

For baritone with organ accompaniment

Music and text by Art Eschenlauer

http://eschenlauer.com/music/hem

The text for this piece is adapted from the story appearing in the synoptic Gospels at:

- Matthew 9:20-22 (Proper 5, year A, in the Revised Common Lectionary)
- Mark 5:25-34 (Proper 8, year B, in the Revised Common Lectionary)
- Luke 8:43-48

I have known for a while that I wanted to set this text to music. Seeing the mosaic in Ravenna finally gave me the nudge that I needed to start.

- Art Eschenlauer, November 2017

The Hem

For a dozen years she has been in anguish, Cut off by her family and friends, Cast out from the city and the temple, Kept from God upon Whom she depends.

Years fly by with no end to her bleeding. Judged by laws made in God's name by man, Now she walks alone behind the Teacher, Praying as she stretches forth her hand:

> "If I could touch the hem of His garment, His holy power could flow to me, to heal my sickness and cover my sins. With His blessing, at last, I'd be free."

Jesus feels His power flowing from Him as He passes forward through the crowd. Turning, He can see the hopeful woman, no one near her, now before Him, bowed.

Looking with compassion on her boldness, Christ speaks as He mends her wounded soul, "Daughter, be encouraged, your faith healed you!" From this hour onward, she is whole.

> "For I have touched the hem of His garment, His holy Power did flow through me, to heal my sickness and cover my sins. With His Blessing, at last, I am free."

Text adapted from the Gospels by Art Eschenlauer

Cover image: Mosaic from Basilica of Sant'Apollinare Nuovo in Ravenna, Italy, 6th C CE, <u>http://tinyurl.com/TheWomanWhoBledTwelveYears</u>

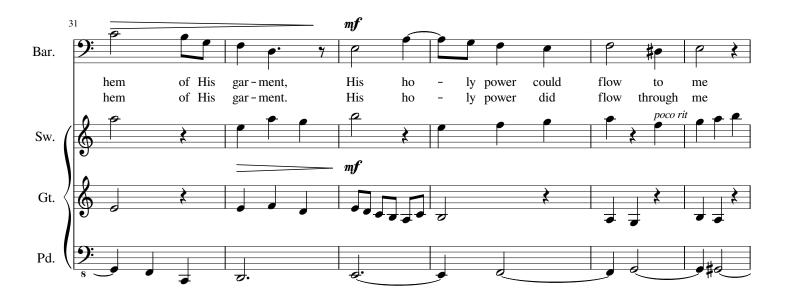
The Hem

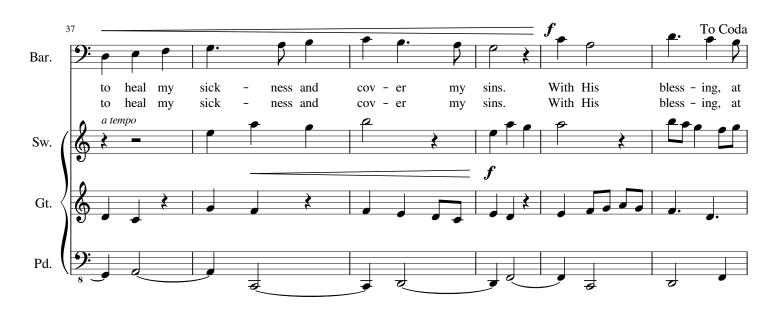


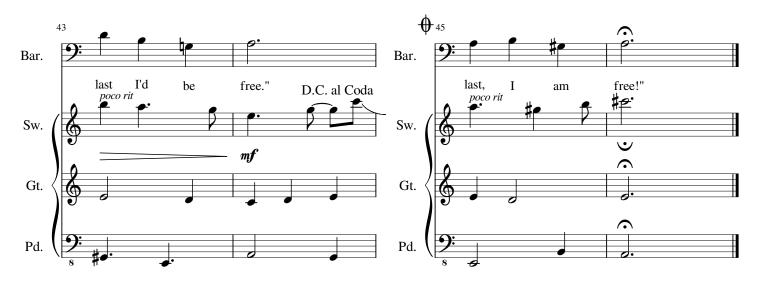
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Baritone

The Hem

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