

# J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 107

Form: Chorus/fantasia - Recit (B) - Aria (B) - Aria (T) - Aria (S) - Aria (T) - Chorale.

4 consecutive arias (none in da capo form) is rare.

Introduction & updates at melvinunger.com.

BWV 107 is a chorale cantata that retains the chorale text in each movement (*per omnes versus*)—unique in his chorale cantata cycle. For more about Bach's other chorale cantatas that follow this model (mostly later), see notes.

NBA I/18; BC A109

7. S. after Trinity (BWV 186, 107, 187)

\*Romans 6:19–23 (The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life)

\*Mark 8:1–9 (Jesus feeds the four thousand)

Librettist: 1630 chorale by Johann Heermann (1585–1647)

FP: 23 July 1724 (Leipzig: St. Thomas). This

cantata belongs to Bach's chorale cantata cycle (see note).

Instrumentation:

Corno da caccia (doubling cantus firmus in first and last movements, added later).

Flauto traverso I, II (see note).

Oboe d'amore I, II

Vln I, II

Vla

SATB

Continuo, Organo



J.S. Bach

## Cantata No. 107

### Was willst du dich betrüben

The connection to the Gospel reading lies in the disciples' question, "How can one feed these men with bread here in the desert?" The cantata admonishes to trust God despite adversity.

#### Vers 1. (Coro)

107/1. (Andante  $\text{d} = 72$ ) (Verse 1) • Doubt not, but trust him who is called Immanuel (107/1).

Fl I, Ob d'am I



Orchestral material begins canonically with motive from the chorale, then free, chromatic polyphony.

Fl II, Ob d'am II,

Vln II

Continuo



Image of original Ob d'am I part. The oboe d'amore parts were revised to differentiate them (see note).

B minor

Continuo

In this cantata Bach combines the 17th-century *per omnes versus* design for chorale cantatas with the modern/secular styles of concerto and dance.

Ob d'am I differentiated (see note).



Oboes d'amore tacet (see note), flutes in parallel 3rds.

Flutes



Strings



F# minor



F# minor

A major



A major



Flutes



Strings



p



f



B7



E minor



E major



(E7)



B minor



f



B7



E minor



B minor



F#7



B minor



B minor

The chorale line is sometimes ornamented. Some chorale lines are joined (1+2, 3+4, 6-8). The lower parts never prepare entries of the cantus firmus.

Stollen 1 of chorale's bar form.

12 (51) A (N.B. Der Cantus firmus: „Von Gott will ich nicht lassen“ im Sopran.) Chromatic inflection for "betrüben" ("grieve").

Soprano.

Chorale lines 1 & 2.

Cromatic inflection for "betrüben" ("grieve").

+Corno da caccia  
Ob d'am I & II

The lower lines do not prepare entries of the cantus firmus but follow them in often homophonic/syllabic manner that suggests agitation.

Was willst du dich be - trü - - ben, o  
Was willst du dich be - trü - - ben, o  
Was willst du dich be - trü - - ben, o  
Was willst du dich be - trü - - ben, o

Strings tacet...

B minor B minor C#7 F# minor F#7

mei - ne lie - be Seel',  
mei - ne lie - be Seel',  
mei - ne lie - be Seel',  
mei - ne lie - be Seel',

Vln I Vln II Vla

B minor B minor B minor B7

E minor F#7 B minor C#7 F# minor B7 E# dim.7 C#7

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6-stanza version of chorale: "Thu den nur herzlich lieben"

Chorale lines 3 & 4.

**B**

er - gieb dich den zu lie - - ben, der  
er.gieb dich den zu lie - - ben, der  
er.gieb dich den zu lie - - ben, der

F# minor F# minor F#7 B minor C#7 F# minor F#7

24

heisst Im - ma - nu - el;  
heisst Imma - nu - el, Imma - nu - el, Imma - nu - el;  
heisst Imma - nu - el, Imma - nu - el, Imma - nu - el;  
heisst Im - ma - nu - el, Imma - nu - el;

B minor B7 A7 F#7 B minor C#7 F# minor

26 II

ver -

Abgesang of chorale's bar form (separated by an intervening ritornello emphasizing the chorale's bipartite form.)

