

2025-04-14 Meditation for Monday in the Sixth 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,

Foundlings Hospital Anthem, HWV 268, Nos 1-2 (May 27, 1749; rev. 1753)

Lyrics: Biblical texts adapted from the King James Version

Music: George Frederick Handel (1685-1758)

Artists: The English Concert, Harry Bicket (dir. and harpsichord)

(This group hopes to film performances of all of Handel's music for the public.)

Miah Persson and Elena Villalón, sopranos

Ann Hallenberg, mezzo-soprano

James Way, tenor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHOWrbXQbJE> (entire anthem)

For a fascinating video on Handel, abandoned babies, the Foundling Hospital, and *Messiah*, see:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3RRsi6cOPM>

No. 1: Blessed are they that considereth the poor and needy

Tenor Aria based on Psalm 41:1-2a

Blessed are they that considereth the poor and needy:
the Lord will deliver them in time of trouble,
the Lord preserve them and comfort them.

No. 2: Blessed are they that considereth the poor and needy

Choir, based on Psalm 41:1-3

[Slow, possibly depicting poverty and trouble]

Blessed are they that considereth the poor and needy:
the Lord will deliver them in time of trouble,

the Lord preserve them and comfort them.

[Faster, “deliver” is an action verb.]

[The sopranos will then have a choral-like theme I have not identified.]

[This part of the movement is taken directly from Handel’s *Funeral Anthem for Queen Caroline*, HWV 264, but the Psalm is now unaltered, whereas for the late Queen, it was tailored to her alone.]

They deliver the poor that crieth, the fatherless
and him that hath none to help him.

The Lord will comfort them.

[Notice how the movement suddenly ends with slower music for the words “none, none to help him.”]

[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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