When I Survey the Wondrous Cross 223

1 When I survey the wondrous cross on which the
   Prince of glory died, my richest gain I
   count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
   death of Christ my God; all the vain things that
   charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and
   present far too small; love so amazing,
   sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a
   when I survey this my God; all the vain things that
   so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

This familiar text from the beginning of the 18th century grew out of Isaac Watts's desire to give Christians the ability to sing about gospel events. It is set here to a very restrained tune from the early 19th century inspired by the patterns of Gregorian chant.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1707
MUSIC: Lowell Mason, 1824

HAMBURG
(alternate tune: ROCKINGHAM, 224)