

2025-03-07 Meditation for Friday after Ash Wednesday 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,*

Herzlich lieb hab' ich dich BuxWV 41:2

Lyrics: Martin Schalling (1532-1608; written 1569, based on Psalms 18 and 73)

Trans: <https://www.bach-cantatas.com/Texts/Chorale006-Eng3.htm>

Melody: Zahn 8326; Mathias Gastritz (c. 1535-1596; melody published in 1571)

Music: Dietrich Buxtehude (c. 1637-1707; c. 1706/07)

Artists: Ensemble Pygmalion, Raphaël Pichon (dir.), live concert at Versailles, April 7, 2023

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4bS-bKzFno>

(2nd movement begins at 3:45)

II. Es ist ja, Herr, dein G'schenk und Gab'

[The soloists will repeat the words of each of the three lines, often in imitation or in alternation.

Then the choir will reiterate the three lines more clearly, in triple meter.]

Es ist ja, Herr, dein G'schenk und Gab'

It is, Lord, your present and gift,
Mein Leib und Seel' und was ich hab'
My body and soul and what I have
In diesem armen Leben.
In this poor life.

[The following three lines are treated as above, but the music is more ornate.]

Damit ich's brauch' zum Lobe dein,

So that I may use this for your praise,
Zu Nutz und Dienst des Nächsten mein,
For the benefit and service of my neighbour
Woll'st mir dein' Gnade geben!

May it be your will to grant me your grace!

[Some suggest the following lines refer to the Calvinist city council expelling the poet-minister from Amberg because he was Lutheran:]

[He later adds a pause before 'falscher Lehr' for emphasis.]

Behüt mich, Herr, vor falscher Lehr',

Guard me, Lord, from false teaching,

Des Satans Mord und Lügen wehr,

Defend me from Satan's murder and lies,

In allem Kreuz erhalte mich,

Sustain me in every affliction [cross].

Auf daß ich's trag' geduldiglich!

So that I may endure with patience!

[Brief instrumental interlude]

Herr Jesu Christ,

Lord Jesus Christ,

Mein Herr und Gott, mein Herr und Gott,

My Lord and God, my Lord and God,

[Faster, in triple meter]

Tröst mir mein' Seel' in Todesnot!

Comfort my soul in death's distress.

[Closing words to our theme song:]

O! dass diess jeder Sünder wüsste,

O! that every sinner would know this,

Sein Herz wohl bald dich lieben müste.

His heart must soon surely love You.

Evan

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