

2025-03-26 Meditation for Wednesday in the Third 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,

Portrei sopra degli empi, ZWV 61 (from the oratorio, *Il Serpente di Bronzo*, 1730)

Lyrics: Biblical texts selected by Edward Willes (1693-1773)

Music: Jan Dismas Zelenka (1679-1745)

Artists: Les Ambassadeurs, La Grande Ecurie, Alexis Kossenko (dir.)
Stephan MacLeod (baritone)

https://archive.org/stream/mbid-ce7096db-5901-4cb8-a8f6-b0d6712b19a1/mbid-ce7096db-5901-4cb8-a8f6-b0d6712b19a1-17374203473_djvu.txt

A Section [Portrays God contemplating how he could punish the Israelites for complaining and threatening to rebel him.]

[Orchestral Ritornello]

Potrei sopra degli empi
I could send storms and thunder
scagliar tempeste e fulmini
to crush those godless heathen,
di fiamme, di voragini,
I could make fires, abysses again
potrei gli esempi rinnovar.
To give them a warning.

B Section [The B section traditionally contrasts in some way with the A section. In this section, God decides to refrain from fully avenging their sins, "Just a mere bite should do."]

Ma il mono in cielo taccia,
Yet, let thunder keep quiet in heaven,
la terra immota giaccia,
let the earth lie motionless,

e basti un lieve morso
just a mere bite should do
miei torti a vendicar.
to avenge the wrong done to me.

[Return immediately to repeat all of the A Section.]

[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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