

## BWV 245: Passion According to St. John

Good Friday (Vespers).

Compiler of the whole text unknown; borrowings from: B. H. Brockes, *Der für die Sünde der Welt Gemarterte und Sterbende Jesus, aus den IV Evangelisten*, (Hamburg, 1712 and 1715): 7(11), 19(31), 20(32), 24(48), 32(60), 34(62), partly 35(63) and 39(67); Christian Weise, *Der Grünen Jugend Nothwendige Gedanken* (Leipzig, 1675): 13(19); C. H. Postel, *Johannes-Passion* (around 1700): 22(40), 30(58), partly 19(31) in the later version and possibly 30(58); S. Franck *Arnstädter Gesangbuch* (1745): possibly 13(19) in the later version.

**Chorales:** 3(7). Johann Heermann, verse 7 of "Herzliebster Jesus, was hast du verbrochen," 1630 (Fischer-Tümpel, I, #334); 5(9). Martin Luther, verse 4 of "Vater unser im Himmelreich," 1539 (Wackernagel, I, #215); 11(15). Paul Gerhardt, verse 3 and 4 of "O Welt, sieh hier dein Leben," 1647 (Fischer-Tümpel, III, #387); 14(20). Paul Stockmann, verse 10 of "Jesu Leiden, Pein und Tod," 1633 (Fischer-Tümpel, II, #37); 15(21). Michael Weiße, verse 1 of the hymn, 1531 (Wackernagel, I, #342); 17(27). Johann Heermann, verse 8 and 9 of "Herzliebster Jesu, was hast du verbrochen," 1630 (Fischer-Tümpel, I, #334); 22(40). Text of an aria from C. H. Postel, *Johannes-Passion*, ca. 1700, to the chorale melody of J. H. Schein, "Mach's mit mir, Gott, nach deiner Güt"; 26(52). Valerius Herberger, verse 3 of "Valet will ich dir geben," 1613 (Fischer-Tümpel, I, #125); 28(56). Paul Stockmann, verse 20 of "Jesu Leiden, Pein und Tod," 1633 (Fischer-Tümpel, II, #37); 32(60). *ibid*, final verse; 37(65). Michael Weiße, verse 8 of "Christus, der uns selig macht," 1531 (Wackernagel, I, #342); 40(68). Martin Schalling, verse 3 of "Herzlich lieb hab ich dich, o Herr," 1571 (Wackernagel, IV, #1174); Appendix: 1II. Sebald Heyden, verse 1 of the hymn, 1525 (Wackernagel, III, #603); 11(15). Paul Stockmann, verse 33 of "Jesu Leiden, Pein und Tod," 1633 (Fischer-Tümpel, II, #37); 40II. German "Agnus Dei," Braunschweig, 1528.

**Biblical texts:** *Jn.* 18 and 19 with the interpolation of *Mt.* 26:75 after *Jn.* 18:27 and of *Mt.* 27:51-52 after *Jn.* 19:30.

7 April 1724, Leipzig; origin perhaps in the Weimar years; second version, 30 March 1725, Leipzig; ca. 1730 and final version between 1746 and 1749.

BG 12, 1; NBA II/4.

Evangelist (T), Jesus (B), Maid (S), Peter (B), Servant (T), Pilate (B)  
First Part

1. Chorus (S, A, T, B)

Lord, thou our Governor, thou, whose fame  
In every nation glorious is,  
    Show us through this thy Passion,  
    That thou, the very Son of God,  
In every age,  
E'en in the greatest depths of woe,  
Most glorious art become!<sup>1</sup>

2a.(2.) Evangelist, Jesus (T, B)  
(Evangelist)

Jesus crossed with his disciples over the the brook Kidron, where there was a garden.

To it Jesus went with his disciples. Judas, though, who had betrayed him, knew the place as well for Jesus had often gone there with his disciples. When now Judas had brought with him the crowd and the chief priests and the Pharisees' servants, he entered there with torches, lanterns and with weapons. Since now Jesus knew all that would happen to him, he went outside and said to them:

(Jesus)

Whom do ye seek?

