

Passion according to St. Matthew BWV 244 PART I #27/28

27. Duet Soprano Alto & Chorus So is my Jesus captured now. Moon and light Are quenched for sorrow, Because my Jesus is captured.

Followers: Loose him, do not hold, do not bind him! They lead him away, he is bound. Have lightnings, has thunder vanished in the clouds? Open your fiery pit, O hell; Wreck, ruin, engulf, shatter With sudden force The false betrayer, the murderous blood!

28. Evangelist and Jesus And lo now, one of that number, who were there with Jesus, did stretch out his hand then and struck the slave of the chief priest and cut off his ear. Then said Jesus to him: *Put back thy sword into its place; for all who take the sword must by the sword perish. Or dost thou then think that I could not appeal unto my Father that to me he send forth more than twelve legions of angels? How would the scripture, though, be fulfilled? It must be this way.*

Evangelist: At this hour said Jesus to the assembled: *Ye are now come forward as against a robber, with swords and with clubs now to take me; but I have daily been sitting with you and have been there teaching in the temple, and ye did not ever seize me. But all this is now come to pass, to bring fulfillment to the scripture of the prophets.*

EVANGELIST: Then did all the disciples forsake him and fled.

PASSION ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW BWV 244 – Part II

30 ARIA/CHORUS Alas! Now is my Jesus gone! Whither has thy dear One gone? O thou, fairest one among women? Is it possible? Can I bear it? Whither has thy dear One turned away? Ah, my Lamb in the claws of a tiger, where is my Jesus now? For we would go with thee to seek Him Ah, what shall I reply to my soul, when it asks, ah, where has my Jesus gone?

31 EVANGELIST And they that had so laid hold of Jesus, led Him away unto the high priest, Caiphas; and with him where the scribes and the elders assembled all together. Peter also followed after Him afar off, unto the court of the high priest's palace; and went there in, and sat with the guards and servants, that he might see how all would be ended. Then did the priests conspire with the elders and all of the council how that they might false witness bring on Jesus, that He might be put to death, but found they none.

32 CHORALE **SO HAS THE WORLD ITS TREACHERY WROUGHT: with lies and false accusals sought to tangle and ensnare me. Be thou my guard in danger Lord, and sure escape prepare me.**

33 EVANGELIST Yea, though many a false and lying witness came, they could find them none. At last, two there came who falsely witnessed, in this wise:

FALSE WITNESSES This Fellow said: 'Full pow'r is given Me to destroy God's temple; and in three days can I again rebuild it'

EVANGELIST The high priest then did arise, and say to Him:

HIGH PRIEST Dost answer Thou naught to that which these have witnessed against Thee?

EVANGELIST Yet was Jesus still silent.

34 TENOR RECIT. My Jesus remains silent before false accusal, so that He may teach us that His compassionate will is friendly to us in our tribulations, And likewise, in our agony, we will in the same way, in persecution still be silent.

35 TENOR ARIA Be still, be still, when the tongues of liars sting me. I suffer my lot, insults and mockery, Confident that the beloved God may avenge me, innocent in my heart.

36 EVANGELIST And then the high priest gave Him an answer thus, and said:

HIGH PRIEST I abjure Thee by the living God, that Thou do tell us if Thou be the Christ, the Son of God."

EVANGELIST Jesus saith to him:

JESUS Thou sayest; yet I say to you, hereafter when ye shall see Him, ye shall see in that time the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

EVANGELIST There upon the high priest tore his robes asunder, and said:

HIGH PRIEST He hath spoken blasphemy! What need we further witnesses? Truly, ye all have heard the blasphemy that He has spoken. What think ye now?

EVANGELIST They answered to him and said:

