

*In case you are not able to hear the Narrator and the Choir clearly in the recording,  
we have reprinted the text here  
so that you may follow along and not miss one word of this life-changing story!*

# Cantata

**"Come, Touch the Robe"**

**Encounters with the Healer, the Servant, the Lord of Easter**

*by Pepper Choplin, orchestrated by Stan Pethel*

## **Narration 1**

She had suffered for 12 years and had spent all she had, searching for a cure. Then one day, in an act of faith, this woman from Galilee quietly reached out to touch the hem of Christ's robe. She was instantly healed.

The robe was just a piece of cloth. Yet when Christ was present, there flowed a great healing power,

As we gather here today, this could be just another choral presentation. But we pray that the Spirit of Christ will live in our words and music as we invite you to come... Come encounter the presence and power of Christ. Come... Touch the robe.

## **Come, Touch the Robe**

Come, touch the robe, through faith, touch the robe.

Feel the power that flows to all who believe.

Come to his side, no one is denied all the life-giving power  
when we come to kneel to touch the hem of his robe.

I was lost in the crowd, my very life blood was drained from me.

No one there knew my suffering, I suffered all alone.

I saw him there on the road, though I never tried to speak to him,

I made my way through the crowd to him to kneel by his side.

I kneeled and...

I touched his robe, just the hem of his robe.

And I felt healing flow till my pain was relieved.

And though I tried, still I could not hide the healing power  
that flowed through me so I bowed at his feet, and I touched his robe,  
I simply touched the hem of his robe.

The Lord says, "Who will come to touch me?

Who will come to be set free?

Who comes in faith to believe in me,

to receive my saving power, receive my saving power?"

"Come, touch my robe, in faith touch my robe.

Feel the power that flows to all who believe.

Come to my side, no one is denied the life-giving power.

O come to me now in faith, to pray, to touch the hem of my robe.

Come, touch my robe."

## **Narration 2**

Through the robe, she experienced great compassion and healing. Later, on a mountain, the robe reflected his holiness and power.

Jesus took three of his disciples up the mountain and was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as the light. Moses and Elijah appeared with him, and a voice came from the cloud saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to him".

Certainly this was a powerful encounter for the disciples. His shining robe and the voice from the cloud burned into their memories. Though they would face many difficulties, these memories would give them a tremendous confidence as they preached the Lordship and Gospel of Christ.

## **Shine On, Great Savior**

He called us up to the mountain. We followed the master's call.  
And we were changed forever by the glorious things we saw.  
There came a light on the mountain, his face shone like the sun,  
and his robe was white with a glorious light, the light of the holy one.

Shine on, shine on, shine on, great Savior, shine on.  
Come and make this a holy place, shine on.  
Shine on, shine on, great Savior, shine on,  
and show us your power and grace, and grace.

There came Elijah, great prophet, there was Moses, great man of law,  
and there stood the great Messiah, who shone the brightest of all.  
A bright cloud overwhelmed them. From the cloud, a voice was heard.  
"This is my Son, my chosen One, now listen to his every word".

Shine on, shine on, shine on, great Savior, shine on.  
Come and make this a holy place, shine on.  
Shine on, shine on, great Savior, shine on,  
and show us your power and grace, and grace.

I remember that day on the mountain as I live in this valley below.  
And through all my days of darkness, there's one thing that I know.  
There was glory on the mountain. What wonder did I see!  
And the glory on the mountain will forever be living in me.

Shine on, shine on, shine on, great Savior, shine on.  
Come and make this a holy place, shine on.  
Shine on, shine on, great Savior, shine on.  
and show us your power and grace, and grace.

Shine on, shine on, shine on, shine on,  
and show us your power and grace, and grace.

### **Narrator 3**

The glory and authority of Christ are dramatically revealed on the mountain. Later, when Jesus and his disciples entered Jerusalem, the cloaks of the people were used to proclaim his glory. A large crowd spread their cloaks and palm branches on the road. They formed a procession and shouted,

*“Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”*

The whole city was staring and asked, “Who is this man?” The crowd answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth”.

Many were wondering if this could really be their new king. Others had already witnessed Christ’s power and shouted, “Blessed is the King of Israel!”

### **Hosanna in the Streets**

Hosanna, hosanna! He is the king of Israel. Hosanna, hosanna, blessed is he who comes.  
Hosanna, hosanna! He is the king of Israel. Hosanna, hosanna, blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.

I heard he can raise the dead. Is it true? Oh, yes! Oh, yes, I saw it.  
He called out to an open grave and from the dead a man he raised.  
I heard that he calmed a storm. Is it true? Oh, yes. Oh, yes, I saw it.  
He called out to the angry waves, “Peace, be still” and we were saved and we were saved.  
He comes to save, to save.  
All people shout:

Hosanna, hosanna! He is the king of Israel. Hosanna, hosanna, blessed is he who comes.  
Hosanna, hosanna! He is the king of Israel. Hosanna, hosanna, blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.

Could he be the promised one? Could he be? Oh, yes, the great Messiah.  
He will reign as a mighty king, deliver us and set us free.  
Come and praise the holy One with a shout! Come shout with a voice of triumph!  
Spread your coats on the path before, prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way!

Hosanna, hosanna! He is the king of Israel. Hosanna, hosanna, blessed is he who comes.  
Hosanna, hosanna! He is the king of Israel. Hosanna, hosanna, blessed is he who comes.

Hosanna to the great Messiah. Hosanna to the holy King.  
Hosanna with a voice of triumph, lift your head and sing:

Hosanna, hosanna! He is the king of Israel. Hosanna, hosanna, blessed is he who comes.  
Hosanna, hosanna! He is the king of Israel. Hosanna, hosanna, blessed is he who comes.  
The King has come! Come shouting: Hosanna!

