Behold The Lamb of God

Solo, SATB, Piano, Guitar, 2-C instruments

Based on John 1:29; Isaiah 53:4–5; Luke 23:34; Revelation 11:15

Bob Dufford, SJ

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Edition #5696
(F♯m) Gm (B) C (E) F (C♯m) Dm

_car-ries_ our _bur-den_ who _knows_ our _pain, _who

(F♯m) Gm (A) Gb (B) C

_bears_ the _sins_ of the _world._ Be-

REFRAIN
(E) F (E½sus4) F½sus4 (E) F (E½sus4) E

Ob, Vi, or Fl (octave higher)

_hold_ the _Lamb_ of _God._ Be-

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Behold the Lamb of God

(B) C (E) F

hold the Lamb of God.

(F₉m) Gm (B) C (E) (F₉m) Gm

Jesus Jesus is the
Behold the Lamb of God

Lamb of God,

VERSE B

Solo

Vigorously

Surely He has borne our...
Behold the Lamb of God

(E) F

(G) Ab
(Bm) Gm

mf

Grief and carried the sorrows of us

(E) F

(A) Bb
(Am) Bb m

mf

All struck down in our stead, rest

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and scorned and by His wounds we are

hold the Lamb of

Be - hold the Lamb of
Behold the Lamb of God

Jesus is the Lamb of God

God
Behold the Lamb of God

VERSE 3

(Bm) Cm
(Em) A♭m
(Bm) Cm
(E) F

Ob, Vl, Fl

mp mf

Fa - ther, for - give them they

p

(Am) B♭m
(F) G♭
(Em) Fm

do not un - der - stand they

poco
Behold the Lamb of God

do not understand what they

Refrain 3
Congregation and Choir

Be -

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(E)
F

a tempo

p a tempo sadly

hold the Lamb of God

(A)
Bb

(B)
C

(E)
F

hold the Lamb of God

(Fm)
Cm

(B)
C

(E)
F

(Fm)
Cm

Jesus, Jesus is the
cresc. poco a poco

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VERSE 4 Choir
Slightly faster (J.₆ 56-60)

A
B

Cm

The kingdom of this
Behold the Lamb of God

world has become the kingdom of

(E) F (G) Ab (D) Eb

Christ. And He shall reign for

(E) F (Am) Bbm (G) Ab (C) Db (D) Eb

Behold the Lamb of God
Behold the Lamb of God
Behold the Lamb of God
Behold the Lamb of God
Speed: The movement in this song must come from the accompaniment. The voices float slowly (whether in sorrow or majesty) over the top of the constant 12/8 pulse. Please note that the metronome marking (q. = 60) is expressed in terms of the dotted quarter as the basic unit. Those not familiar with accompaniment rhythm.

Liturgical Use: The song may be used at times of special celebration of the passage of Jesus through death to glory: Psalm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, Christ the King, during retreats, and musical prayer services. Since it is a long song, it is recommended for moments like communion, or before Mass, or as a choir piece for reflection after the homily.

Feel and Mood: The core of the song is the reverence and awe for Jesus’ passage through suffering and death to glory. Verse 1 sets up almost a story-telling mode; its refrain is simply a basic statement of Verse 3, with its strained chords at the beginning, is a picture of Jesus in His final agony, still forgiving those who would end His life; its refrain is quiet and sorrowful for the whole first half as if stunned by the words of the verse; then, at the name of Jesus, energy come back and continually grows into the glory; its refrain is appropriately the climax.

High Points: Of the four refrains, the second and fourth are the strongest; the third is mostly quiet, but crescendos near the end. The second verse is full of contrast, alternating strong and quiet moments. The third verse is high in intensity, but not loud. The strength of the fourth verse must grow out of the end of the third refrain. The final refrain should peak at the second “Jesus” and then taper off to the end.

The choir should watch the dynamics especially during the third refrain; they are different from the others.

Performers: The song requires soloists capable of much contrast. The second verse would be a good verse for an alto. If at all possible, the last verse should be choral.

Degree of Difficulty: medium. The energy needed to perform this piece needs to go into the phrasing, timing, and expression, both by the singers and the accompanist. The actual notes, harmony, and chords are not difficult.

Further Information: There is a 2-part C-instrument (oboe, violin, flute) accompaniment in this volume. Note that if the flute is used, the part should be playing up one octave as much as possible so that it will be heard. The guitar part may be played simultaneously with the piano part. In lieu of a piano, it is recommended that there be a bass player to help provide a sense of the depth and breadth of the piece.
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C Instruments
Oboe, Violin, Flute (octave higher)

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VERSE 3
FATHER, FORGIVE THEM,

REFRAIN

VERSE 4
SLIGHTLY FASTER (J. 56-60)

REFRAIN

MAJESTIC (J. 52-54)

worthy is the Lamb, beloved.

hold the Lamb of God.

Jesus
BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD

Bob Dufford, SJ

Verse 1

1. Be-hold the Lamb of God, be-hold the
Lamb of God who carries our burden, who
knows our pain, who bears the sins of the world.

Refrain
Be-hold the Lamb of God; Je-sus,

Verse 2

2. Sure-ly he has borne our grief and car-ried the

Verse 3

3. Fa-ther, for-give them, they do not un-der-stand,

Verse 4

4. The king-dom of this world has be-come the

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