

Auf Gott setzt, den verläßt er nicht.

In God places, him forsakes he not.
{In God will not be forsaken by him.}

BWV 198

Laß, Fürstin, laß noch einen Strahl

(NBA I/38; BC G34)

Funeral Service (BWV 106, 157, 198)

This text is a funeral ode written for the memorial service of Christiane Eberhardine, protestant wife of August the Strong. The princess died on Sept. 5, 1727; the service was held on Oct. 17, 1727.

Librettist: Johann Christoph Gottsched

Part I

1. Chorus

●Mourning at the tomb of the Princess (198-1)
Ode Vs. 1:

Laß, Fürstin, laß noch einen Strahl
Let, Princess, let but one (more) ray
{O Princess, let one more ray}

Aus Salems Sterngewölben schießen,
From Salem's starry-vault shoot-forth,
{Shoot forth from Salem's starry vault,}

Und sieh, mit wieviel Tränengüßen
And see, with how-many tearful-torrents

Umringen wir dein Ehrenmal.
Encircle we thy monument.
{We encircle thy monument.}

2. Soprano Recit.

●Mourning: Grief shared by everyone in the land (198-2)
Dein Sachsen, dein bestürztes Meißen
Thy Saxony, thy dismayed Meissen,

Erstarrt bei deiner Königsgruft;
Stands- numb beside thy royal-tomb;

Das Auge trânt, die Zunge ruft:
The eye weeps, the tongue cries-out:

Mein Schmerz kann unbeschreiblich heißen!
My pain can "indescribable" be-called!
{One could say my pain is indescribable!}

Ode Vs. 2:

Hier klagt August und Prinz und Land,
Here laments (King) August, and Prince, and land,
{Here King August laments, the Prince, and the entire land,}

Ps. 9:10. Those who know thy name put their trust in thee, for thou, O Lord, hast not forsaken those who seek thee.

Deut. 31:8. It is the Lord who goes before you; he will be with you, he will not fail you or forsake you; do not fear or be dismayed. (Also Deut. 31:6, Josh. 1:7, 9, Heb. 13:5.)

Jn. 11:32-33, 35-36. [After Lazarus had died] Mary, when she came where Jesus was and saw him, fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled...[and he] wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

Lam. 3:49-50. My eyes will flow without ceasing, without respite, until the Lord from heaven looks down and sees.

Ps. 76:2. [God's] abode has been established in Salem, his dwelling place in Zion. (Salem: Gen. 14:18-20, Heb. 7:1-3)

Heb. 12:22-23. But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to a judge who is God of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect.

Rev. 21:1-4. Then [in my vision] I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God... and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away." (Also Is. 25:8. Rev. 7:15-17.)

Rev. 3:12 [Christ]: He who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God; never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

[No identifiable allusions to biblical passages or themes]

Lam. 1:12. Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow...

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Der Adel ächzt, der Bürger trauert,
The nobleman moans, the commoner grieves;

Wie hat dich nicht das Volk bedauert,
How did (with) thee not the nation commiserate,
{How the nation commiserated with thee,}

Sobald es deinen Fall empfand!
As-soon-as it thy condition perceived!
{When it learned of thy condition!}

3. Soprano Aria

•Mourning: Music silenced in time of royal mourning (198-3)
Verstummt, verstummt, ihr holden Saiten!
Be-silent, be-silent, ye charming lyres!

Kein Ton vermag der Länder Not
No sound can the land's distress

Bei ihrer teuren Mutter Tod,
At their beloved mother's death—

O Schmerzenswort! recht anzudeuten.
O painful-word!— properly express.
{No sound can properly express the land's distress at their beloved
mother's death—O painful word!}

4. Alto Recit.

•Mourning: Tolling bells ring day after day (198-4)
Ode Vs. 3:

Der Glocken bebende s Getön
The (tolling) bells' vibrating clamour
{The vibrating clamour of the tolling bells}

Soll unsrer trüben Seelen Schrecken
Shall our downcast souls' terror
{Will yet frighten our downcast souls}

Durch ihr geschwungnes Erze wecken
By their swinging bronze awaken
{By their swinging bronze}

Und uns durch Mark und Adern gehn.
And us through marrow and veins go.
{And go through us to the core.}

O, könnte nur dies bange Klingen,
Oh, could but this anxious ringing,
{Oh, if only this sad ringing,}

Davon das Ohr uns täglich gellt,
From-which (our) ear - daily does-shrill,
{Which shrills in our ear day after day,}

Der ganzen Europäerwelt
To-the entire European-world

Job 2:11-13. When Job's three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him...and when they saw him...they did not recognize him; and they raised their voices and wept... And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

Is. 24:8. The mirth of the timbrels is stilled, the noise of the jubilant has ceased, the mirth of the lyre is stilled.

