has the lyrics 'I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death,'. The third staff has the lyrics 'I will therefore have him flogged and then re - lease him.'.

Narrator

But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over / as they wished.

gradually release lower pitches and stop playing during this section



Organ

The image shows a musical score for an organ. It consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The music is a drone consisting of a single note in the treble staff and a single note in the bass staff. The notes are connected by a long horizontal line with a slur above it, indicating a sustained sound. The notes are positioned on the second line of the treble staff (F4) and the second space of the bass staff (B3). The drone starts in the first measure, continues through the second and third measures, and then stops in the fourth measure. Above the first three measures, there is a text instruction: "gradually release lower pitches and stop playing during this section".

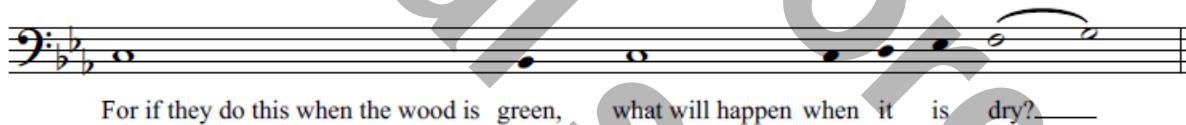
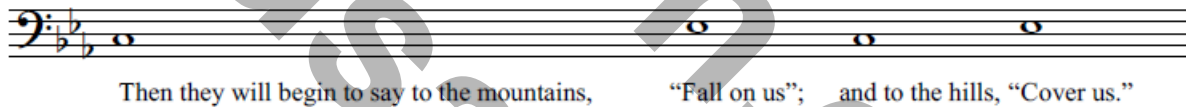
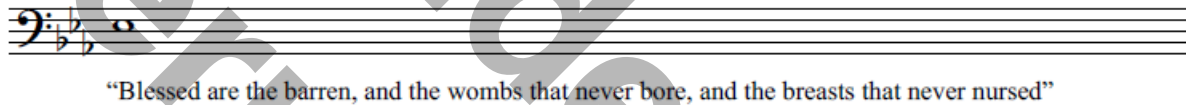
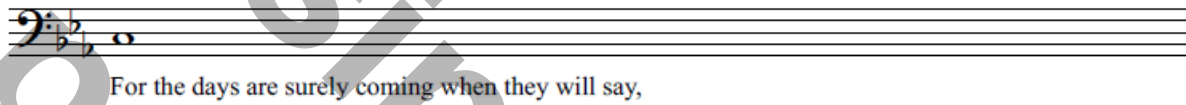
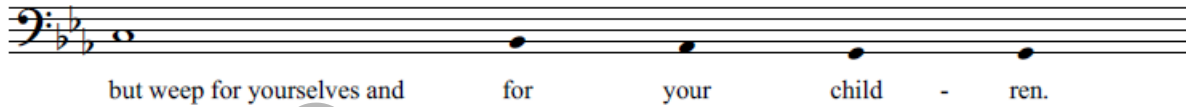
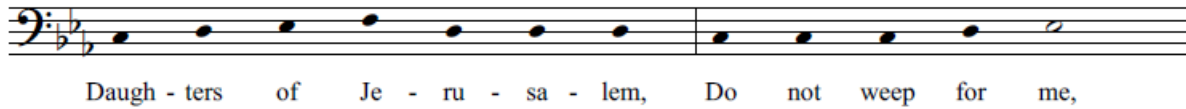
All sing Hymn 158, stanza 3: "Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered"

Narrator

(this section begins without an organ drone)

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to / them and said,

Jesus




¶The Congregation stands for the hymn stanza.

All sing Hymn 158, stanza 4: "For me, kind Jesus, was thy incarnation"

¶All remain standing after the hymn stanza for the remainder of the Passion.

ORGAN – start drone



Organ

Ped. 16' only (both notes in pedal)


The image shows a musical score for an organ drone. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The treble staff contains a whole rest. The bass staff contains a whole note chord consisting of two notes: a G2 (one ledger line below) and a B1 (two ledger lines below). A brace under the bass staff indicates that both notes are to be played in the pedal.

Narrator

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then / Jesus said,

Jesus

Jesus' tone:



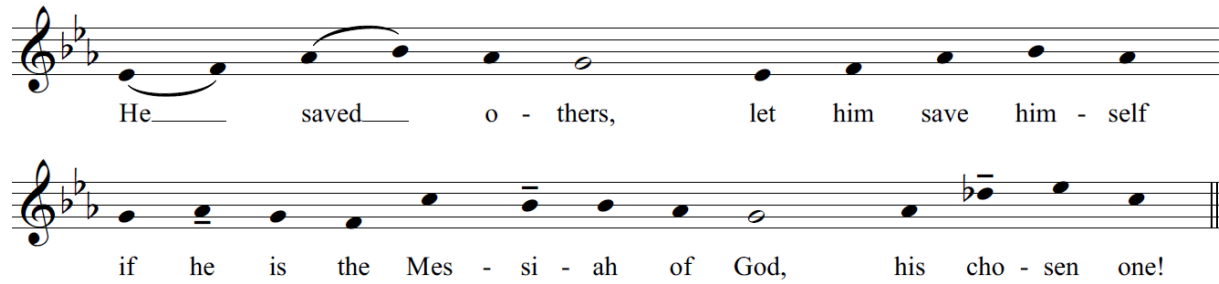
The image shows a musical notation for Jesus' tone on a single bass clef staff. The key signature has two flats. The notation consists of a whole note G2 (one ledger line below), followed by a slash, then a quarter note G2, a quarter note F2, a quarter note E2, and two dotted quarter notes G2 and F2.

