

to Bob and Sydney Brown

# Prepare Me a Body

Bob Hurd

Inspired by the spiritual "Wade in the Water"

Choral arrangement by Craig Kingsbury

Keyboard accompaniment by Rick Modlin

Based on Hebrews 10:5-7;  
Psalm 40:8-10; Matthew 6:10

(♩ = ca. 96)  **REFRAIN**

**Solo**  
Pre - pare \_\_\_\_\_ me a bod - y, \_\_\_\_\_ pre - pare \_\_\_\_\_

**Soprano Alto**  
Pre - pare \_\_\_\_\_ me a bod - y, \_\_\_\_\_

**Tenor Bass**  
Pre - pare \_\_\_\_\_ me a bod - y, \_\_\_\_\_

**Keyboard**  
Gm

\_\_\_\_\_ me a bod - y, \_\_\_\_\_ Pre - pare \_\_\_\_\_ me a

pre - pare \_\_\_\_\_ me a bod - y, \_\_\_\_\_ Pre - pare \_\_\_\_\_ me a

D7 Gm Gm/F



1-4 to Verses

bod - y — to build the reign of God. — 2. Thy

1-4 to Verses

bod - y — to build the reign of God. —

1-4 Eb7 D7 Gm D7 to Verses

This system contains the first four measures of the piece. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment, and guitar chords (Eb7, D7, Gm, D7). The music is in a minor key and 4/4 time. A large, stylized watermark 'WORLD' is overlaid on the piano part.

Final rit. Slowly, quietly Fine

bod - y — to build the reign of God.

Final rit. Slowly, quietly Fine

bod - y — to build the reign of God.

Final rit. Slowly, quietly Fine

NC Gm 8vb

This system contains the final four measures of the piece. It features a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment, and guitar chords (NC, Gm, 8vb). The music is marked 'Final rit.' and 'Slowly, quietly'. A large, stylized watermark 'WORLD' is overlaid on the piano part.

VERSES

1. Here I am, I come to do your will.  
 2. king - dom come, thy will be done. Thy  
 3. I will speak your jus - tice.  
 4. Je - sus said, "Come a - way with me."

Oo oo oo

Gm

1. Here I am, I come do your will.  
 2. king - dom come, thy will be done. Thy  
 3. I will speak your jus - tice.  
 4. Je - sus said, "Come a - way with me."

oo oo

D7 Gm

1. Here I am, I come to do your will: to  
 2. king - dom come, thy will be done on  
 3. I will speak your jus - tice, my  
 4. Je - sus said, "Come a - way with me and

Gm/F

1. build the reign of God.  
 2. earth as it is heav - en. } Pre - pare  
 3. lips will not  
 4. preach the reign of God." } *D.S.*

D7

D7(#9)

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# Prepare Me a Body

(Guitar/Vocal)

Based on Hebrews 10:5-7;  
Psalm 40:8-10; Matthew 6:10

Bob Hurd  
Inspired by the spiritual "Wade in the Water"

*(♩ = ca. 96)* **REFRAIN**

Capo 3: (Em) Gm (B7) D7 (Em) Gm

Pre - pare \_\_\_\_\_ pre - pare \_\_\_\_\_ me a bod - y. \_\_\_\_\_

(Em/D) Gm/F 1-4 (C7) Eb7 (B7) D7 (Em) (B7) Gm D7 to Verses

Pre - pare \_\_\_\_\_ me a bod - y \_\_\_\_\_ to build the reign of God. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Thy

**Final** (C7) Eb7 *rit.* *tacet* *Slowly, gently* (Em) Gm (let ring) *Fine*

bod - y \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

**VERSES**

(Em) Gm (B7) D7

1. Here I am, \_\_\_\_\_ I come to do \_\_\_\_\_ your will. \_\_\_\_\_ Here I am, \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. king - dom come, \_\_\_\_\_ thy \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ be done. \_\_\_\_\_ Thy king - dom come, \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. I will speak \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ jus \_\_\_\_\_ tice. \_\_\_\_\_ I will speak \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. Je - sus said, \_\_\_\_\_ "Come a - way \_\_\_\_\_ with me." \_\_\_\_\_ Je - sus said, \_\_\_\_\_

(Em) Gm (Em/D) Gm/F

1. \_\_\_\_\_ I come to do \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ ll. \_\_\_\_\_ Here I am, \_\_\_\_\_ I come to  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_ thy \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ be done. \_\_\_\_\_ Thy king - dom come, \_\_\_\_\_ thy \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ jus \_\_\_\_\_ tice. \_\_\_\_\_ I will speak \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. \_\_\_\_\_ "Come a - way \_\_\_\_\_ w \_\_\_\_\_ me." \_\_\_\_\_ Je - sus said, \_\_\_\_\_ "Come a -

(C7) Eb7 (B7) D7 (Em) Gm (B7(#9)) D7(#9) *D.S.*

1. do your will: \_\_\_\_\_ to build \_\_\_\_\_ the reign of God. \_\_\_\_\_ }  
 2. will be done \_\_\_\_\_ on earth as it is in heav - en. } Pre - pare \_  
 3. jus - tice, \_\_\_\_\_ my lips \_\_\_\_\_ will not be sealed. \_\_\_\_\_ }  
 4. way with me \_\_\_\_\_ and preach \_\_\_\_\_ the reign of God." \_\_\_\_\_ }

## Composer Notes

*Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you have prepared for me...Behold, O God, I come to do your will.* —Hebrews 10:5–7

My setting of this passage is indebted in two ways to the tradition of African American spirituals. I first became aware of this biblical passage some years ago on hearing Roland Hayes' *The Life of Christ: Song Cycle of Spirituals* (Musical Heritage Society recording). The refrain text of the first song in this cycle is: "Prepare me one body — I'll go down, I'll go down; prepare me one body like men — I'll go down and die." The main melody is inspired by "Wade in the Water," though it is somewhat different.

As I reflected on this passage, with its quotes from Psalm 40:8–10 ("Here I am...to do your will is my delight"), I thought of "body" in three ways. First, I considered Christ's human body, the mystery of the Incarnation; second, Christ's eucharistic body, his continuing sacramental presence among us; and finally, Christ's ecclesial body, the Church, because by baptism and participation in the Eucharist we are made into the body of Christ. The body that is prepared for/by Christ is, in a sense, all three. Every time we celebrate the Eucharist, Christ is preparing his ecclesial body to be his instrument in building the reign of God.

**Uses:** This song may be used throughout the year for Gathering. The text makes it equally appropriate for:

- Preparation of the gifts
- Communion
- Post-Communion
- Sending forth

More specifically, it might be used during seasons with readings concerning the body of the Lord:

- Advent [Looking toward the incarnation, especially 4th Sunday, Year C]
- Easter [4th Sunday onward: Birth of the Church as the Body of Christ]
- Ordinary Time [the early Sundays: Beginning of Christ's Ministry/Call of the Disciples]

—Bob Hurd

# Assembly Edition

**PREPARE ME A BODY**

Bob Hurd

**Refrain**



Pre-prepare me a body, pre-prepare me a body. Pre-prepare me a body to bind the reign of God.

**Verses**



1. Here I am, I come to do your will. Here I am, thy will be done. Thy kingdom come, thy kingdom come, I will speak your justice. I will speak your justice.  
 2. Je - sus said, "Come a-way with me." Je - sus said, "Come a-way with me."

to Refrain



1. do your will: to bind the reign of God.  
 2. will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
 3. justice, my lips will not be sealed.  
 4. way with me and the reign of God."

Text: Based on Matthew 6:10; Matthew 6:10.  
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