Ezek. 26:13 [God]: I will stop the music of your songs, and the sound of your lyres shall be heard no more.

Rev. 18:22. And the sound of harpers and minstrels, of flute players and trumpeters, shall be heard in thee no more...

1 Sam. 25:1. Now [the prophet] Samuel died; and all Israel assembled and mourned for him, and they buried him in his house at Ramah.

2 Chron. 35:24. ...[King Josiah] died, and was buried in the tombs of his fathers. All Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

1 Macc. 9:19-21. Then Jonathan and Simon took Judas [Maccabeus] their brother and buried him in the tomb of their fathers at Modein, and wept for him. And all Israel made great lamentation for him; they mourned many days and said, "How is the mighty fallen, the savior of Israel!"

1 Macc. 13:26. All Israel bewailed [Jonathan, the brother of Judas Maccabeus] with great lamentation and mourned for him many days.

[No identifiable allusions to specific biblical passages or themes]

Ein Zeugnis unsres Jammers bringen!
 A testimony of-our lamentation bring!
 {Might bring a testimony of our lamentation to the
 entire European world!}

5. Alto Aria

•Death conquered Princess's body but not her spirit (198-5)

Ode Vs. 4:

Wie starb die Heldin so vergnügt!
 How died (our) heroine so content!
 {How contentedly our heroine died!}

Wie mutig hat ihr Geist gerungen,
 How valiantly did her spirit struggle,
 {How valiantly her spirit struggled}

Da sie des Todes Arm bezwungen,
 When her - death's arm did-vanquish,
 {When death's arm vanquished her,}

Noch eh er ihre Brust besiegt.
 (But) before it her breast did-conquer.
 {But her spirit did not fail before she died.}

6. Tenor Recit.

•Funeral tribute: She lived life ready for death (198-6)

Ihr Leben ließ die Kunst zu sterben
 Her life let the art of dying
 {In her life}

In unverrückter Übung sehn;
 In steadfast practice be-seen;
 {She steadily demonstrated the art of dying;}

Unmöglich konnt es denn geschehn,
 Impossible could it therefore happen, (for her)
 {It were impossible, then, for her}

Sich vor dem Tode zu entfärben.
 - In-the-face-of - death to blanch.
 {To blanch in the face of death.}

Ode Vs. 5:

Ach selig! wessen großer Geist
 Ah, blessed (is) he-whose noble spirit

Sich über die Natur erhebet,
 Itself above (our) nature raises,
 {Rises above human nature,}

Vor Gruft und Särgen nicht erbebet,
 Before tomb and coffins (does) not tremble,

Wenn ihn sein Schöpfer scheiden heißt.
 When him his maker to-part bids.
 {When his maker bids him depart.}

Rev. 2:10-11 [Christ]: Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who conquers shall not be hurt by the second death.

Mt. 10:28 [Christ]: Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (Also Lk. 12:4-5.)

Mt. 10:22 [Christ]: ...He who endures to the end will be saved. (Also Mt. 24:13, Mk. 13:13, Lk. 21:19.)

Rev. 14:13. And [in my vision] I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!" (Also Ps. 116:15, Heb. 4:9-11.)

Jn. 12:24-25 [Christ]: ...Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Ps. 90:10, 12. The years of our life are threescore and ten, or even by reason of strength fourscore; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away...So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

Jms. 4:13-15. Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and get gain"; whereas you do not know about tomorrow. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and we shall do this or that."

Lk. 12:20. God said to [the rich man], "Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?"

Ps. 23:4. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Mt. 26:38-41. [In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus] said to [his disciples], "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt." And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Also Mk. 14:38.)

