

Gethsemane is a Lenten anthem that is especially appropriate for Maundy Thursday. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include any of the accounts of Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26: 36-46, Mark 14: 32-42, and Luke 22: 39-46) as well as Exodus 12: 1-4, Psalm 116: 12-18, John 13: 1-15, and 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26. One basic homiletical theme is the Suffering Savior who, through the power of prayer and death on the cross, brings salvation to us all.

The beautiful poetry of this highly expressive anthem demands sensitive text declamation. Guard against singing syllable-for-syllable and note-for-note. First, sing the melody in mm. 7-24 in unison on a liquid neutral syllable such as “noo,” striving for a beautifully shaped legato. Next, speak the text, listening carefully for the natural word stresses. Then, sing the text with artful articulation while maintaining fluid phrasing.

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GETHSEMANE

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied*

Words by
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Music by
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Slowly, with feeling (♩ = ca. 76)

ACCOMP. *mp*

Pedal carefully.

7 SOPRANO *unis.* *mp* 8
ALTO
TENOR
BASS

Were there fragrant flow-ers there or bit-ter herbs and thorns? Did the

* Also available for S.A.B. voices, No. 16018, and 2-part voices, No. 16019.

gen-tle breez-es blow or wild winds and storms? While the Sav-ior prayed a-lone did He

(mel.) *mp unis.*

13 *S.A. unis. (mp)* *mf* *poco rit.* *p*

pray for me when He wept those bit-ter tears in Geth-sem - a - ne? Geth -

16 *a tempo with a quiet intensity* *cresc.*

sem - a - ne, Geth - sem - a - ne, gar - den - of tran -

cresc.

a tempo with a quiet intensity *cresc.*

19 *mp* *mf* *mp*
quil - li - ty, pray - ing there for you and me in the

mp *mf* *mp*

22 *dim.* *unis.* *p*
gar - den of Geth - sem a - ne.

dim. *unis.* *p*

25 (26)

mp

Did the
mp unis.

31
bush-es with their thorns be-come a cru-el crown? Or the tears that Je-sus wept, did they

34 ALTOS ONLY *mp* S.A. unis. (*mp*)

quench thirst-y ground? Could the Sav-ior of man-kind breathe the fra - grant air? Was the
(mel.)

mf dim. e rit. *p*

an-guish of the night full of pain and care? Geth -

mf *p*

mf dim. e rit. *p*

40 *a tempo with a quiet intensity*

cresc.

sem - a - ne, Geth - sem - a - ne, gar - den of tran -

cresc.

a tempo with a quiet intensity

cresc.

43

mp *mf*

quil - li - ty, pray - ing there for you and me

mp *mf*

mp *mf*

46

mp *unis.*

in the gar - den of Geth - sem - a - ne, Geth -

mp *unis.*

mp

49 *rit.*

sem - a - ne, Geth - sem - a - ne.

p

rit. *p*

