

BLOOMINGTON
BACH
CANTATA PROJECT

SEASON 14

“ICH GLAUBE, LIEBER HERR, HILF
MEINEM UNGLAUBEN!” BWV 109

83



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023 | BLOOMINGTON, IN

““ICH GLAUBE, LIEBER HERR, HILF MEINEM UNGLAUBEN!”
BWV 109

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)

1. Dictum (chorus)
2. Recitative
3. Aria
4. Recitative
5. Aria
6. Chorale

Luke Conklin, Jenni Kirby, oboe
Miranda Zirnbauer, Parastoo Heidarinejad,
Kiyoun Jang, Victoria Klaunig, violin
Eugene Chin, viola
Joanna Blendulf, cello
Edmund Song, violone
Caio Guimarães, organ

Rachel Knappenberger, soprano
Kathryn Davidson, alto
Charles Vega, tenor
Steven M. Warnock, bass

Caio Guimarães, music director
Daniel R. Melamed, lecturer

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

January 21
Kathryn Davidson, director
BWV 24

February 25
Sergey Tkachenko, director
BWV 78

TEXT AND TRANSLATION

1. *Ich glaube, lieber Herr, hilf meinem Unglauben! 1. I have faith, dear Lord; help my faithlessness.*

2. Des Herren Hand ist ja noch nicht verkürzt,
Mir kann geholfen werden.

Ach nein, ich sinke schon zur Erden
Vor Sorge, dass sie mich zu Boden stürzt.
Der Höchste will, sein Vaterherze bricht.
Ach nein! er hört die Sünder nicht.
Er wird, er muss dir bald zu helfen eilen,
Um deine Not zu heilen.
Ach nein, es bleibet mir um Trost sehr bange;
Ach Herr, wie lange?

2. The [saving power of the] hand of the Lord, indeed still, is not curtailed;
I can be helped.

Ah, no; I am surely dying with fear/shame
From [such a burden of] care that it casts me to the ground.
The Most High wishes [to help]; his paternal heart breaks.
Ah, no! He does not hear the sinners [crying for help].
He will, he must soon hasten to help you,
In order to heal your affliction.
Ah, no; I remain very anxious about [receiving] consolation;
Ah, Lord, how long?

3. Wie zweifelhaftig ist mein Hoffen,
Wie wanket mein geängstigt Herz!
Des Glaubens Docht glimmt kaum hervor,
Es bricht dies fast zustossne Rohr,
Die Furcht macht stetig neuen Schmerz.

3. How fraught with doubt is my hope;
How my distressed heart wavers [in faith]!
The wick of faith barely glimmers forth;
This nearly bruised reed breaks;
Fear constantly creates new pain.

4. O fasse dich, du zweifelhafter Mut,
Weil Jesus itzt noch Wunder tut!
Die Glaubensaugen werden schauen
Das Heil des Herrn;
Scheint die Erfüllung allzufern,
So kannst du doch auf die Verheissung bauen.

4. O pull yourself together [in faith], you doubt-fraught disposition,
Because Jesus is, still now, performing wonders.
The eyes of faith will [come to] behold
The salvation [that arises] of the Lord;
If the fulfillment [of salvation] appears to be all too far off,
You can nonetheless build/rely upon the promise.

5. Der Heiland kennet ja die Seinen,
Wenn ihre Hoffnung hülflos liegt.
Wenn Fleisch und Geist in ihnen streiten,
So steht er ihnen selbst zur Seiten,
Damit zuletzt der Glaube siegt.

5. Indeed the savior knows those who are his
When their hope lies helpless.
When flesh and spirit contend within them,
Then he himself stands at their side,
So that faith triumphs in the end.

6. **Wer hofft in Gott und dem vertraut,
Der wird nimmer zuschanden;
Denn wer auf diesen Felsen baut,
Ob ihm gleich geht zuhanden
Viel Unfalls hie, hab ich doch nie
Den Menschen sehen fallen,
Der sich verlässt auf Gottes Trost;
Er hilft sein'n Gläubgen allen.**

6. **Whoever hopes in God and trusts in him,
He [that person] will never be put to shame;
For—whoever builds [his spiritual house] upon this rock [Jesus]
Even if manifestly a host of misfortune
Meets him [the builder] here [on earth]—I have never
Indeed seen the person fall
Who relies upon God's consolation;
It/he [this rock, Jesus] helps/saves all his that have [the true] faith.**

(transl. Michael Marissen and Daniel R. Melamed)



Scan or go to <http://www.bachcantatatexts.org/BWV109> for an annotated translation

BLOOMINGTON BACH CANTATA PROJECT

Daniel R. Melamed, director
Anastasia Chin, concert manager
Margaret Eronymous, operations manager

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