(Evangelist)

They replied unto him:

2b.(3.) Chorus (S, A, T, B) Crowd

Jesus of Nazareth.

2c.(4.) Evangelist, Jesus (T, B)

(Evangelist)

Jesus saith unto them:

(Jesus)

I am he.

(Evangelist)

Judas also, who had betrayed him, stood though among them. And when Jesus had said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. Then he asked them for a second time:

(Jesus)

Whom do ye seek?

(Evangelist)

And they did answer:

2d.(5.) Chorus (S, A, T, B) Crowd

Jesus of Nazareth.

2e.(6.) Evangelist, Jesus (T, B)

(Evangelist)

Jesus replied, saying:

(Jesus)

I have told you that I am he; so if ye seek me, then let these people go!

### **3.(7.) Chorale (S, A, T, B)**

**O mighty love, O love beyond all measure,  
Which thee hath brought upon this way of torment!  
I lived amongst the world in joy and pleasure,  
And thou must suffer.**

4.(8.) Evangelist, Jesus (T, B)

(Evangelist)

So that the word might be accomplished, which he had spoken, "I have not lost one of those thou didst give me." Now Simon Peter had a sword and drew it forth and struck at the chief priest's slave and cut his right ear off; And the slave's name was Malchus. Then spake Jesus to Peter:

(Jesus)

Put back thy sword in its scabbard! Shall  
I the cup not drink which my Father hath  
given me?

### **5.(9.) Chorale (S, A, T, B)**

**Thy will be done, Lord God, alike  
On earth as e'en in heaven's realm.  
Give us restraint in time of pain,  
Obedience both in love and woe;  
Guard and guide every flesh and blood  
Which counter to thy will doth strive!**

6.(10.) Evangelist (T)

The crowd, though, and their captain, and the servants of the Jews laid hold of Jesus and bound him fast and led

him away first unto Annas, who was Caiphas' wife's father, and was the high priest of that year. But it was Caiphas who had told the Jews it would be good if one man were slain for the people.

7.(11.) Aria (A)

From the bondage of my sins  
Me to deliver  
Is my Savior fettered  
    He from all my body's torments,  
    Fully to heal me,  
    Lets himself be wounded.

8.(12.) Evangelist (T)

Simon Peter followed after Jesus,  
and one other disciple.

9.(13.) Aria (S)

I'll follow thee likewise with gladdening paces  
And forsake thee not,  
My life and my light.  
    Now forward my course  
    And do not desist  
    Thyself me to draw on, to press on, to summon.

10.(14.) Evangelist, Maid, Peter, Jesus, Attendant (T, S, B, B, T)

(Evangelist)

This same disciple was acquainted with the high priest and went with Jesus within, to the palace of the high priest. Peter, though, stood outside before the door. Then came the other disciple, who was acquainted with the high priest, outside and spoke with the woman guarding the door, and Peter inside. Then said the maid who guarded the door to Peter:

(Maid)

Art thou not also one of this man's disciples?

(Evangelist)

He said:

(Peter)

I am not.

(Evangelist)

And there the soldiers and servants were standing, who had made a fire out of charcoal (for it was cold), and were warming themselves. Peter, too, was standing with them and warming himself. But the high priest put forth questions to Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answering him said:

(Jesus)

I have spoken openly and freely before the world. And in the synagogue and in the temple have I always been teaching, where all the Jews come together, and I have spoken nought in secret. Why dost thou ask me about this? Question those about this who have already heard what I have spoken to them. See, these people know what I have said.

(Evangelist)

But when he had spoken thus, one of the attendants who stood nearby gave Jesus a slap on the cheek and said:

(Servant)

Shalt thou answer the high priest thus?

(Evangelist)

Jesus, though, thus replied to him:

(Jesus)

If I have spoken ill, then bear witness to the ill therein, but if I have told the truth, why strikest thou me?

