**Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain LSB 435 - Lenten Sermon**

**James Montgomery, was an English poet, who wrote this hymn wrote 3 others in our hymnal:** Christmas - 367 – Angels from the Realms of Glory

Epiphany – 398 - Hail to the Lord’s Anointed

Lent – 436 - Go to Dark Gethsemane

Keep in mind that even though maybe you like these melodies, he didn’t write those, he only wrote the lyrics, which is the most important part of the song.

In his time and place, his culture would rather turn toward nature rather than God, so Montgomery used the language of nature to compose a hymn that called his culture to come to Christ.

So, was Jesus crucified on a mountain? I would have to say not according to a Montana definition of a mountain. So, let’s take a look at 3 readings about this.

**Matthew 27:33** –

***They came to a place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull").***

**John 19:17** - ***Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull***

***(which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).***

**Luke 23:33** - New King James Version

***And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left.***

All four writers of the Gospels use the Greek word (Κρανίον Kraníon)

when testifying to the place outside Jerusalem where Jesus was crucified.

Kranion is often translated as Skull in English,

but more accurately it means Cranium, the part of the skull enclosing the brain.

In Latin Kraníon is rendered Calvariæ, from which the English word Calvary derives.

While the Gospels merely identify Calvary as a "place,"

Christian tradition has described the location as a mountain or hill.

So it’s not a literal mountain, but I think of it as something that is very difficult and impossible for us to climb. Only Christ could defeat Satan on that hill.

**1 Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain,**

**Isaiah 25:6 & 8**

***6 On this mountain the Lord of hosts will …***

***8 …swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.***

**Sinners, ruined by the fall;**

**Romans 5:12 *- Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—***

**Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for me, for all,**

**In a full, perpetual tide, opened when our Savior died.**

**Zechariah 13:1** - ***“On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David & the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin & uncleanness.”***

**2 Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within;**

**From infection and uncleanness, From the leprosy of sin,**

**Hebrews 9:14** - ***How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.***

**Wash your robes and make them white;**

**Revelations 7:14** –

***“They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.***

**Ye shall walk with God in light.**

**1 John 1:7** - ***But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.***

**3 Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, impotent, and blind;**

**Psalm 51:17 - *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;***

***a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.***

**1 John 1:9 - *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins***

***and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

**Here the guilty, free remission, Here the troubled, peace may find.**

**John 14:27** - ***Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.***

**4 They that drink shall live forever; 'Tis a soul-renewing flood.**

**John 4:14** - ***Health this fountain will restore; They that drink shall thirst no more.***

***but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”***

**God is faithful;**

**1 John 1:9** - ***If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

**God will never Break His covenant of blood,**

**Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when He was glorified.**

**1 Corinthians 11:25** - ***In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”***

This last line sounds like a last will and testament, it is his promise to us!

This covenant & promise was signed when Jesus died

And the deal was “sealed” when Jesus rose & ascended into heaven.

As the (Stevie Wonder) song goes, “Signed, Sealed & Delivered – I’m yours!”

I would like to close by allowing you to meditate on the meaning of this hymn

as I read similar lyrics in a more contemporary song.

I will also sing this song during the offering:

**Beautiful Scandalous Night**

Go on up to the mountain of mercy To the crimson perpetual tide

Kneel down on the shore - Be thirsty no more - Go under and be purified

Follow Christ to the holy mountain - Sinner, sorry and wrecked by the fall

Cleanse your heart and your soul - In the fountain that flows

For you and for me and for all

**Chorus**: At the wonderful tragic mysterious tree

On that beautiful scandalous night you and me

Were atoned by His blood and forever washed white

On that beautiful scandalous night

On the hillside you will be delivered - At the foot of the cross justified

And your spirit restored - By the river that pours - From our blessed Savior's side

Amen