Heb. 2:14-16. Since...the children share in flesh and blood, [Christ] himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage. (Also 1 Cor. 15:26, 2 Tim. 1:10, Is. 25:8.)

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7. Chorus

- Funeral tribute: Nobility of Queen's faith exemplary (198-7)

An dir, du Fürbild großer Frauen,
In thee, (O) thou model of-great women,
{In thee, O thou model of exalted women,}

An dir, erhabne Königin,
In thee, (O) prominent queen,

An dir, du Glaubenspflegerin,
In thee, (O) thou guardian-of-the-faith,

War dieser Großmut Bild zu schauen.
Was of-this (noble-spirit) (the) image to be-seen.
{Could the image of such noble faith be seen.}

Heb. 13:7. Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God; consider the outcome of their life, and imitate their faith.

Heb. 11:13-16. These [heroes] all died in faith...having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Heb. 13:14.We have no lasting city, but we seek the city which is to come.

Num. 23:10. ...Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my end be like his!

Part II

8. Tenor Aria

- Transfiguration of Queen as she is drawn to heaven (198-8)

Ode Vs. 6:

Der Ewigkeit saphirnes Haus
- Eternity's sapphire house

Zieht, Fürstin, deine heitern Blicke
Draws, (O) Princess, thy (serene) glances

Von unsrer Niedrigkeit zurücke
Away-from our low-estate -

Und tilgt der Erden Dreckbild aus.
And blots-out (this) earth's miry-image - .

Ein starker Glanz von hundert Sonnen,
A powerful radiance of a-hundred suns,

Der unsern Tag zur Mitternacht
Which (turns) our day to midnight (and)

Uns unsre Sonne finster macht,
- Our sun dark makes,
{Makes our sun seem dark,}

Hat dein verklärtes Haupt umspinnen.
Hath thy transfigured head (encircled).

9. Bass Recit, Arioso, & Recit.

- Transfiguration of Queen well-earned; land mourns (198-9)

Ode Vs. 7:

Was Wunder ist's? Du bist es wert,
What wonder is-this? Thou art of-it worthy,
{Why should we wonder at this? Thou art worthy of it,}

Du Fürbild aller Königinnen!
Thou model of-all queens!

Ex. 24:10. [Moses and the elders of Israel] saw the God of Israel [on the mountain of Sinai]; and there was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness.

Rev. 21:10-11, 19, 21. In the Spirit [the angel] carried me away to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal...The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every jewel; the first was jasper, the second sapphire...And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, transparent as glass.

Col. 3:1-3. If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hid with Christ in God. (Also 2 Cor. 4:16-18.)

Mt. 17:1-2. ...Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And he was transfigured (Luther: verklärt) before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light.

Acts 6:15, 7:54-56. Gazing at [Stephen, who was being stoned to death], all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel...Now when they heard these things they ground their teeth against him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God."

Rev. 3:4-5 [Christ]: ...[The righteous] shall walk with me in white, for they are worthy. He who conquers shall be clad thus in white garments...

Rev. 19:6-8. [In my vision] I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude...crying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure"—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. (Also Ezek. 16:9-13.)

Du mußttest allen Schmuck gewinnen,
Thou hadst all (this) adornment to-win,
{Thou hadst to win all this adornment,}

Der deine Scheitel itzt verklärt.
Which thy head now transfigures.
{Which now transfigures thy brow.}

Nun trägst du vor des Lammes Throne
Now wearest thou before the Lamb's throne
{Now thou dost wear, before the Lamb's throne—

Anstatt des Purpurs Eitelkeit.
Instead of purple's vanity—

Ein perlenreines Unschuldskleid
A pearl-(white) robe-of-innocence

Und spottest der verlaßnen Krone.
And dost-scorn the forsaken crown.
{And dost scorn the crown thou didst leave behind.}

Arioso:

Ode Vs. 8:

Soweit der volle Weichselstrand,
As-far-as the brimming Vistula,

Der Niester und die Warthe fließet,
The Dniester, and the Warthe do-flow,

Soweit sich Elb' und Muld' ergießet,
As-far-as themselves Eibe and Mulde discharge,
{As far as Elbe and Mulde discharge themselves,}