**11.(15.) Chorale (S, A, T, B)**

**Who hath thee now so stricken,  
My Savior, and with torments  
Such ill upon thee laid?  
For thou art not a sinner  
Like us and all our children,  
From evil-doing thou art free.**

**I, I and my transgressions,  
Which to the grains are likened  
Of sand beside the sea,  
These have in thee awakened  
The sorrow that doth strike thee  
And this most grievous host of pain.**

12a.(16.) Evangelist (T)

And Annas sent him in fetters unto Caiphas, the high priest. Simon Peter stood and warmed himself, when they said unto him:

12b.(17.) Chorus (S, A, T, B) Bystanders

Art thou not one of his disciples?

12c.(18.) Evangelist, Peter, Servant (T, B, T)

(Evangelist)

But he denied it and said:

(Peter)

I am not.

(Evangelist)

Then saith one of the high priest's servants, an acquaintance of him whose ear Peter had smitten off:

(Servant)

Did I not see thee with him in the garden?

(Evangelist)

Peter once again denied it and at once the cock did crow. Then did Peter think back to the words of Jesus and went outside and wept most bitterly.<sup>2</sup>

13.(19.) Aria (T)

Ah, my mind,

Where wouldst thou go at last,

Where shall I find refreshment?

Stay I here,

Or choose to place

Hills and mountains far behind me?

In the world there is no help;

And my bosom

Keeps the sorrow

For my evil deed,

Since the servant hath denied his Lord.

**14.(20.) Chorale (S, A, T, B)**

**Peter, when he fails to think,  
Hath his God denied.**

**Yet when first the truth is seen,  
Bitterly he weepeth.  
Jesus, look on me as well,  
When I feel no sorrow;  
When I wickedness have done,  
Stir up thou my conscience!**

Second Part (After the Sermon)

**15.(21.) Chorale (S, A, T, B)  
Christ, who hath us blessed made,  
No wrong hath committed;  
He was for us in the night  
Like a thief made captive,  
Led before a godless crowd  
And falsely indicted,  
And mocked and scorned and bespat  
For so it was written.**

16a.(22.) Evangelist, Pilate (T, B)  
(Evangelist)

Then they led away Jesus from Caiphas to the praetorium, and it was early. And they entered not the praetorium, so that they not be defiled, but might eat the Passover. Pilatus went forth to them outside and said:  
(Pilate)

What accusation bring ye against this man?

(Evangelist)

And they answered and said unto him:

16b.(23.) Chorus (S, A, T, B) The Jews

Were this man here not an evildoer, we had to thee him not delivered.

16c.(24.) Evangelist, Pilate (T, B)

(Evangelist)

Then Pilate said unto them:

(Pilate)

So take ye him from here and judge him according to your law!

(Evangelist)

Then said the Jews unto him:

16d.(25.) Chorus (S, A, T, B) The Jews

To death we may put no one.

16e.(26.) Evangelist, Pilate, Jesus (T, B, B)

(Evangelist)

So that might be fulfilled the word of Jesus which he had spoken when he prophesied by what death he was to perish. Then Pilate went back inside the praetorium and called Jesus and said to him:

(Pilate)

Art thou the King of the Jews?

(Evangelist)

Jesus replied to him:

(Jesus)

Dost thou say this of thyself, or have others said this of me to thee?

(Evangelist)

And Pilate replied to him:

(Pilate)

Am I a Jew? Thy people and the high priests have handed thee over to me; what hast thou done?

(Evangelist)

Jesus replied

(Jesus)

My kingdom is not of this world, were my kingdom of this world, my servants would fight that I not be handed over to the Jews; but my kingdom is not from here.

**17.(27.) Chorale (S, A, T, B)**

**Ah King so mighty, mighty in all ages,**

**How may I fitly thy devotion publish?**

**No human heart could ever now imagine**

**What it should give thee.**

**I cannot with my reason ever fathom**

**To what indeed thy mercy may be likened.**

**How can I then the acts of thy compassion**

**In deed repay thee?**

18a.(28.) Evangelist, Pilate, Jesus (T, B, B)

(Evangelist)

Then spake Pilate unto him:

(Pilate)

So art thou truly a king?