## **Narration 4**

Soon afterward, Jesus and his disciples gathered in an upper room to share the Passover meal.

After witnessing the events of the week, the disciples were now certain Jesus would be their new king. What happened next left them wondering what kind of king he would be.

After the Passover meal, he rose and laid aside his garments. Then he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the feet of the disciples.

Jesus removed his robe to take on the form of a servant. His clothes had conveyed healing and had reflected heaven's glory. But now, his robe was laid aside to teach the disciples an enduring lesson of humility.

## **Wash Their Feet**

There one night in the upper room, he laid aside his robe.  
He wrapped a towel around his waist like a servant's clothes  
then my master, Lord and King, kneeled to do this amazing thing,  
he washed my feet, he got down on his knees and washed my feet.  
Why would my master, Lord and King, come to do this amazing thing?  
He washed my feet.

The Lord said,  
"As I come to wash your feet to make you pure and clean,  
go out now and touch the world, do what you have seen.  
Hear my call and live it true, do for them what I do for you.  
Go, wash their feet.  
Be a servant, humble and meek, wash their feet.  
Hear my call and live it true, do for them what I do for you.  
Go, wash their feet.

When the Lord left heaven to come down,  
he laid aside his glory and his crown.  
He did not cling to power or follow after fame.  
Still heaven sings the glory of his name.  
Go, wash their feet.

Be a servant, humble and meek, wash their feet.  
Hear my call and live it true, do for them what I do for you.  
Wash their feet, wash their feet, now go, go wash their feet,  
wash their feet, wash their feet, now go, now wash their feet.

There one night in the upper room, he laid aside his robe.

## **Narration 5**

In Philippians, we read that Jesus took upon himself the form of a servant. He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the excruciating death of the cross.

He demonstrated this obedience unto death through his arrest, his trial and his crucifixion.

After he was tried, soldiers mocked him and stripped him of his garment, replacing it with a purple robe. They put a crown of thorns on his head and hailed him as king. But through every step of the way, it was clear he had become the King... of Suffering.

### **King of Suffering**

Come now to the trial of Jesus. Here are the charges and the lies.

So it's clear he is an innocent man, still he will be crucified.

See them strip his garments from him, strip away his dignity.

They place the purple robe upon him and crown him "King of Suffering".

They swing the cross upon his shoulder, march him up that barren road.

See every step become a struggle. Watch him fall beneath the load.

They lay him down with arms extended, nail him to that cursed tree,

raise him high upon this awful throne. Behold the King of Suffering.

Behold the King of Suffering, behold the King!

Through the silence, hear his groaning. Hear him struggle as he breathes.

And soon he'll whisper with his final breath, "It is finished".

He will die, the King of Suffering. He will die, the King of Suffering.

## **Narration 6**

At the foot of the cross, soldiers cast lots to see who would take Jesus' robe. As Christ died, the winner held the empty robe in his hand. To the sick woman, it had conveyed healing power. For the disciples on the mountain, it had reflected heaven's glory. But now that Jesus was gone, it was just a piece of cloth.

The soldiers hadn't planned to be touched by their encounter with Christ, but at least one of them was changed by what he saw that day. At the moment of Christ's death, he exclaimed, "Surely, this was the Son of God".

### **Soldiers of the Cross**

Soldiers, see the setting sun. Soldiers, see the setting sun.

Now your work is almost done, soldiers of the cross.

Cast your lots to win his robe. Cast your lots to win his robe.

Soon a shroud will be his clothes, soldiers of the cross.

Soldiers, listen, lift your eyes, now he prays for you.

Hear him whisper as he dies, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do".

Hear him take his final breath. Hear him take his final breath.

Now his body is at rest, soldiers of the cross.

Standing silent with your thoughts, standing silent with your thoughts.

Could this be the Son of God, soldiers of the cross?

## **Narration 7**

Jesus's body was laid in a borrowed tomb. The stone was rolled into place. The grave was sealed as his body lay silently wrapped in the shroud of death.

But the Bible promises that death has lost its power:

*O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?*

*The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.*

*But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ. [1 Corinthians 15: 55-57]*

Come and touch his linen shroud, not to mourn the tragedy of death, but to remember that these grave clothes will soon lay empty, left behind on the floor of the tomb.

## **O Death, Where Is Your Sting?**

O death, where is your sting?

O death, where is your sting?

You're swallowed up in victory.

O death, where is your sting?

O grave, you will not win.

O grave, you will not win.

Though we may die, we'll live again.

Thanks be to God, thanks be to God!

Though we may die, we'll live again.

When death sets my soul free,

I know my Lord will welcome me.

And on that day, I'll rise to sing,

thanks be to God, thanks be to God!

I know my Lord will welcome me.

O death, where is your sting?

O death, where is your sting?

You're swallowed up in victory.

Thanks be to God, thanks be to God!

You're swallowed up in victory.

You're swallowed up in victory.

Thanks be to God, thanks be to God,

for he has won the victory.

## **Narration 8**

Today, we have encountered Christ through the stories of his last days on earth. We have touched his robe of healing. We have seen his shining robe of glory. We have been challenged by his humble clothes of servanthood. We have remembered his purple robe of suffering and felt the linen of his shroud.

But we look forward to the day when we will truly see Christ, clothed in the full righteousness and power of heaven.

The book of Revelation tells us that one day, we will wear the shining robes of the saints and join all heaven to proclaim the marvelous glory of the Lamb.