- CHORUS Of death this Man is guilty!
- EVANGELIST Then mocked they at Him and they spat on Him, and struck Him with their fists. Others among them smote and slapped him in his face, and shouted:
- CHORUS Thou prophet! Now tell us, Thou Christ, by whom Thou art struck!
- 37 CHORALE WHO WAS IT SO DID STRIKE THEE, my Lord and who requite Thee, this fierce and cruel blow? For Thou wert no offender, as we to sin surrender. No evil didst Thou ever know.**
- 38 EVANGELIST Peter sat outside in the palace court, and a damsel came to him, and said:
- FIRST MAID Thou also has been with Jesus of Galilea.
- EVANGELIST But Peter denied it before them all, and said:
- PETER I know not what thou sayest.
- EVANGELIST And again at the palace doorway, he was seen by another maid, who said to them that stood there with him:
- SECOND MAID This man was also with Jesus of Nazareth.
- EVANGELIST He denied it a second time, and swore an oath:
- PETER I do not know this man.
- EVANGELIST And in a little while, came others who had been standing beside him, and said to Peter:
- CHORUS Surely, thou also art a disciple, for all they speech doth betray thee.
- EVANGELIST But still did he deny with cursing and with swearing.
- PETER I do not know the Man.
- EVANGELIST Immediate crew the cock. Then Peter brought to mind the words of Jesus, which said unto him, "Ere yet the cock croweth, wilt thou have thrice denied me." and he went out and wept bitterly.
- 39 ALTO ARIA Have mercy, Lord, for the sake of my tears, look on me, heart and eyes both weep to Thee bitterly.
- 40 CHORALE HAVE I ALSO FROM THEE PARTED? STILL I WILL RETURN AGAIN. Life anew is in me started By Thy Son's despair and pain. I may not my guilt efface, but Thy mercy and Thy grace Are far greater than my failing, and the sin within me dwelling**
- 41 EVANGELIST Now when the morning came, all the chief priests gathered with the elders of the people to plot against Jesus, that they might kill him. And when they had bound Him, they led Him away, and delivered Him to the court of the governor Pontius Pilate. When, therefore Judas, the same who had betrayed Him, saw Jesus condemned to death, he repented of himself, and brought once again the thirty silver pieces to the high priests and the elders, and said:
- Chorus But what is that to us? Go! See thou to that.
- Evangelist And he cast down the silver pieces in the temple, and went out, and hanged himself. The chief priests took the silver pieces and said:
- The Priests 'It is not lawful for us to put this money into the treasury, for it is blood money, the price of blood.
- 42 Bass Aria Give me back my Jesus! See the money, the price of murder, the lost son throws back at your feet.
- 43 Evangelist Then Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked Him, saying:
- Pilate Art Thou the King of the Jews?
- Evangelist And Jesus said unto him:
- Jesus *Thou sayest it.*
- Evangelist And when He was accused of the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. Then said Pilate unto Him:
- Pilate Hearest Thou not the things they witness against Thee?
- Evangelist And He answered to him never a word, insomuch that the governor marveled greatly.
- 44 CHORALE ENTRUST THY WAYS UNTO HIM AND ALL THY HEART'S DISTRESS. His wisdom and His bidding do highest heaven confess. By Him the clouds are ordered The winds arise and blow. He best can choose the pathway, whereon thy feet should go**
- 45 Evangelist Now, at that feast the governor was wont to release unto the people, a prisoner, whom they wanted. And they had at that time a notable prisoner called Barrabas. Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them:
- Pilate Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barrabas or Jesus, who is called the Christ?
- Evangelist For he knew that for envy they had delivered him, and when he was set down on the Judgement seat, his wife sent unto him a message, saying:

Pilate's Wife Have thou nothing to do with that just Man for I have suffered much this day in a dream, because of Him.

Evangelist But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barrabas be set free, and that Jesus be crucified. The governor answered and said unto them:

Pilate Now which of the two will ye that I release unto you?

Evangelist They shouted: **Chorus** Barrabas!

Evangelist Then Pilate said unto them: **Pilate** And what shall I do then with Jesus, of whom it is said he is Christ?

Evangelist They all said unto him: **Chorus** Let Him be crucified!

CHORALE WHAT WONDERS RARE THIS PUNISHMENT DOTH OFFER! The Shepherd for His sheep content to suffer. The Lord of Righteousness pays full deliverance for guilty servants.

- 47 Evangelist The governor answered: **Pilate** Why? But what evil thing has He done?
- 48 Recitative Soprano He hath done nothing but good for all of us. To the blind, He hath given sight, the lame, He hath made to walk again; He told us of His Father's word; He drove out the devils; He hath comforted those in mourning; He hath received the sinners; only this hath He done, otherwise nothing.
- 49 Aria Soprano For love, my Saviour now is dying; of sin and guilt He knows nothing, So that the eternal desolation and doom of final judgement may not rest upon my soul.
- 50 Evangelist But they cried out all the more, saying: **Chorus** Let Him be crucified!
- Evangelist When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but rather a tumult was made, he took water and washed his hands before them all, saying:
- Pilate I am innocent of the blood of this just Man. See ye to it.
- Evangelist Then together all the people answered and said: **Chorus** His blood be on us and on our children!
- Evangelist And Pilate then released Barrabas unto them; but ordered Jesus to be scourged, And then delivered Him to be crucified.
- 51 Recitative Alto God have mercy! Here is the Saviour bound, oh what scourges, what blows, what wounds! Ye murderers, let Him be! Are you not moved by His torment and suffering? Have you a heart, yes a heart like a torture rack and even harder still? Have mercy, let Him go!
- 52 Aria Alto Since my tears and wailing are of no help, oh take my heart itself, so that it may be at the flood when the soft wounds bleed, and there be an altar chalice.
- 53 Evangelist Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the hall and gathered all around Him. They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him, and plaited a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and put a reed in His right hand and bowing before Him, they mocked Him, and said:
- Chorus We hail Thee, King of the Jews!
- Evangelist And they spat upon Him and taking the reed they struck Him on the head.
- 54 **CHORALE OH HEAD SO SORELY WOUNDED**, defiled and put to scorn, oh sacred Head surrounded by mocking crown of thorn. Oh Head adorned and honored, so lovely fair to see, but now so low degraded, I greet and treasure Thee
- 59 Recitative Alto Ah, Golgotha, accursed Golgotha, where the Lord of Glory must be shamefully assailed, The Benefactor and Saviour of the world has been placed on the curse of the cross. The Creator of the heaven and the earth shall be deprived of the earth and the air; The Guiltless must here die condemned; how deeply this horror grieves my soul; Ah, Golgotha, accursed Golgotha!
61. Evangelist Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land, until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying: **JESUS** Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani!
- Evangelist That is to say, "My God, my God, Why hast Thou forsaken Me?"
- Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said: **CHORUS** He calleth for Elijah!
- Evangelist And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed and gave Him to drink. The others said: Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save Him
- Evangelist And again did Jesus cry aloud, and was gone.