(Evangelist)

Jesus replied to him:

(Jesus)

Thou say'st I am a king. I have been born for this and into the world come, that I may witness unto truth. All who are of the truth will hearken to my voice.

(Evangelist)

Then Pilate saith to him:

(Pilate)

What is truth?

(Evangelist)

And after he had said this, he went outside again to the Jews and said unto them:

(Pilate)

I find not any guilt in him. Ye have, however, a custom, that I to you one man release; would ye that I to you the King of the Jews release now?

(Evangelist)

They shouted again together then and answered:

18b.(29.) Chorus (S, A, T, B) The Jews

Not this one, rather Barabbas!

18c.(30.) Evangelist (T)

Barabbas, though, was a murderer. And Pilate then took Jesus and scourged him.

19.(31.) Arioso (B)

Observe now, O my soul, with fearful satisfaction,

With bitter joy and heart half-gripped in anguish

Thy highest good in Jesus' torments:

For thee the thorns there which have pierced him

As keys to heaven's flowers bloom!

Thou canst pluck much sweet fruit from his most bitter wormwood,

So look unceasingly on him!

20.(32.) Aria (T)

Consider how his back so stained with bleeding

In every portion

Doth heaven imitate,

On which, when once the waves and waters

From our own flood of sin have settled,

The world's most lovely rainbow, arching,

As God's own sign of blessing stands!

21a.(33.) Evangelist (T)

And then the soldiers plaited him a crown out of thorns and set it upon his head and laid on him a purple robe and said:

21b.(34.) Chorus (S, A, T, B) Soldiers

Be thou greeted, gracious King of the Jews!

21c.(35.) Evangelist, Pilate (T, B)

(Evangelist)

And then with their hands they smote him. Then Pilate came again outside and said unto them:

(Pilate)

Witness, I bring him out here unto you, that ye see clearly that I have no guilt found in him.

(Evangelist)

And thus came Jesus outside and wore both a crown of thorns and a purple robe. And he said unto them:

(Pilate)

Behold, what a man!<sup>3</sup>

(Evangelist)

But when the chief priests and their servants saw him, they cried out and said:

21d.(36.) Chorus (S, A, T, B) The Jews

Crucify, crucify!

21e.(37.) Evangelist, Pilate

(Evangelist)

Pilate said unto them:

(Pilate)

Take him away yourselves and crucify him; for I find no guilt in him.

(Evangelist)

The Jews then replied unto him:

21f.(38.) Chorus (S, A, T, B) The Jews

We have with us a law, and by this same law he should die; for he hath proclaimed himself the Son of God.

21g.(39.) Evangelist, Pilate, Jesus (T, B, B)

(Evangelist)

And when Pilate heard what they had said, he was yet more afraid and went once more inside the praetorium and saith to Jesus:

(Pilate)

From where art thou?

(Evangelist)

But Jesus gave to him no answer. Then spake Pilate unto him:

(Pilate)

Speakest thou not with me? Dost thou not know I have power to crucify thee, and power to give thee thy freedom?

(Evangelist)

Jesus replied to him:

(Jesus)

Thou wouldst not have any power over me, if it had not been given unto thee from above; therefore, he who did hand me over to thee hath the greater sin.

(Evangelist)

From this time on did Pilate seek how he might release him.

**22.(40.) Chorale (S, A, T, B)**

**Through this thy prison, Son of God,  
Must come to us our freedom;  
Thy dungeon is the throne of grace,  
The refuge of the righteous;  
For hadst thou not borne servitude,  
Would we be slaves eternally.**

23a.(41.) Evangelist

The Jews, however, cried out and said:

23b.(42.) Chorus (S, A, T, B) The Jews

If thou let this man go, then art thou the Emperor's friend not; for whoever maketh himself king is the foe of the Emperor.

23c.(43.) Evangelist, Pilate (T, B)

And when Pilate had heard this saying, he led Jesus outside and sat down on the judgment seat, at the place which is called the High Pavement, but in Hebrew is called Gabbatha. It was Preparation Day of the Passover, about the sixth hour, and he saith to the Jews:

(Pilate)

Behold, here is your King!

