

for Larry Johnson

I See His Blood Upon the Rose

J. M. Plunkett

Michael Joncas

Lyrally, but with strength (♩ = ca. 72)

Melody

1. I see his
2. I see his
3. All path-ways

Keyboard

Cm9 Gm7 B♭maj9 Fsus4 Gsus2,4

1. blood up - on the rose, and in the stars the glo - ry of his
2. face in ev - 'ry flow'r; the thun - der and the sing - ing of the
3. by his feet are trod, his strong heart stirs the ev - er - beat - ing

Soprano

Alto

3. Ah

Tenor

Bass

Cm B♭/D E♭ Dm7 E♭ Dm/F Dm7 Cm7 B♭maj7

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1. eyes, his bod - y gleams a - mid e - ter - nal snows, his
 2. birds are but his voice and, carv - en with his power, rocks
 3. sea, his crown of thorns is twined with ev - 'ry thorn, his

3. his crown of thorns is ev - 'ry thorn;

Ah

Am7 D Gm Eb/Bb Gm/C F/G

1. tears fall from the skies.
 2. are his writ - ten words.
 3. cross is ev - 'ry tree.

3. his cross is ev - 'ry tree.

Gm Eb F Dm7 Gsus4 Gm

Last time

Cm9 Gm7 Bbmaj9 Fsus4 Abmaj7 Db/F Bbm/Db C

*Play cue notes last time only.

I See His Blood Upon the Rose

Assembly Edition

I SEE HIS BLOOD UPON THE ROSE

Michael Joncas

1. I see his blood up - on the rose,
2. I see his face in ev - 'ry flow'r;
3. All path - ways by his feet are trod,

1. and in the stars the glo - ry of his eyes,
2. the thun - der and the sing - ing of the birds
3. his strong heart stirs the ev - er - beat - ing sea,

1. his bod - y gleams a - mid e - ter - nal snows, his
2. are but his voice and, carv - en with his power, rocks
3. his crown of thorns is twined with ev - 'ry thorn, his

1. tears fall from the skies.
2. are his writ - ten words.
3. cross is ev - 'ry tree.

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Composer Notes

The poetry of Joseph Plunkett provides this text. Plunkett was an Irish patriot executed in the 1916 uprising. He employs the images of nature to convey the power of Christ alive in our world, present to this world, sacrificed for this world.

This anthem could be used as an alternative creed during more reflective festivals or seasons. It speaks the language of a contemporary profession of faith in a cosmic Christ rather than a simple profession of orthodoxy. It would be useful during Lent as a meditation or choral reflection. The song would serve well as a community hymn on creational feasts.

The song should be characterized by a legato spirit with a slight swell in volume in the third phrase of each verse.

—Michael Joncas