Take Up Your Cross

SATB, *A Cappella* or with Accompaniment
Lent

In this arrangement I have hoped to preserve the strength and severity of the verse by Charles William Everest (1814–1877). The lyric here is closer to Everest’s original than versions found in most hymnals.

I have matched the verse with the Dorian melody KEDRON from *The Southern Harmony* (1835). I have kept the harmony within the Dorian mode as well, in support of the lyric’s severe demands:

Take up your cross and follow on,
Nor think till death to lay it down.

Albert Blackwell
February 18, 2012
Take Up Your Cross

Charles William Everest (1814-1877)  KEDRON, from Southern Harmony
Arr. Albert Blackwell

1. Take up your cross, the Savior said,
2. Take up your cross, let not its weight
3. Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
4. Take up your cross, then, in his strength,
5. Take up your cross, and follow on,

if you would my disciple be;
fill your weak soul with vain alarm;
and let your foolish pride be still;
and calmly every danger brave:
nor think till death to lay it down;

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take up your cross with willing heart,
his strength shall bear your spirit up,
the Lord refused not e'en to die
it guides you to a better home,
for those who bear the heavy cross

and humbly follow after me.
and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.
up on the cross on Calv'ry's hill.
it points to vic't'ry o'er the grave.
may hope to wear the glorious crown.