

# A PURPLE ROBE

Whilst primarily written as a monologue for Good Friday, this effective poem can be used when talking about sacrifice, pain or the cost Jesus bore to save our sins. As the piece is short, it could also be used as a prelude to a song or band piece.

**Theme:** Jesus' sacrifice and eventual victory over death.

**Cast:** Monologue

**Props:** Large purple cloth and red food colouring.

**Biblical reference:** 'When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"' (John 19:5 NIV)

'When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, "They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment." So this is what the soldiers did.' (John 19:23–24 NIV)

'Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.' (Hebrews 9:27–28 NIV)

**Performance notes:** This piece needs to be performed very slowly with regular pauses for reflection. Don't feel awkward when using silence as part of the piece, but try hard to maintain the atmosphere even when not physically doing anything.

Make sure that everybody can see the cloth at all times.

The words can also be sung to the tune 'Passing By' (32 SATB).

## A Purple Robe

Written by Catherine Wyles

*(Pick up a piece of purple material and show to congregation)*

**Verse 1**     The purple robe my Saviour wore,  
                Given by men who beat him sore.  
                One garment, seamless, priestly wear,  
                A purple robe without a tear.

*(Lay the robe down on the floor and sit next to it)*

**Verse 2**     Neath Calvary's cross the soldiers played,  
                Shunning the suffering there displayed,  
                Seeking to win the robe he wore,  
                Oblivious to the pain he bore.

*(Sprinkle drops of red food colouring on to purple material)*

*(Stand holding material across your arms)*

**Verse 3**     Dear Lamb of God who bore our sin,  
                Passover Lamb, my freedom win. *(Drop cloth to the floor)*  
                A purple robe so clearly showed  
                Both priest and lamb on him bestowed.