The Thorn Tree

Music by
Scot Crandal

Text by
Genevieve Glen, OSB

FROM THE COLLECTION
Down to the River to Pray
Octavo Packet #30138612
CD #30138613
The Thorn Tree

Genevieve Glen, OSB

VERSE 1: Sopranos & Altos (or Solo)

1. In rock where time had carved a cave, The Savior slept when he was

1. born—And under-foot lay stone and dust, And overhead a tree of

1. thorn.
VERSE 2

Tenor

Bass

2. At Gab-ba-tha, where Pi late sat, The Sav-ior met with fear and

2. scorn— And un-der-foot lay stone and dust, And o-ver-head a bleed-ing

2. thorn—

\[\text{più mosso}\]

\[\text{mf}\]

\[\text{rit.}\]

\[\text{p}\]
VERSE 3  *meno mosso*

3. In rock where time had carved a cave, The Savior slept, his body timed.

3. torn— And under foot lay stone and dust. And over—

3. head a broken thorn.
4. From rock where time had carved a cave,

4. rose Easter morn, a field of wheat, And o-ver-

4. rose on Easter morn— And under-foot, a field of wheat, And o-ver-

Unison Choir

Broadly

Descant

mf
The Thorn Tree

4. head, a flow’ring thorn!

4. And o-ver-head, a flow’ring thorn!
for the choirs of St. John the Baptist and St. Bartholomew Episcopal Churches, Beaverton, Oregon

The Thorn Tree
(Hymn Version)

Genevieve Glen, OSB

FLOWERING THORN, LM
Scot Crandal

Capo 1: (A/C#) Bb/D

1. In rock where time had carved a cave, The Savior
2. At Gab - ba - tha, where Pi - late sat, The Savior
3. In rock where time had carved a cave, The Savior
4. From rock where time had carved a cave, The Savior

Keyboard

1. slept when he was born— And un - der - foot lay stone and
2. met with fear and scorn— And un - der - foot lay stone and
3. slept, his bod - y torn— And un - der - foot lay stone and
4. rose on Eas - ter morn— And un - der - foot, a field of


1. dust, And o - ver - head a tree of thorn,_________________________________________________________________
2. dust, And o - ver - head a bleed - ing thorn,_________________________________________________________________
3. dust, And o - ver - head a bro - ken thorn,_________________________________________________________________
4. wheat, And o - ver - head, a flow’r - ing thorn!_________________________________________________________________

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Textwriter Notes

This hymn was written after the fashion of a medieval carol. Medieval Christmas and Easter carols are simple songs that often borrow a symbolic image from nature—in this case, the thorn tree—and weave it into a repetitive text. Most frequently, the Christmas carols sing of Jesus’ birth in light of his death on the cross, as this text does. The repeated “stone” evokes the stone hearts, sealed like a tomb, into which Christ enters and from which he frees us, so that they become not tombs but fields of ripe wheat sprung from the grain that fell into the earth and died (verse 4). The “dust” evokes our mortality: from dust we came, to dust we will return—but the grains of dust, too, are transformed into wheat. The thorn tree evokes the suffering of Christ which makes this transformation possible: it overshadows his birth (verse 1), takes the form of a blood-stained crown of thorn during his passion (verse 2), seems broken and thrown away at his burial (verse 3), and finally bursts into flower, its beauty revealed, at his resurrection (verse 4).

—Genevieve Glen, OSB