

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

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 Eb7 NC Gm Fine

rit. Slowly, quietly

8vb

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 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

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

oo oo oo

Gm/F Eb7

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

oo

D7 Gm D7(#9)

D.S. D.S. D.S.


to Bob and Sydney Brown

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 _____ me a bod - y, _____ 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, quietly* (Em) Gm (let ring) **Fine**

bod - y _____ to build the reign 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 _____ your will. _____ 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 _____ with 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. _____ } Pre - pare _
 2. will be done _____ on earth as it is in heav - en. }
 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." Secondly, my refrain 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-pare me a bod - y, pre-pare me a bod - y. Pre-pare
me a bod - y to build the reign of God.


Verses



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



1. — I come to do your will. — 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 with me." — Je - sus said, — "Come a-



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

to Refrain

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