

Before Your Cross, O Jesus

Ferdinand Q. Blanchard, 1929; alt.

Mark 8:34; Gal. 6:14; Phil. 1:27; 3:7-10

- 1 Before your cross, O Je-sus,
our lives are judged to-day;
the mean-ing of our ea-ger strife
is test-ed by your way.
A-cross our rest-less liv-ing
the light streams from your cross,
and by its clear, re-veal-ing beams
we mea-sure gain and loss.
- 2 The hopes that lead us on-ward,
the fears that hold us back,
our will to dare great things for God,
the cour-age that we lack,
The faith we keep in good-ness,
our love, as low or pure,
on all, the judg-ment of the cross
falls stead-y, clear, and sure.
- 3 Yet hum-bly, in our striv-ing,
we rise to face its test.
We crave the power to do your will
as once you did it best.
On us let now the heal-ing
of your great Spir-it fall,
and make us brave and full of joy
to an-swer to your call.

Ferdinand Q. Blanchard, moderator of the General Council of Congregational Churches (1942-1944), was active in missions and was a leading advocate of educational opportunity for African-Americans. This hymn was written for Euclid Avenue Congregational Church in Cleveland, Ohio, which he served for forty years.

Tune: ST. CHRISTOPHER 7.6.8.6.8.6.8.6.
Frederick C. Maker, 1881