

2024-03-16 Meditation for Saturday in the Fourth Week of Lent is now available at: <https://pgimf.org/meditations/>

[The opening theme song with a poetic paraphrase begins:]

*Ich bete an die Macht der Liebe,
O Pow'r of love, all else transcending,
Die sich in Jesu offenbart;
In Jesus present evermore,
Ich geb' mich hin dem freien Triebe,
I worship thee, in homage bending,*

St Matthew Passion, Part I: Nos 21-23 BWV 244 (Good Friday 1727)

Lyrics: Matthew 26 & 27; aria poetry by Christian Friedrich Henrici (pen name = Picander, 1700-1764)
Chorale text and tune by Nikolaus Decium (pub. 1531)

Trans: <https://www.bach-cantatas.com/Texts/BWV244-Eng3.htm>

Music: Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Artists: Netherlands Bach Society, Jos von Veldhoven (dir.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwVW1ttVhuQ> (the entire Passion)

Recorded April 17 and 19, 2014 at the Grote Kerk, Naarden, Netherlands

The website offers six interviews explaining the Passion, the tradition, use of rhetoric, etc.

21. Recitative

Evangelist:

**Und ging hin ein wenig, fiel nieder auf sein Angesicht und betete
und sprach:**

And he went forward a little, fell down on his face and prayed and said:

Jesus:

Mein Vater, ist's möglich, so gehe dieser Kelch von mir;

My father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me;

doch nicht wie ich will, sondern wie du willt.

yet not as I will, but rather as you will.

22. Bass Recitative (with falling triads in strings representing 'falling')

Der Heiland fällt vor seinem Vater nieder;

The saviour falls down before his father;

Dadurch erhebt er mich und alle

Thereby he lifts me and everyone

Von unserm Falle
From our fall
Hinauf zu Gottes Gnade wieder.
Up to God's grace again.
Er ist bereit,
He is ready
Den Kelch, des Todes Bitterkeit
Zu trinken,
To drink the cup, the bitterness of death,
In welchen Sünden dieser Welt
The cup in which the sins of this world
Gegossen sind und hässlich stinken,
are poured and stink hatefully,
Weil es dem lieben Gott gefällt.
Because it pleases dear God.

23. Bass Aria

A Section:

Ritornello (Unison strings)

Gerne will ich mich bequemen,
Willingly I shall bring myself
Kreuz und Becher anzunehmen,
To accept the cross and cup,
Trink ich doch dem Heiland nach.
I drink as my saviour did.

Brief Ritornello

B Section (this text is sung twice):

Denn sein Mund,
For his mouth,
Der mit Milch und Honig fließet,
Which flows with milk and honey
Hat den Grund

*Has made the cause
Und des Leidens herbe Schmach
And bitter taste of suffering
Durch den ersten Trunk versüßet.
Become sweet through first drinking himself.*

[brief pause, then *Da Capo* = return to the A Section, above)

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