“Father, forgive them; for they do not know what / they are doing.”

Narrator

And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed / at him, saying,

WOMEN OF THE CHOIR

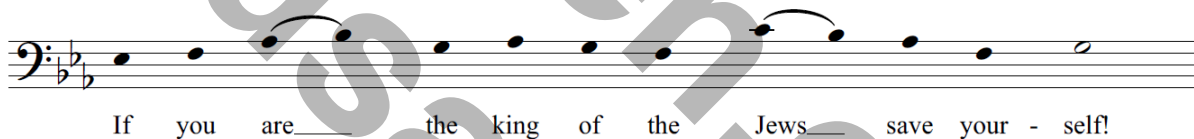


He saved o - thers, let him save him - self
if he is the Mes - si - ah of God, his cho - sen one!

Narrator

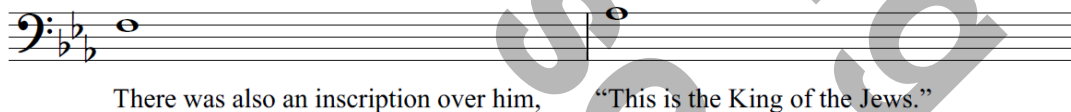
The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour / wine, and saying,

MEN OF THE CHOIR



If you are the king of the Jews save your - self!

Narrator



There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding / him and saying,

Criminal 1

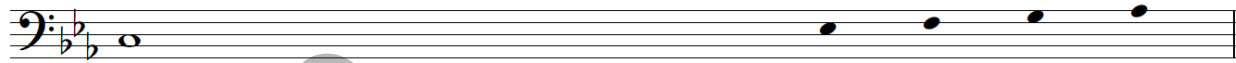


Are you not the Mes - si - ah? Save your - self and us!

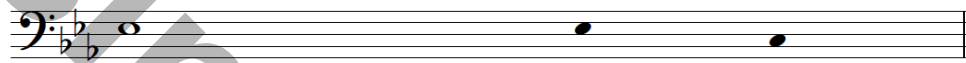
Narrator

But the other re/buked him, saying,

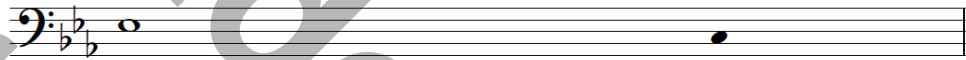
Criminal 2



Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of con - dem - na - tion?



And we indeed have been condemned just - ly,



for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds,

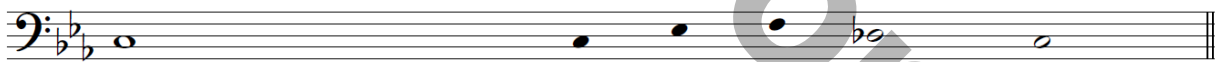


but this man has done no - thing wrong.

Narrator (monotoned)

Then he said,

Criminal 2



Jesus, remember me when you come in - to your king - dom

Narrator (monotoned)

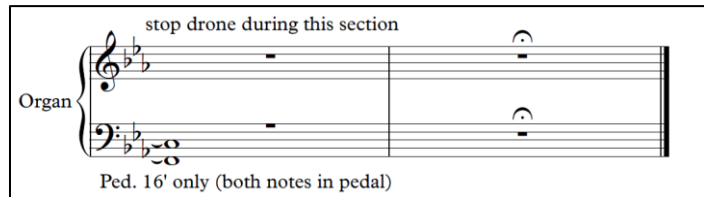
He replied,

Jesus

“Truly I tell you, today you will be with / me in Paradise.”

Narrator

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun’s light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a / loud voice, said,



The image shows a musical score for an organ. It consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into two measures. In the first measure, there are rests on both staves. In the second measure, there are whole notes on both staves. Above the first measure, the text "stop drone during this section" is written. Below the second measure, the text "Ped. 16' only (both notes in pedal)" is written.

Jesus

“Father, into your hands I com/mend my spirit.”

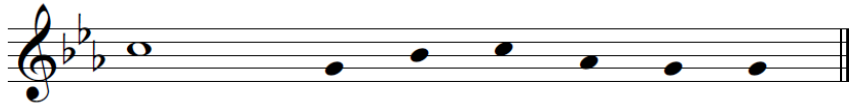
Narrator

Having said this, he breathed his last.

¶All keep a profound silence for a time. Then the Narrator continues.

When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised / God and said,

Centurion



Certainly this man was in - no - cent.

All sing Hymn 158, stanza 5: "Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee"

perusal score
sinden.org

¶Following the singing of the final stanza of the hymn, the Narrator concludes the Passion using the traditional planctus tone (see next page).

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perusal score