Flutes  
Strings

B7 E# dim.7 C#7 F# minor F# minor

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29

trau - e ihm al - lein,  
ver-trau - e ihm al - lein,  
ver-trau - e ihm al - lein,  
ver-trau - e ihm al - lein,

Flutes  
*p*  
Strings

(B7) E minor D major D major B7

32

er wird gut  
er wird gut

er wird gut

Flutes  
*p*  
Strings

E minor E major E7 B minor B minor A7

D Chorale lines 6-8 (joined).

35

Al - les ma - chen und för - dern dei - ne Sa - -  
Al - les ma - chen und fördern dei - ne Sa - -  
er wird gut Alles ma - chen und fördern dei.ne Sa - -  
Al - - - les ma - chen und fördern dei - ne Sachen, dei.ne Sa - -

Chorale line 7.

D major E7 A major A7 D major C#(7)

In each movement, Bach treats the final line of the stanza in a special way. Here he emphasizes "selig" ("blessed") with a melisma in the bass.

38 Chorale line 8.

chen, wie dir's wird se - - lig sein.  
chen, wie dir's wird se - - lig sein.  
chen, wie dir's wird se - - lig sein.  
chen, wie dir's wird se - - lig sein.

F# minor      D major      C#7      F# major      F#7      B minor      B minor      B7      Dal Segno.

### Vers 2. Recitativo.

(Chorale Verse 2) • Faithfulness of God to those who trust him (107/2).

107/2. (♩ = 60.)

1. Basso.

Denn Gott verlässt Keinen, der sich auf ihn verlässt; er bleibt getreu den  
Ob d'am I & II For God forsakes no one, who himself to him entrusts; he remains faithful to

Repetitive/static figures by the oboes d'amore suggest the constant presence / steadfast faithfulness of God referenced in the text.

C# major      C#7      F# minor

Sei-nen, die ihm vertrauen fest. Lässt sich's an wunder-lich, so lass'dir doch nicht  
his-own, who him trust firmly. If appears it - strange, yet let thyself nevertheless not

Text painting: Unusual harmonic progression for "though matters appear strange."

B7      E major      A# dim.7      D#7

grau-en, mit Freu - - - - denwirst du schauen, wie Gott wird ret - - - -  
be-terrified, with joy wilt thou behold how God will rescue

R.H.      G# minor      E major      A tempo = arioso

E# dim.7      F# minor      B7

In each movement, Bach treats the final line of the stanza in a special way. Here he emphasizes "retten" ("save") with a wide-ranging melisma whose arpeggios are answered by the continuo (as if answering the singer's doubts), while the oboes d'amore switch to reassuring sustained notes.

10 ten, wie Gott wird retten dich.  
how God will rescue thee.

C#7 F# minor F# minor

Bouree-like "with diminutions in the strings." See Meredith Little and Natalie Jenne, *Dance and the Music of J. S. Bach*, expanded ed. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2001), pp. 216, 299. The concerto-like movement features Vln I.

**Vers 3. Aria.** (Chorale Verse 3) •God's sovereignty complete & may be relied upon (107/3).

107/3. Vivace Vln I obbligato  
Ritornello Strings Vln II & Vla staccato...

A major

The music begins with an anacrusis "circulatio" figure in A major, the continuo leading to staccato 8ths and entrance of the strings. The figure, associated initially with "wagen" (to "venture"), appears also in no. 27b of the St John Passion, where the soldiers gamble for Jesus' cloak—perhaps it represents the shaking and throwing of dice to express "wagering" one's life on Jesus, as referenced in the text (see note for more). The dance rhythm and patter diction produce a jocular affect approaching comic opera.



3ii A major A7 D major E7 A major

A major

Bass is often the voice of authority.

8 Basso. Chorale line 1.

Stollen 1 of chorale's bar form.

