

2025-03-23 Meditation for the Third Sunday 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,*

Jesu, meines Lebens Leben BuxWV 62

Lyrics: Ernst Christoph Homburg (1605-1681; published in 1659), based on Matthew 26:64-67

Trans: Paraphrased poetic translation by Catherine Winkworth (1863, pub. 1965)

<https://www.bach-cantatas.com/Texts/Chorale165-Eng3.htm>

Melody: Zahn 6794; Wolfgang Weßnitzer (1629-1697; melody published in 1661)

Music: Dietrich Buxtehude (c. 1637-1707; c. 1671-1676)

Artists: The Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra, Ton Koopman (dir.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCzU1xlSsE8>

Sinfonia [Strings and continuo—no ostinato yet]

Verse 1 [Soprano soloist with continuo, which plays a repeated bass pattern or ostinato of 8 notes]

Jesu, meines Lebens Leben,
Christ, the Life of all the living,
Jesu, meines Todes Tod,
Christ the Death of death, our foe,
der du dich für mich gegeben
Who, thyself for us once giving
in die tiefste Seelennot,
To the darkest depths of woe,
in das äußerste Verderben,
Patiently didst yield thy breath
nur dass ich nicht möchte sterben:
But to save my soul from death;
Tausend-, tausendmal sei dir,
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
liebster Jesu, Dank dafür.

Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

[Instrumental interlude connecting to the next verse.]

Verse 2 [Alto, Tenor, and Bass soloists with continuo]

Du, ach du hast ausgestanden

Thou, O Christ, hast taken on thee

Lästerreden, Spott und Hohn,

Bitter strokes, a cruel rod;

Speichel, Schläge, Strick und Banden,

Pain and scorn were heaped upon thee,

du gerechter Gottessohn,

O thou sinless Son of God,

nur mich Armen zu erretten

Only thus for me to win

von des Teufels Sündenketten.

Rescue from the bonds of sin;

Tausend-, tausendmal sei dir,

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,

liebster Jesu, Dank dafür.

Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

[Instrumental interlude connecting to the next verse.]

Verse 3 [Tenor soloist with continuo]

Du hast lassen Wunden schlagen,

Thou did bear the smiting only

dich erbärmlich richten zu,

That it might not fall on me;

um zu heilen meine Plagen,

Stoodest falsely charged and lonely

um zu setzen mich in Ruh;

That I might be safe and free;

ach du hast zu meinen Segen

Comfortless that I might know

lassen dich mit Fluch belegen.

Comfort from thy boundless woe.

Tausend-, tausendmal sei dir,
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
liebster Jesu, Dank dafür.
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

[Instrumental interlude connecting to the next verse.]

Verse 4 [Soprano, Alto, and Bass soloists with continuo]

Man hat dich sehr hart verhöhnet,
Heartless scoffers did surround thee,
dich mit großem Schimpf belegt,
Treating thee with shameful scorn
gar mit Dornen an gekrönet:
And with piercing thorns they crowned thee,
was hat dich dazu bewegt?
All disgrace thou, Lord, hast borne
Dass du möchtest mich ergötzen,
That as thine thou mightest own me
mir die Ehrenkron aufsetzen.
And with heavenly glory crown me.
Tausend-, tausendmal sei dir,
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
liebster Jesu, Dank dafür.
Dearest Jesus, unto thee.

[Instrumental interlude connecting to the next verse.]

Verse 5 [All five soloists with instruments occasionally playing between lines]

Ich, ich danke dir von Herzen,
Now for all that wrought our pardon,
Jesu, für gesamte Not:
For thy sorrows deep and sore,
für die Wunden, für die Schmerzen,
For thine anguish in the garden,
für den herben, bittern Tod;
I will thank thee evermore;
für dein Zittern, für dein Zagen,

Thank thee with my latest breath
für dein tausendfaches Plagen,
For thy sad and cruel death,
Tausend-, tausendmal sei dir,
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
liebster Jesu, Dank dafür.
Dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Amen.

[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 müsste.

His heart must soon surely love You.

Evan

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