

## O DEAREST JESUS

1982, 1988. In 1977, we did a special service on Palm Sunday evening which retold the story of Jesus' passion with drama, narration and music and made use of special lighting brought in for the occasion. We did the same style of service on many subsequent pre-Easters. In recent years it has been done every year on Good Friday evening. These new words to this old song were written for 2 of these services. We use the song virtually every year. It translates well to a band, and it's good to use this great melody of Johann Crüger, one of the greatest hymn tune writers ever.

1. O dearest Jesus, with your body broken  
God's final sentence, God's last word, is spoken.  
We see with eyes that know about your crying,  
your crucifying.

2. Why did they mock you?  
Why did people jeer you?  
Aren't you the king?  
The whole world should have cheered you.  
Ah, but our hearts are cold, and we are blinded,  
so evil-minded.

3. We made your crown with  
thorns from deep inside us,  
hammered your hands with  
nails no-one supplied us.  
We need no help to stage a crucifixion —  
it's our affliction.

4. Yet, by your dying death has been defeated.  
Life was destroyed, but life has been created.  
One final cry, and though your life was ended  
we were befriended.

5. Sleep, dearest Jesus, sleep until your waking.  
When morning comes this  
old world will be breaking.  
Death cannot hold you. Death is not that clever.  
God lives forever!

### **Alternative Verse 4 & 5**

4. Yet by your dying you have drawn us near you.  
In your distress we love you more than fear you.  
Lonely we are, but now your life has ended  
we are befriended.

5. Sleep, dearest Jesus, sleep until your waking.  
You rest in peace, but still our hearts are breaking.  
Take all our tears and comfort us in sorrow  
until tomorrow.