



# The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ

PART IV

Ray Vincent Adams

*Libretto by Cynthia Bourgeault*

## Part IV On the Cross

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**Narrator:** And they led him away to be crucified,  
Lk 23:26-7 To the place called Golgatha, the Skull.  
Wailing and mourning, the women who loved him  
Followed behind him, those few who still cared.

**Jesus:** Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me;  
Lk 23:28-9 Weep for yourselves and for your children.  
The time will come when you will say,  
'Blessed are the barren women, the wombs  
that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.'  
*(Women's chorus may repeat.)*

**Narrator:** Two criminals, were also crucified there beside him,  
Lk 23:32-3 One on his right, the other on his left.  
Upon his head, a crown of thorns,  
Above him t hung a sign:

**Men's Chorus:** *(a chant, building from a hissing whisper)*  
JESUS OF NAZARETH, KING OF THE JEWS

*(This merges with following, a darker reprise of the earlier "crucify" chant)*  
Mt 27:40 You, you who claimed you were the living temple,  
SAVE YOURSELF!  
Come down from the cross if you are the Son of God,  
The Chosen One, the Christ!

*(Music builds. In a brief eye of the storm, Jesus cries out)*

**Jesus:** Father, forgive them. They know not what they do.  
Lk 23:34

**Men's Chorus:** Save, save yourself if you are the Son of God.  
Mt 27:42

**1<sup>st</sup> Criminal:** He saved others; himself he cannot save

**2<sup>nd</sup> Criminal:** Do you not fear God, since you are under the same Sentence? We are punished justly for our deeds, but This man has done no wrong.

LK 23:40-1

{INSTRUMENTAL BRIDGE}

LK 23:42 Jesus, remember me when you come into Your Kingdom.

**Jesus:** Truly I tell you: today you will be with me in Paradise.

LK 23:43

{ORCHESTRAL INTERLUDE MOVES THIS GLIMMER OF PARADISE BACK TO HELL}

**Narrator:** It was now the Sixth hour, and darkness came over the Whole land. The sun ceased to shine, and the veil in The Temple that hid the Holy of Holies tore in two. At about the Ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice:

LK 23:44

**Jesus:** Eli, Eli, lama sabachtani?  
My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?

MT 27:46

**Narrator:** And he gave up his spirit.

MT 27:50

**Women's Choir:** Into your hands I commend my spirit  
For you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of Truth.

*Echoes for solo voices:*

LK 23:43 Today you shall be with me in Paradise.

MT 27:54 Truly this man was the Son of God.

*SILENCE. Then the following chorale from Convent of the Incarnation, Fairacres, Oxford, England)*

**Chorus:** In stillness nailed,  
To hold all time  
All change  
All circumstances  
To Love's embrace.