

BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD

For Unison Voices, Piano, C Instrument and Cello

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KENSINGTON
John D. Horman

Cello

p

poco rit.

C Instrument

a tempo

mp

a tempo

mp a tempo

1. See him ly - ing in a man - ger, new - born ba - by
 2. See him speak - ing in the Tem - ple, on - - ly twelve years
 3. See him com - ing to the Jor - dan, not - yet thir - ty -
 4. See him read - ing from I - sa - iah, guest - in his home -
 5. See him gath - 'ring twelve dis - ci - ples, such - a lead - er

p.

Performance notes and additional verses can be found on page 6.
 Parts for C Instrument and Cello can be found on pages 7 and 8.

14

head, shep - herds kneel - ing at his bed.
way, seek - ing an - swers for his day.
bove, Spir - it fall - ing like a dove.
more, neigh - bors show - ing him the door.
nets, mon - ey bags with - out re - gret.

17

f

tr

To Repeat

A-gnus De - i! Glo - ri - a! Be - hold the Lamb of

f

To Repeat

Notes

In his book of meditations for public worship *He Was in the World* (G-4393) John Bell explains that John the Baptist acclaimed Jesus as the “Lamb of God” not at the time of his death, but when he identified Jesus in the crowd that had come to be baptized (John 1:29). Bell was inspired to write four brief reflections on Jesus’ life, interspersed with a sung response based on the Baptist’s words, thus emphasizing that the acclamation was true for all of Jesus’ life and not just at its end.

Mary Nelson Keithahn discovered Bell’s book when she spent a week in the Iona Community in Scotland in the summer of 2005. Intrigued by his interpretation of the Baptist’s acclamation, she began writing stanzas for a hymn based on events in Jesus’ life, from his birth to his resurrection. Each stanza ends with a refrain proclaiming him the Lamb of God.

John Horman has written a gentle, unison tune with a refrain that will allow the youngest in the assembly to join in after each stanza. The tune is named after the Maryland suburb where the composer lives.

It is not intended that all twelve stanzas be sung at one time, except perhaps in a Lenten service reflecting on Jesus’ life in a series of dramatized scripture readings. Rather, worship planners are encouraged to select one or any combination of stanzas supporting the readings and theme for the day, to be sung as a regular hymn or as a congregational or choral response to the readings.

6. See him welcoming the children,
friend with arms held wide;
joyfully they all come running
quickly to his side,
laughing in his warm embrace,
smiling at his kindly face.
Agnus Dei! Gloria!
Behold the Lamb of God!
7. See him touching hopeful people,
healer with love’s hand;
lame feet dancing, deaf ears hearing,
music in the land,
blind eyes seeing what they’ve known,
lepers, cleansed now, going home.
Agnus Dei! Gloria!
Behold the Lamb of God!
8. See him sitting at the table,
Christ the Living Bread;
sinners wond’ring, then rejoicing
when in love they’re fed,
some repenting of their ways,
others singing psalms of praise.
Agnus Dei! Gloria!
Behold the Lamb of God!
9. See him list’ning to his critics,
strong, yet gentle one;
angry voices asking him how
he could be God’s Son,
charging him with blasphemy,
making death his destiny.
Agnus Dei! Gloria!
Behold the Lamb of God!
10. See him praying in the garden,
Truth and Life and Way;
his friends sleeping, unaware that
one will soon betray,
Judas giving out advice,
Christ the willing sacrifice.
Agnus Dei! Gloria!
Behold the Lamb of God!
11. See him dying, crucified, a
man nailed to a tree;
Mary and the others weeping
there on bended knee,
mourning one they could not save,
bearing him to borrowed grave.
Agnus Dei! Gloria!
Behold the Lamb of God!
12. See him standing in the morning
near an empty tomb;
angels greeting grieving women,
banishing their gloom;
alleluias ringing clear,
“He is risen! Christ is here!”
Agnus Dei! Gloria!
Behold the Lamb of God!