

# Crux Vitae

(Cross of Life)

music by Thomas Lloyd  
text adapted from St. Ambrose of Milan

for quartet or choir SATB

The flower,  
even when cut, keeps its fragrance,  
and when bruised, increases it;  
and when torn, does not lose it---

so too the Lord Jesus,  
on that gibbet of the cross,  
neither failed when bruised  
nor fainted when torn;

and when cut  
by the pricking of the lance,  
was made more beautiful  
by the sacred color of the outpoured blood,

he grew young again,  
himself not knowing how to die,  
exhaling among the dead  
the gift of eternal life.

attributed to St. Ambrose,  
Bishop of Milan (c. 340–397)

recommended to the composer  
by Rev. André Trevathan

*First performed on Good Friday 2020,  
during the coronavirus pandemic,  
livestreamed from the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral  
by Jane Kamp, soprano, Jennifer Hutton, alto  
Thomas Lloyd, tenor, Paul Reese, bass*

# Crux Vitae

(Cross of Life)  
for Andre Trevathan  
with gratitude and affection

St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan

Thomas Lloyd

♩ = 54

(+S *ad lib.*)

A *p* The flow-er the flow - er, the flow - er, the flow - er, e - ven when

(+B *ad lib.*)

T The flow-er, the flow-er the flow - er, the flow - er, e - ven when

5 *poco cresc.*

keeps its fra - grance, its fra-grance, and when bruised, and when

cut, when cut keeps its fra-grance, its fra-grance, and when bruised, and when

cut, when cut, keeps its fra-grance, its fra-grance, and when bruised, and when

keeps its fra-grance, its fra-grance, and when bruised, and when

9 *poco cresc.*

bruised, in - creas - es its fra-grance, in - creas - es its fra-grance, and when

bruised, in - creas - es its fra-grance, in - creas - es its fra-grance, and when

bruised, in - crease - es its fra-grance, and when

bruised, in - crease - es its fra-grance, and when

2 *f* *p*

12

torn does not lose it, when torn does not lose it... so to, the Lord

torn does not lose it, when torn does not lose it... so to, the Lord

8 torn does not lose it, when torn does not lose it... so to, the Lord

torn does not lose it, when torn does not lose it... so to, the Lord

15 *f* *mf*

Je - sus, so too the Lord Je - sus, on the gib-bet of the cross, nei-ther

Je - sus, so too the Lord Je - sus, on the gib-bet of the cross, nei-ther

8 Je - sus, so too the Lord Je - sus, on the gib-bet of the cross, nei-ther

Je - sus, so too the Lord Je - sus, on the gib-bet of the cross, nei-ther

19

failed when bruised, nei-ther failed when bruised, nor fain-ted when torn.

failed when bruised, nei-ther failed when bruised, nor fain-ted when torn.

8 failed when bruised, nei-ther failed when bruised, nor fain-ted when torn.

failed when bruised, nei-ther failed when bruised, nor fain-ted when torn.

22 *f*

and when cut, and when cut by the prick-ing of the lance,

when cut, and when cut the

and when cut, when cut, and when cut

and when cut by the prick-ing of the lance,

25 *p*

by the prick-ing of the lance was made more beau-ti-ful, beau-ti-ful, beau-ti-ful, beau-ti-ful,

lance, was made more beau-ti-ful, beau-ti-ful, beau-ti-ful, beau-ti-ful,

by the prick-ing of the lance was made more beau - ti - ful, more beau - ti -

was made more beau - ti - ful, more beau - ti -

28 *sim. cresc. poco a poco*

by the co-lor of the out-poured blood, the out-poured blood, the out-poured blood, the out-poured blood, the

by the co-lor of the out-poured blood, the out-poured blood, the out-poured blood, the out-poured blood, the

ful,

ful.

31

out-poured blood, the out-poured blood, the out-poured blood, the out-poured blood, the  
 out-poured blood, the out-poured blood, the out-poured blood, the out-poured blood, the  
 by the co - lor of the blood, by the out - poured  
 by the co - lor of the blood, by the out - poured

33

out-poured blood, the out-poured blood,  
 out-poured blood, the out-poured blood,  
 blood, by the blood, the out - poured blood, *mp* He grew young a - gain,  
 blood, by the blood, the out - poured blood, He grew young a - gain,

36 *(non cresc.)*

*mp* He grew young a - gain, He grew young a - gain, young a - gain, young a - gain,  
 He grew young a - gain, He grew young a - gain, young a - gain, young a - gain,  
 He grew young a - gain, He grew young a - gain, He grew young a - gain, young a - gain, young a -  
 He grew young a - gain, He grew young a - gain, He grew young a - gain, young a - gain, young a -

40 *poco cresc.*

young a-gain, a-gain, a-gain, a - gain. Him self\_ not know ing, Him-self not know -ing how to

young a-gain, a-gain, a-gain, a - gain. Him self\_ not know ing, Him-self not know -ing how to

gain, a-gain, a-gain, a-gain, a - gain, Him self\_ not know ing, Him-self not know -ing how to

gain, a-gain, a-gain, a-gain, a - gain, Him self\_ not know ing, Him-self not know -ing how to

45 *poco rit.* *a tempo*

die, how to die, ex - hal-ling a-mong the dead, ex -

die, how to die, ex - hal-ling a-mong the dead, ex -

die, how to die, ex - hal - ing a-mong the

die, how to die, ex - hal - ing a-mong the

48 *f*

hal-ing a-mong the dead the\_ gift of e - ter - nal life, the gift of e - ter - nal life.

hal-ing a-mong the dead the\_ gift of e - ter - nal life, the gift of e - ter - nal life.

dead the\_ gift of e - ter - nal life, the gift of e - ter - nal life.

dead the\_ gift of e - ter - nal life, the gift of e - ter - nal life.

