

THE FINAL HOURS

A Suite for Holy Week

By *Lee Dengler and Susan Naus Dengler*

For SATB Choir, accompanied*

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*Optional Flute, Cello, and Chimes (or Handbell) parts available for free download at alfred.com/choralparts (enter 44116 in the search field).

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Performance Time: Approx. 18 minutes

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MUSIC

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FOREWORD

The day we now call “Good Friday” dawned as did any other day. However, the events that took place between the hours of 9:00 that morning and 3:00 in the afternoon have proven to have had a monumental impact on all of humankind, making it one of the most significant days in all of history. As Jesus Christ allowed Himself to suffer and die upon a cross of shame, He displayed an unparalleled love for a world lost in sin.

In *The Final Hours*, we are led, through music and the spoken word, to reflect upon those six hours that Jesus hung, suffering on the cross. We find ourselves picturing that scene at Calvary as we symbolically join Jesus’ followers, who stood, grief-stricken, at the foot of the cross. We hear the seven phrases that He spoke as He hung there, dying the most agonizing death. Finally, we hear the words that have continued to ring throughout the ages since that Friday afternoon so long ago: “Surely, this man was the Son of God.”

It is our sincere prayer that your faith may be strengthened and renewed through this musical narrative of our Savior's matchless love and grace!

Lee Dengler
Susan Naus Dengler

PERFORMANCE NOTES

The Final Hours may be presented in a variety of ways. Here are some suggestions for its use:

- It may be presented in its entirety, as part of a worship service or a sacred concert.
- It may be extended to create a larger work by inserting congregational hymns at various points throughout the narrations.
- Each of the three choral pieces may be presented separately.
- The chiming that takes place to mark the hours of 9:00 a.m., 12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m. may be played by a handbell or orchestral chime. (Note that, in either case, the 12 chimes (marking the noon hour) occur during the opening section of the second choral piece, “The Darkest Hours.”)
- If the narration is used, it is suggested that there would be two readers.
- Instrumental parts for flute, cello, and chimes are available as a free download. *The Final Hours* may be performed with or without these instruments.

[Before narration begins, Chimes are struck nine times.]

1 CHIMES (opt. Handbell)

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. It contains four measures, each with a single quarter note on a different line of the staff (G4, A4, B4, C5). The second staff continues the sequence with five more measures, each with a single quarter note on a different line (D5, E5, F5, G5, A5), ending with a double bar line.

NARRATION:

(1) It was 9:00 in the morning when they crucified our Lord—9:00 on what might have otherwise been a very ordinary Friday. All over Jerusalem, people were going about their everyday activities—the things that always occupied their mornings. Yet, on that morning—the morning of the day we now call “Good Friday”—they bound our Lord. They led Him away to be tried. They beat Him. They spat on Him, and they mocked Him.

(2) What possible evil had He done? Everything about Him seemed altogether good, altogether loving. Yet, that morning, at 9:00, they crucified my Lord.

AS THE SUN ROSE IN THE SKY

Words by
SUSAN NAUS DENGLER (ASCAP)

Music by
LEE DENGLER (ASCAP)
Incorporating
"My Lord, What a Morning!"
Traditional Spiritual

2 Mournful, unhurried (♩ = ca. 60)

FLUTE*

Do not play cued notes when flute is present.

ACCOMP.

6 *a tempo*
S.A. *p* *freely*

My Lord, what a morn - ing! My Lord, what a morn - ing! Oh, —

morn - ing! Oh,

* 8.5x11 pdf of the Flute part is available for free download at alfred.com/choralparts (enter 44116 in the search field).

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10

rit.

my Lord, — what a morn - ing, — when they nailed You to the

13 *a tempo* **3**

p

p

p *mp* *p* *f*

FLUTE

13 *a tempo*

p *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *f*

16 SOPRANO / ALTO *rit.* *a tempo mp* **18**

As_ the sun rose in the

mf (Flute tacet)

mf *rit.* *a tempo mp*

19

sky, and_ the birds took up their mourn - ful cry, in_ that

22

hour, the Lord was_ cru - ci - fied; as_ the sun rose in the_

mf *dim.*

mf *dim.*