(Evangelist)

But they cried out:

23d.(44.) Chorus (S, A, T, B) The Jews

Off, off with him, crucify him!

23e.(45.) Evangelist, Pilate (T, B)

(Evangelist)

Pilate saith unto them:

(Pilate)

Am I then to crucify your King?

(Evangelist)

The high priests responded:

23f.(46.) Chorus (S, A, T, B) High Priests

We have no other king than the Emperor.

23g.(47.) Evangelist (T)

He handed him over then to them, that he might be crucified. And they in turn took Jesus and led him away.

And he bore his cross and went thenceforth to the place which is called the Place of Skulls, but whose name is called in Hebrew Golgotha.

24.(48.) Aria (B solo, S, A, T)

Haste, ye, O sorely tempted spirits,

Go forth from your torment's caverns,

Haste --- Where to?--- to Golgotha!

Put ye on of faith the pinions,

Flee ---Where to?---the cross's hilltop,

For your welfare bloometh there!

25a.(49.) Evangelist (T)

And they crucified him there, and two others with, him, one on either side, Jesus, though, between them.

But Pilate wrote an inscription and set it upon the, cross, and it was written, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." And this inscription was read by many Jews, for the city was not far from the place

where Jesus was crucified. And it had been written in the Hebrew, the Greek and the Latin language.

And then spake the chief priests of the Jews unto Pilate:

25b.(50.) Chorus (S, A, T, B) Chief Priests

Do not write: the King of the Jews, rather that he hath only said this: "I am the King of the Jews."

25c.(51.) Evangelist, Pilate (T, B)

(Evangelist)

But Pilate responded:

(Pilate)

What I have written, that is what I have written.

**26.(52.) Chorale (S, A, T, B)**

**Within my heart's foundation**

**Thy name and cross alone**

**Shine forth each day and hour,**

**For which I can rejoice.**

**Appear to me the vision,**

**For strength in my distress,**

**How thou, Lord Christ, so gently**

**Didst give thy blood till death!**

27a.(53.) Evangelist (T)

The soldiers, however, after they had crucified Jesus, gathered all his garments and made of them four parts, unto each of the soldiers giving one part, and also his cloak. The cloak, though, was made without stitching, from top to bottom it was woven throughout. They said then, each one to the other:

27b.(54.) Chorus (S, A, T, B) Soldiers

Let us not divide or tear it, but cast lots to settle who shall have it.

27c.(55.) Evangelist, Jesus (T, B)

(Evangelist)

So that might be accomplished the text which declareth, "They have divided all my garments among themselves and have cast lots for my cloak." This is what the soldiers were doing. But standing beside the cross of Jesus were his mother and the sister of his mother, Mary, Cleophas' wife, and Mary Magdalen. Now when Jesus saw his mother and that disciple standing there whom he loved, he saith unto his mother:

(Jesus)

Look, woman, this is thy son!

(Evangelist)

Then he saith to the disciple:

(Jesus)

See thou, this is thy mother!

**28.(56.) Chorale (S, A, T, B)**

**He of all did well take heed**

**In those final moments,**

**On his motherstill intent,**

**Gave to her a guardian.**

**O man, ever do the right,**

**God and man love dearly,**

**Die then free of every pain**

**And yield not to sorrow!**

29.(57.) Evangelist (T, B)

(Evangelist)

And from this hour the disciple took her to his own home. And then, as Jesus knew that everything had been

accomplished that the scripture might be fulfilled, he saith:

(Jesus)

I thirst!

(Evangelist)

There stood there a bowl full of vinegar. Then they took a sponge and filled it with vinegar and set it on a branch of hyssop, and held it forth to him, to his mouth. When now Jesus accepted the vinegar, he said:

(Jesus)

It is fulfilled!

30.(58.) Aria (A)

It is fulfilled!

O hope for ev'ry ailing spirit!

The night of grief

Is now its final hours counting.

The man of Judah wins with might

And ends the fight.

It is fulfilled!

31.(59.) Evangelist (T)

And he bowed his head and was dead.

