

His Last Words

SAB

Words and Music by
Ruth Elaine Schram

② With emotion ♩ = 72-76

mp

4

SA *mp*

B *mp*

Come, hear the last words spo - ken by Je - sus,

7

poco rall. *a tempo*

pre - cious Re-deem - er, dy - ing for - us. These are His last words,

poco rall. *a tempo*

10 *poco rall.* *a tempo*

faith - ful - ly re - cord - ed; we will re - mem - ber, we will not for - get.

poco rall. *a tempo*

13 3 *mf*

mf On - ly days a - go,

mf

16

mul - ti - tudes would fol - low Him for miles, just to hear the word of

18

God from His— lips. Now those lips are parched and dry.

20

(4) *poco rall.*

Now the crowd in an - ger cries, "Cru-ci-fy Him! Cru-ci-fy!"

poco rall. *mp*

23

mp a tempo

Come, hear the last words spo - ken by Je - sus, pre - cious Re-deem - er,

mp *a tempo*

26 *poco rall.* *a tempo*

dy - ing for— us. These are His last words, faith - ful-ly re-cord - ed;

poco rall. *a tempo*

29 *poco rall.* *a tempo* (5)

we will re-mem - ber, we will not for-get.

poco rall. *mf a tempo*

32 *rit.* *mp*

We will re-mem - ber, we will not for-get.

rit. *mp*



MONOLOGUE: SOLDIER

Soldier turns to face congregation. If desired, he may have a long purple cloak or garment over his arm, positioned so that a seamless section will be visible to congregation when held up.

All other characters freeze in position.

(harshly, with disgust) I've put lots of men on crosses, and I never get used to it. It's one of those parts of my job as a soldier that I do because I have to do it. No questions asked. But the sounds, the sights, the smell *(shaking head, turning up nose)*...it's disgusting.

(without emotion) A wretched way to die, too...miserable. But, *(harrumph)* murderers and thieves don't deserve anything less.

(looking at priest[s and angry mob]) These people must hate this man in the middle. I wonder what he ever did to them. *(beginning to soften slightly)* Doesn't really look like a thief or a murderer, but, then, you never can tell.

(more emotive) Had this really nice robe, too, *(holding up robe and admiring it)* woven in one piece from top to bottom. We split up his other clothes among us—the tunic, the sandals and his other garments. But this cloak! It's a beauty, almost regal. We decided rather than rip it up, we would *bet on it. *(pausing, smiling slyly, adding a tiny "ha" laugh if desired)* And, I won.

(looking down, thoughtfully; sighing) I've forgotten most of the other men that have died here. But I don't think I'll ever forget this one. He seems...more than innocent...righteous somehow. *(speculatively)* I wonder what he did to these people.

Soldier turns back to scene.

Characters resume action, focusing attention on cross.

*If desired, Soldier may say "cast lots for it" rather than "bet on it."

Father, Forgive Them

11

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6 With emotion ♩ = ca. 96

Piano introduction in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The music is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). It features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The melody begins with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, and a half note C5. The bass line begins with a half note G3, followed by a quarter note A3, a quarter note Bb3, and a half note C4. The music continues with a series of chords and moving lines, ending with a final chord of G4-Bb4-C5.

5 SA *mp*
On this hill the sun is blaz - ing.
B *mp*

Vocal and piano accompaniment for measures 5-8. The vocal parts (Soprano and Alto) are marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The piano accompaniment is also marked *mp*. The melody in the vocal parts is: G4 (half), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), C5 (half). The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand.

Piano accompaniment for measures 5-8. The piano part continues with a steady bass line and chords in the right hand, supporting the vocal melody.

9 On the cross - es the sol - diers are gaz - ing.

Vocal and piano accompaniment for measures 9-12. The vocal parts continue with the melody: G4 (half), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), C5 (half). The piano accompaniment continues with a steady bass line and chords in the right hand.

Piano accompaniment for measures 9-12. The piano part continues with a steady bass line and chords in the right hand, supporting the vocal melody.

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12

13 *mf*

Though they've seen this sight be-fore, nev - er have they

mf

mf

16 7 *poco rall.*

heard an - y - thing like Je - sus'

n.b.

n.b.

poco rall.

19 *a tempo*

words. He said, "Fa - ther, for - give them, they

a tempo

23

don't know what they do."

mf

They're just fol - low - ing

26

mf

They don't

or - ders; they're sol - diers through and through.

29

know Him, they don't re - al - ize this is God's Son. In

32

their eyes He's a crim - i - nal, con - demned to-day to

35

die. He said, "Fa - ther,"

38

Fa - ther, for -

41 8 *poco rall.*

give them."

poco rall.

44 *a tempo*

He said, "Fa - ther, for - give them." It's

a tempo

47

all part of the plan for re - demp - tion: the