

Mercy Seat
Johnny Cash

I m a lazy guitar player so I wrote the whole song out for ya.

Standard tuning - EADGBE

[Intro]

```
e|---|-----|
B|---|-----|
G|---|-----|
D|---|-----|
A|---|-----0---0-----|
E|-0-|-2h3h4-----3-2-0-|
```

[Verse]

Simply **Am**, **E** repeated

These are put before some of the chord changes, the song sounds fine without them.

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e|-----|
B|-----|
G|-----|
D|-----|
A|-----0-----|
E|-3-4-----3-2-0-|
```

[Chorus]

Chords

```
e|-0----0----0----3----3----1----0----0----|
B|-1----1----1----0----3----3----1----1----|
G|-2----1----0----0----3----3----2----2----|
D|-2----2----2----0----5----3----3----2----|
A|-0----0----0----2----5----1----0----0----|
E|-0----0----0----3----3----1-----0----|
Am AmMaj7 Am7 G Gm Bb Fmaj7 Am
```

(The parts that don t have the chords, is to be played like the chorus)

[Intro]

It ALL began when they come took me from my home
And put me on Death Row,
a crime for which I am totally innocent, you know.

[Verse 1]

```
Am E  
I began to warm and chill  
Am E  
To objects and their fields,  
Am E  
A ragged cup, a twisted mop
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Am **E**
The face of Jesus in my soup
Am **E**
Those sinister dinner deals
Am **E**
The meal trolley s wicked wheels
Am **E**
A hooked bone rising from my food
Am **E**
All things either good or ungood.

[Chorus]

Am
And the mercy seat is waiting
AmMa j7
And I think my head is burning
Am7
And in a way I m yearning
G **Gm**
To be done with all this weighing of the truth.

An eye for an eye
Bb
And a tooth for a tooth
Fmaj7
And anyway I told the truth
Am
And I m not afraid to die.

Am / E / Am / E

[Verse 2]

Am
I hear stories from the chamber
AmMa j7
Christ was born into a manger
Am7
And like some ragged stranger
G **Gm**
He died upon the cross. Might I say,
Bb
it seems so fitting in its way
Fmaj7
He was a carpenter by trade
Am
Or at least that s what I m told

Am / E / Am / E

Am **E**
My kill-hand s tatoed E.V.I.L.
Am **E**
across it s brother s fist

Am **E**
That filthy five!

Am **E**
They did nothing to challenge or resist.

Am **AmMaj7**
In Heaven His throne is made of gold
Am7
The ark of his Testament is stowed

A throne from which I m told
G

All history does unfold.

Gm
It s made of wood and wire

Bb
And my body is on fire

Fmaj7 **Am**
And God is never far away.

Am **AmMaj7**
Into the mercy seat I climb

Am7
My head is shaved, my head is wired

And like a moth that tries
G

To enter the bright eye

Gm
I go shuffling out of life

Bb
Just to hide in death awhile

Fmaj7 **Am**
And anyway I never lied.

[Chorus]

Am
And the mercy seat is waiting

AmMaj7
And I think my head is burning

Am7
And in a way I m yearning

G **Gm**
To be done with all this weighing of the truth.

An eye for an eye

Bb
And a tooth for a tooth

Fmaj7
And anyway I told the truth

Am
And I m not afraid to die.

[Verse 3]

Am

And the mercy seat is burning

AmMaj7

And I think my head is glowing

Am7

And in a way I m hoping

G

Gm

To be done with all this twisting of the truth.

An eye for an eye

Bb

And a tooth for a tooth

Fmaj7

And anyway there was no proof

Am

And I m not afraid to die.

Am

And the mercy seat is glowing

AmMaj7

And I think my head is smoking

Am7

And in a way I m hoping

G

Gm

To be done with all these looks of disbelief.

A life for a life

Bb

And a truth for a truth

Fmaj7

And I ve got nothing left to lose

Am

And I m not afraid to die.

Am

And the mercy seat is smoking

AmMaj7

And I think my head is melting

Am7

And in a way that s helping

G

Gm

To be done with all this twisting of the truth

An eye for an eye

Bb

And a tooth for a tooth

Fmaj7

And anyway I told the truth

Am

But I m afraid I told a lie.