62 CHORALE WHEN COMES MY HOUR OF PARTING, THEN PART THOU NOT FROM ME.

**When shades of death are darkning Thy steps my guide shall be. When anxious fears shall rend me,
and close my heart enchain, then do Thou befriend me, through Thine own grief and pain**

63. EVANGELIST

And behold, the veil of the temple was rended in twain, from the top unto the bottom, and the Earth did quake, and the rocks burst asunder. The graves were opened again, and there arose Many bodies of the holy ones that were sleeping and came out of the graves after His resurrection, Went into the holy city, appearing unto many. When the centurion, and they that were with him Watching Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that were done, they trembled greatly and said:

CHORUS TRULY, TRULY, THIS IS THE SON OF GOD.

Evangelist At eventide there came a rich man of Arimathea, named Joseph, who also himself was a disciple of Jesus; He went to Pilate, and begged for the body of Jesus. Pilate commanded that the body be delivered to him.

64 Recitative-Bass It was in the cool of eventide, that Adam's fall came to be known. In the evening, the Saviour draws closer to man. It was in the evening that the dove returned carrying an olive leaf in its beak. Oh most beautiful of hours! Oh eventide! Now consummated is the peace with God, For which Jesus has suffered the cross. His lifeless body sinks to rest. Ah, beloved soul, seek thou, go, accept the gift of Jesus' death, Oh holy Presence! Oh precious Image!

65. Aria Bass Purify thyself, my heart, for I myself will be Jesus' sepulchre and tomb. And so He shall now Within me, for ever and ever, have His blessed rest. World, depart, make way for Jesus to enter.

66. Evangelist And when Joseph had taken the body, he unwrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in His own new tomb, which he had hewn out of the rock, and he rolled a great stone to the door Of the sepulchre, and he departed. And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting There against the sepulchre. On the next day that followed, the day of preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, saying:

Chorus Sir, we bear it in mind that the deceiver said, while He was yet alive: "after three days I will rise again.

Therefore command the grave be made secure, until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say unto the people, "He is risen from the dead" so the last error shall be worse than the first

Evangelist Pilate said unto them: **Pilate** Ye have a watch, go your way, make it as secure as you can.

Evangelist So they went and made the sepulchre secure, sealing the stone, and setting there a watch.

67. SOLO QUARTET AND CHORUS

Bass Now has the Lord been laid to rest..... *Chorus* my Jesus, sweet good night!

Tenor Thy pain is over, which all our sin on Thee hath pressed. *Chorus* my Jesus, sweet good night!

Alto O Thou most holy Body, see, how I come in penitence to mourn Thee Thus did my fall, Thy agony betide

Soprano While life shall last I will this wonder ever thank: That thus my soul was worthy in Thy sight! *Chorus*

68. DOUBLE CHORUS

Here bide we still with tears and weeping and call to Thee in Thy grave. Rest Thou softly, softly rest!

Rest Thy weary Body sleeping. See in grave and stone a grace, for the anxious, despairing Heaven's pillow

Comfort bearing, And the soul's sweet resting place. Come, my joy! Slumber doth thine eyes embrace. ,

We sit by Thee with tears overflowing and call to Thee in Thy grave. Rest Thou softly, softly rest!

THANKS CHURCHES: Reno: St. Rose/Good Shepherd/Shepherd of the Mountains/St. John/Trinity Episcopal

Incline Village: Cornerstone/St. Patrick's • Carson: 1st Methodist, Shepherd of the Sierra • Truckee: Sierra Bible

South Lake: St. Theresa/Community Presbyterian • Minden-Gardnerville: Trinity Lutheran/St. Gall/Carson Valley Methodist