

Out of the Depths

for choir (with soloists), brass and chamber orchestra

Orchestra: 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 2 horns, 2 trumpets, 2 trombones, 1 percussion (triangle and vibraphone), baritone solo, SSAA choir, strings.

12 minutes

Brooke Joyce (2017)

Premiered by Jonathon Struve and students from Luther College, October 2021

Program Note: *Out of the Depths* was composed for Jonathan Struve and the choir of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Decorah, Iowa. It was later orchestrated and expanded into the present version. The year of its composition, 2017, marked the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. As a way of honoring the musical and poetic legacy of Martin Luther, his penitential hymn, “Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir,” is quoted liberally.

Performance notes: The work is organized much like a baroque cantata, with alternating instrumental, choral and solo movements. Ideally, the brass is situated off-stage or in separate part of the performance space.

I. Procession (brass only)

II. Chorus, “Out of the Depths”

Out of the depths I cry to you; O Lord, hear me calling.

Incline your ear to my distress Send me the grace my spirit needs; without it I am nothing.

III. Sinfonia I (brass only)

IV. Chorus, “All things you send are full of grace”

All things you send are full of grace; you crown our lives with favor.

All our good works are done in vain without our Savior.

We praise you for the gift of faith, You save us from the grip of death; our lives are in your keeping.

V. Sinfonia II (brass only)

VI. Solo, "In you alone"

In you alone, O God, I hope, and not in my own merit.

I rest my fears in your good Word

and trust your Holy Spirit.

Your promise keeps me strong and sure; I trust the cross, your signature inscribed upon my temple.

VII. Chorus, "My soul is waiting for you"

My soul is waiting for you, Lord as one who longs for morning.

No watcher waits with greater hope

than I for your returning.

I hope as Israel in the Lord;

who sends redemption through the Word. Praise God for grace and mercy!