

When I survey the wondrous cross

'Crucifixion to the world by the cross of Christ'

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Tune: *Rockingham* (Aaron Williams, 1780, adapted by Edward Miller, 1735-1807)

1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross, On which the Prince of Glo - ry died, My
2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ, my God; All
3. See from his head, his hands, his feet, Sor - row and love flow ming - ling down: Did
4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were an off - 'ring far too small; Love

rich - est gain I count but loss, And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
the vain things that charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
e'er such love and sor - row meet, Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so a - maz - ing, so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Despite its crucifixion themes, this initially appeared in *Hymns & Spiritual Songs* (1709) as a communion hymn.

Theologian Matthew Arnold wrote that it was "the greatest hymn in the English language". Charles Wesley himself said that he would have gladly trade every song he had written if he could have only written this one.

The words are unchanged from Watts's original. The tune was associated with the words in 1833, and is named *Rockingham* after the twice British Prime Minister the Marquis of Rockingham, a patron and friend of Edward Miller.