32.(60.) Aria (B) and Chorale (S, A, T, B)

My precious Savior, let me ask thee,

**Jesus, thou who suffered death**

Since thou upon the cross wast fastened

And said thyself, "It is fulfilled,"

**Livest now forever,**

Am I from dying been made free?

**In the final throes of death**

**Nowhere other guide me**

Can I through this thy pain and dying

The realm of heaven inherit?

all the world's redemption here?

**But to thee, redeemer mine,**

**O thou, my dear master!**

Thou canst in pain, indeed, say nothing;

**Give me just what thou hast earned,**

But thou dost bow thy head

And sayest in silence, "Yes."

**More I cannot wish for!**

33.(61.) Evangelist (T)

And now behold, the veil of the temple was parted in twain, from top down to the bottom rent. And the earth was filled with quaking, and the rocks split asunder, and the graves were opened wide, and there rose up the bodies of many saints.<sup>4</sup>

34.(62.) Arioso (T)

My heart, since thus doth all the world

At Jesus' passion also suffer,

The sun itself in mourning cladeth,

The veil is rent, the rocks fall down,

The earth doth quake, the graves are parted,

For they behold grown cold their maker,  
What wouldst thou for thy part now do?

35.(63.) Aria (S)

O melt now, my bosom, in rivers of weeping,  
The Most High to honor!

Declare to the world and to heaven thy woe:  
Thy Jesus is dead!

36.(64.) Evangelist (T)

The Jews, however, it being the Preparation, so that the body might not stay upon the cross on the Sabbath (for this Sabbath was a very high day), therefore asked of Pilate to let their legs be broken and to have them taken down. There came then the soldiers and broke the legs of the first one and the other one who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, did not break his legs, but one of the soldiers opened up his side with a spear, and straightway came blood and water therefrom. And he who hath seen these things hath born witness thereof, and his witness is true, and this very man knows that he doth speak the truth, that ye believe it. For all these things took place so that the scripture might be accomplished, "Ye shall of him no bone have broken. Again another scripture doth say, "They will behold him whom they have pierced."

**37.(65.) Chorale (S, A, T, B)**

**O help, Christ, O Son of God,  
Through thy bitter passion,  
That we, who thee ever serve,  
May avoid all error,  
May thy death and its true cause  
Fruitfully consider,  
For which, although poor and weak,  
Thee our thanks we offer!**

38.(66.) Evangelist (T)

Then came unto Pilate Joseph of Arimathaea, who was was one of Jesus' disciples (but secretly, from fear of the, Jews) that he might take away the body of Jesus. And Pilate allowed him to do it. Consequently, he came and took the body of Jesus away. But also there came Nicodemus, who had come in the night to Jesus once before, and he brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. Then they took away the body of Jesus and bound it up in linen cloths with the precious spices which the Jews are wont to use in burial. There was now in that same place where he had been crucified a garden, and the garden had a tomb, within which no one had ever been laid. Therein did they lay Jesus, since it was the Jews' Preparation, and since the tomb was nearby.

39.(67.) Chorus (S, A, T, B)

Rest well, ye holy bones and members,  
Which I henceforth shall never weep for,  
Rest well and bring me, too, to rest!  
The tomb which for you is assigned,  
And henceforth no distress will hold,  
Doth open heav'n to me and shut the gates of hell.

**40.(68.) Chorale (S, A, T, B)**

**Ah Lord, let thine own angels dear  
At my last hour my spirit bear  
To Abraham's own bosom,**

**My body in its simple bed  
In peace without distress and dread  
Rest till the day of judgment!  
And then from death awaken me,  
That with mine eyes I may see thee  
In fullest joy, O God's own Son,  
My Savior and my gracious throne!  
Lord Jesus Christ, give ear to me,  
I would thee praise eternally!**

9.(13.) Aria (S) (Later version, IV)

I'll follow thee likewise, my Savior, with gladness  
And thee not forsake,  
My Savior, my light.

My passionate course  
Shall never be done  
Until thou hast taught me with patience to suffer.

