

2022-04-14 Meditation for Maundy Thursday in the Sixth Week of Lent is now available at: <https://pgimf.org/meditations/>

## **Bach, St John Passion, Nos 29-32 (BWV 245)**

Lyrics: John 18-19; libretto's author is not known

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750; first performed Good Friday, April 7, 1724)

Artists: Netherlands Bach Society, Jos van Veldhoven (dir., live performance)

Trans: <https://www.bach-cantatas.com/Texts/BWV245-Eng3.htm>

### **29. Recitative**

*Evangelist:*

**Und von Stund an nahm sie der Jünger zu sich.**

*And from that hour the disciple took her to himself.*

**Darnach, als Jesus wusste, dass schon alles vollbracht war,**

*Then as Jesus knew that all had been accomplished*

**dass die Schrift erfüllet würde, spricht er:**

*so the scripture might be fulfilled, he said:*

**Jesus:**

**Mich dürstet!**

*I thirst!*

*Evangelist:*

**Da stund ein Gefäße voll Essigs.**

*There was a jar of vinegar.*

**Sie fülleten aber einen Schwamm mit Essig**

*They filled a sponge with vinegar*

**und legten ihn um einen Isopen,**

*and put it on an hyssop*

**und hielten es ihm dar zum Munde.**

*and held it up to his mouth.*

**Da nun Jesus den Essig genommen hatte, sprach er:**

*When Jesus had taken the vinegar, he said:*

**Jesus:**

**Es ist vollbracht!**

*It is accomplished!*

### 30. Aria Alto

A Section:

Ritornello (Viola da gamba [poorly miced], lute, organ)

**Es ist vollbracht!**

*It is accomplished!*

**O Trost vor die gekrankten Seelen!**

*What comfort for all suffering souls!*

Ritornello

**Die Trauernacht** [Bach extends ‘Trauernacht’, it had been a long night.]

*The night of sorrow*

**Last nun die letzte Stunde zahlen.**

*now reaches its final hours.*

**B Section** (suddenly the tempo is much faster  
as all the strings burst upon us, victoriously,)

**Der Held aus Juda siegt mit Macht**

*The hero from Judah triumphs in his might*

**Und schliet den Kampf.**

*and brings the strife to an end.*

[Dramatic pause, return to slower tempo of the A section,  
the line of text is sung only twice more.]

**Es ist vollbracht!**

*It is accomplished!*

### 31. Recitative

*Evangelist:*

**Und neiget das Haupt und verschied.**

*And he bowed his head and passed away*

### 32. Aria Bass and Chorus

*A: with Ritornello*

**Mein teurer Heiland, laß dich fragen,**

*My beloved Saviour, let me ask you,*

[Choir] *Jesu, der du warest tot,*

*Jesus, you were dead,*

*A: with Ritornello*

**da du nunmehr ans Kreuz geschlagen**

*since you have now been nailed to the cross*

**und selbst gesagt: Es ist vollbracht,**

*and you yourself have said : It is accomplished,*

[Choir] *lebest nun ohn Ende,*

*and now live for ever,*

*Brief Ritornello closes the A section*

*B:*

**bin ich vom Sterben frei gemacht?**

*have I been set free from death?*

[Choir] *in der letzten Todesnot*

*in my final agony of death*

**Kann ich durch deine Pein und Sterben**

*Through your pain and death can I*

[Choir] *nirgend mich hinwende*

*may I turn nowhere else*

**das Himmelreich ererben?**

*inherit the kingdom of heaven?*

**Ist aller Welt Erlösung da?**

*Is this the redemption of the whole world?*

[Choir] *als zu dir, der mich versüht,*

*but to you, who have redeemed me,*

*O du lieber Herre!*

*O my dear Lord,*

**Du kannst vor Schmerzen zwar nichts sagen;**

*You can indeed not speak for anguish;*

[Choir] *Gib mir nur, was du verdient,*

*give me only what you have won,*

**doch neigest du das Haupt**

*but you bow your head*  
**und sprichst stillschweigend: ja!**  
*and silently say: yes!*

[Choir] mehr ich nicht begehre!  
*for more I could not wish!*

*[Closing Ritornello]*

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