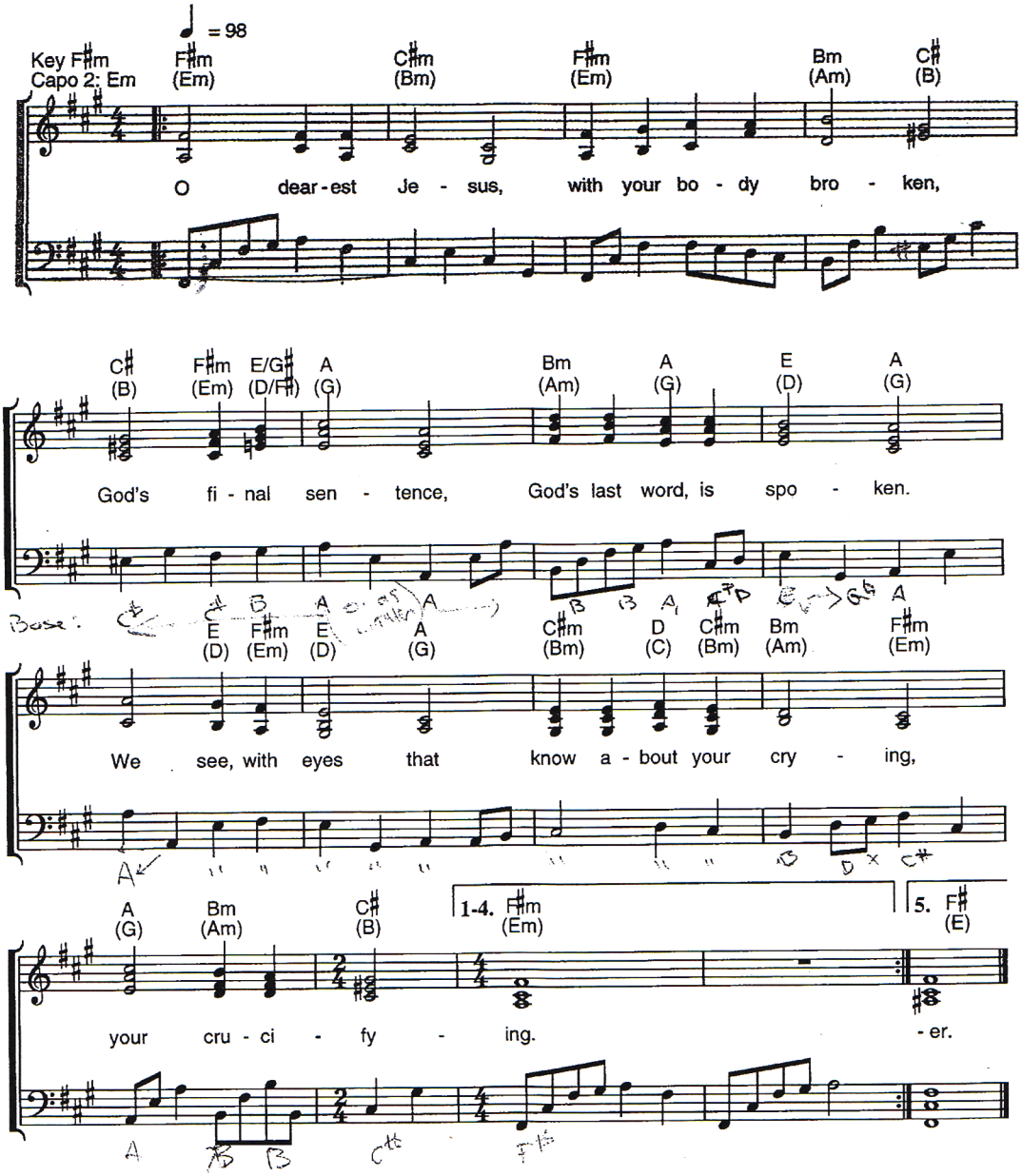
O dearest Jesus



1. O dearest Jesus, with your body broken,
God's final sentence, God's last word, is spoken.
We see, with eyes that know about your crying,
your crucifying.

2. Why did they mock you? Why did people jeer you?
Aren't you the king? The whole world should have cheered you.
Ah, but our hearts are cold, and we are blinded,
so evil-minded.

3. We made your crown with thorns from deep inside us,
hammered your hands with nails no-one supplied us.
We need no help to stage a crucifixion —
it's our affliction.

4. Yet, by your dying death has been defeated.
Life was destroyed, but life has been created.
One final cry, and, though your life was ended,
we were befriended.

5. Sleep, dearest Jesus, sleep until your waking.
When morning comes this old world will be breaking.
Death cannot hold you — death is not that clever.
God lives forever!

Words: Robin Mann, based on Johann Heermann (1585–1647)
Music: J. Crüger (1640), based on earlier melody
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