19.(31.) Arioso (B) (Later version, IV, of the last four lines)

See here the switches which beset him,  
For thine own guilt the hyssop blooms,  
And Jesus' blood on thee to make thee clean is spilling,  
So look unceasingly on him!

20.(32.) Aria (T) (Later version, IV)

My Jesus, ah, thy painful bitter sadness  
Brings countless gladness,  
It quells the pain of sin.

I see in truth with greatest terror  
The holy body now blood-covered,  
But even this my joy must waken,  
It makes me free from hell and death.

39 (67) Chorus (S, A, T, B) (Later version, posthumous?)

Rest well, ye holy bones and members,  
For which I'll no more weep despairing,  
I know, once death shall give me rest.

Not always hold me shall the tomb,  
Once, when God my Redeemer calls,  
Shall I as well, transformed, to God's own heaven haste.

Appendix (Version II, 1725)

**1<sup>II</sup>. Chorus (S, A, T, B)** (in place of 1.)

**O man, bewail thy sins so great,  
For which Christ did his Father's bosom  
Reveal, on earth incarnate;  
Of a pure virgin meek and mild  
For us he here to birth did come  
To be the Intercessor.**

**Unto the dead he granted life  
And put off all infirmity  
Until the time pressed forward  
That he for us be sacrificed;  
He bore our sins their heavy weight,  
Upon the cross long-suff'ring.**

Aria (B) and Chorale (S) (after 11 (15.).

Heaven open, world now tremble  
Fall in with my sounds of grief,

**Jesus, this thy passion**

Witness my distress and fear,  
Which I, Jesus, with thee suffer!

**Is my purest pleasure,**

Yea, I reckon all thy suff'ring,  
O thou smitten Son of God,

**These thy wounds, thy crown and scorn**

I prefer that Golgotha  
To this haughty earthly structure.

**Are my heart its pasture.**

If upon the cross's journey  
These thy thorns are sown abroad,

**Yet my soul on roses walks,**

Since I in contented bliss  
May within thy wounds sink deeply,

**When I this consider;**

I'll behold as I lie dying,  
When a raging tempest blows,

**There in heaven an abode**

This same place to which I have  
Daily through belief been striving.

**Therefore may'st thou give me!**

Aria (T) (in place of 13<sup>II</sup>.(19<sup>II</sup>.)

O crush me now, ye high rocks and ye mountains,  
Hurl, heaven, thy bright fires at me!

How blasphemous, how sinful, and how wanton  
Have I, O Jesus, thee forgotten!

Yea, though I don the morning's rosy pinions,

Yet back to earth my awful judge would draw me;

Ah, prostrate fall in bitter tears before him!

19<sup>II</sup>.(3<sup>III</sup>.) Aria (T)

Ah, writhe and twist not so, tormented spirits,  
Beneath your cross's fear and pain!

If ye could the unbounded toll

Of cruel blows and scourging number

And number, too, the sum of your transgressions,

These would ye find in greater measure!

**40<sup>II</sup>.(68<sup>II</sup>.) Chorus [Chorale] (S, A, T, B)**

**O Christ, Lamb of God thou,**

**Thou who dost the world's sin bear,  
Have mercy on us!  
O Christ, Lamb of God thou,  
Thou who dost the world's sin bear,  
Have mercy on us!  
O Christ, Lamb of God thou,  
Thou who dost the world's sin bear,  
Give to us thy peace!  
Amen.**

© Copyright Z. Philip Ambrose

---

<sup>1</sup> *Ps.* 8:2; Dominus, Domine noster. *Herr, Herrscher, herrlich*, and *verherrlicht* form an extended etymological figure, which might be partly rendered with "Master," "majestic," and "magnified."

<sup>2</sup> Interpolated from *Mt.* 26:75.

<sup>3</sup> Translating Luther's curious "Sehet, welch ein Mensch!", but, with the Greek Ἴδὸν ὁ ἄνθρωπος and Latin *Ecce homo*, "Behold the man!"

<sup>4</sup> Interpolated from *Mt.* 27:51-52.