

Lay His Body Down

SATB or SAB with optional Orchestra or Instrumental Ensemble

Words by **Pepper Choplin**
 Music by **William Billings**
 "By the Waters of Babylon"
 Arranged by **Pepper Choplin**
 1 With gravity ♩ = 76

Piano introduction in 4/4 time, marked *p*. The music features a steady, somber melody in the right hand and a simple harmonic accompaniment in the left hand.

SA(T)B

5 *p*

Si - lent - ly, so si - lent - ly, His bod - y — hangs up -

The vocal line begins with a half note 'Si' followed by quarter notes for 'lent - ly, so si - lent - ly, His bod - y'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same harmonic structure as the introduction.

8 *mp*

on the cross. Come re - move the nails, — the

The vocal line continues with 'on the cross. Come re - move the nails, — the'. The piano accompaniment features a crescendo leading to a dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano).

 indicates CD track number.

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11

nails— which pierce His hands. Low - er Him, now

14

low - er Him and lay His life - less bod - y down.

17

②

*Part I
mp

Si - lent - ly, so

20

si - lent - ly, His bod - y—hangs up - on the cross.

*The composer prefers that the choir be divided into three equal parts, with each part including both men and women. An alternate possibility would have Sopranos singing Part I, Altos on Part II, and all the men singing Part III.

23 Part I

Come re - move the nails, — the nails — which

Part II
mp
Si - lent - ly, so si - lent - ly, His bod - y — hangs up -

Part III

26

pierce His hands. Low - er Him, now low - er Him and

on the cross. Come re - move the nails, — the

mp

Si - lent - ly, so si - lent - ly, His

29 *mf*

lay His life - less bod - y down. Si - lent - ly, so

nails — which pierce His hands. *mf* Low - er Him, now

bod - y — hangs up - on the cross. *mf* Come re - move the

32 *mf*

si - lent - ly, His bod - y hangs up - on the cross.

low - er Him and lay His life - less bod - y down.

nails, — the nails — which pierce His hands.

35 *f* *

Come re - move the nails, the
Si - lent - ly, so si - lent - ly, His
Low - er Him, now low - er Him and

37

nails which pierce His hands.
bod - y hangs up - on the cross.
lay His life - less bod - y down.

*The upper note may be eliminated in measures 35–38 if desired.