Erhebt dich beides Stadt und Land.
Extol thee both town and country.
{Do both town and country extol thee.}

Recit:

Dein Torgau geht im Trauerkleide,
Thy Torgau walks in garments-of-mourning,

Dein Pretzsch wird kraftlos, starr und matt;
Thy Pretzsch becomes powerless, rigid, and lifeless;

Denn da es dich verloren hat,
For since it thee hath-lost,
{For with its loss of thee,}

Verliert es seiner Augen Weide.
Loseth it (also) its eyes' pasture.
{It also loses the delight of its eyes.}

Rev. 7:9-10. After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Dan. 12:3. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

2 Cor. 4:17. This slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison. (Also Rom. 8:18.)

Phil. 3:7-8. Whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ...For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as refuse, in order that I may gain Christ...

Ps. 49:12-13, 16-19. Man cannot abide in his pomp, he is like the beasts that perish. This is the fate of those who have foolish confidence, the end of those who are pleased with their portion...Be not afraid when one becomes rich, when the glory of his house increases. For when he dies he will carry nothing away; his glory will not go down after him...Though a man gets praise when he does well for himself, he will go to the generation of his fathers... (Also Ps. 49:20, 62:9-11, 89:48, Rev. 18:16-17.)

1 Cor. 2:9. As it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived...God has prepared for those who love him."

[No further identifiable allusions to specific biblical passages or themes]

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10. Chorus

•Queen's fame and legacy lives on (198-10)

Ode Vs. 9:

Doch, Königin! du stirbest nicht,
Yet (O) queen! Thou diest not,
{Yet, O queen, thou dost not die,}

Man weiß, was man an dir besessen;
(We) know, what (we) in thee have-possessed;
{We know what we have possessed in thee;}

Die Nachwelt wird dich nicht vergessen,
- Posterity will thee not forget,
{Posterity will not forget thee,}

Bis dieser Weltbau einst zerbricht.
Till this universe one-day breaks-to-pieces.
{Till, one day, this universe dissolves.}

Ihr Dichter, schreibt! wir wollen's lesen:
Ye poets, write! We would-it read:
{Ye poets, write! We will read it:}

Sie ist der Tugend Eigentum,
She was - virtue's possession,

Der Untertanen Lust und Ruhm,
(Her) subjects' delight and glory,
{The delight and glory of her subjects,}

Der Königinnen Preis gewesen.
Of queens (the) praise
{The praise of queens.}

Ps. 112:1-3, 6. ...Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in his commandments! His descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in his house; and his righteousness endures for ever...The righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered for ever.

Prov. 10:7. The memory of the righteous is a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot.

2 Pet. 3:10-12. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of persons ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be kindled and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire! (Also Is. 34:4, Heb. 1:10-11, Rev. 21:1.)

2 Chron. 35:24-25. ...[King Josiah] died, and was buried in the tombs of his fathers. All Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah. Jeremiah also uttered a lament for Josiah; and all the singing men and singing women have spoken of Josiah in their laments to this day. They made these an ordinance in Israel; behold, they are written in the Laments.

BWV 199

Mein Herze schwimmt im Blut

(NBA I/20; BC A120a-c)

11. S. after Trinity (BWV 199, 179, 113)

*1 Cor. 15:1-10 (Paul writes of his apostleship and lists post-resurrection appearances of Jesus)

*Lk. 18:9-14 (Parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector in the temple to pray)

Librettist: Georg Christian Lehms

1. Soprano Recit.

•Depravity of my heart makes me utterly wretched (199-1)

Mein Herze schwimmt im Blut,
My heart swims in blood,
{My heart is bathed in blood}

Weil mich der Sünden Brut
Because me (my) sins' brood
{Because my sins' large brood}

In Gottes heiligen Augen
In God's holy eyes

Jer. 17:9-10. The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately corrupt; who can understand it? "I the Lord search the mind and try the heart, and give to every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings."

Gen. 6:5. The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Job 15:15-16. Behold, God puts no trust in his holy ones, and the heavens are not clean in his sight; how much less one who is abominable and corrupt, a man who drinks iniquity like water!