Auf ihn magst du es\_ wa - gen, auf ihn magst du es

Upon him mayest thou it venture

6-stanza version of chorale: "wirst"

A major Figura circulatio A major

Text painting: A broken line of leaping intervals (like hiccups) accompanied by a highly energetic Vln I obbligato for "unerschrocken" ("unflinching") may be an example of depicting the opposite of the word's actual meaning, or it may represent "fearless leaps" as suggested by Helmuth Rilling (see *The Oregon Bach Festival Master Class Lectures*, vol. 3 (Dayton, Ohio: Roger Dean Publishing, vol. 3 (2001), p. 83.

10 Chorale line 2.

wa - gen mit un - er.schrock' - nem  
6-stanza version of chorale: "getrost mit frischem Muth"

A major

12

Muth, auf ihn magst du es wa - gen, auf ihn magst du es wagen mit

C#7 F# minor E major B7

14 II

un - er.schrock' - nem Muth,  
"Unerschrocken" ("unflinching") now set somewhat less frenetically.

E major Ritornello

16 II Chorale line 3.

Stollen 2. du wirst mit ihm er - ja -  
6-stanza version of chorale: "Mit ihm wirst du"

p

Text painting: Erratic coloratura with dotted rhythms reminiscent of a hunting party for "erjagen" (to "hunt" or "catch").

E major

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19

gen, was dir ist nütz und

B# dim.7

21

gut, was dir ist nütz und gut.

Ritornello

C# minor

23

Abgesang of chorale's bar form (separated by an intervening ritornello emphasizing the chorale's bipartite form).

Was Gott be.schlos.sen

C# minor

25

hat, was Gott be.schlossen hat, das kann Niemand, Niemand

Strings tacet

The circulatio figure is now extended and associated with God's ordained will ("was Gott beschlossen hat") and his counsel ("Rath"). See note for more.

B7 E major E7 A major B7

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In each movement, Bach treats the final line of the stanza in a special way. Here he emphasizes "Rath" ("counsel") with a long melisma.

27 Chorale line 7. Chorale line 8.

hin - dern aus al - len Menschen.kin - dern, es geht nach sei - nem Rath,

Bach drops the first syllable of "verhindern," ("prevent"), which allows him to repeat "Niemand" ("no one") in the previous measure.

Vln I

E major      A7      D major      A major      E7      A major

32 Chorale line 6.

Gott be\_schlos - - - sen hat, was      Gott be\_schlos - - - sen hat, das,

Gott be\_schlos - - - sen hat, was      Gott be\_schlos - - - sen hat, das,

A major      A7      D major      B7      E7      A major

Chorale line 7.

34

das kann Nie - mand hindern, Nie - mand,  
Nie - mand hin - dern\_\_ bei

+ Violin II & Vla  
*p*

A major

A major

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Chorale line 8.

36

al len Men-schen-kin-dern, bei al len Men-schen-kin-dern, es

A major D major B7 E major E7

38

geht nach sei nem Rath,

6-stanza version of the chorale: "so viel ihr sind im Spiel"

Vln I alone... es

Bach emphasizes the final line, which stresses God's sovereignty.

F# minor F# minor E7 A major

40

geht nach sei .. nem Rath,

A major D major A major 7 D major

Double plagal progression stresses the finality of God's sovereignty as referenced in the text.

42

nach sei .. nem Rath.

Strings

A major

Dal Segno.

No. 4 is a rage aria against  
Satan for tenor and continuo.

The *Halberstädtische Gesangbuch* (which Bach chose for this cantata's libretto) differs considerably here from the more common version that Bach apparently rejected; the unique passages underscore the theme of Satan's opposition.

### Vers 4. Aria. (Chorale Verse 4) •Satan cannot prevail against thee; God is with thee! (107/4).

107/4. (Allegro moderato  $\text{♩} = 88$ )

Right hand here is editorial realization...

Ritornello

Continuo alone (marked "solo")...

Aggressive, quasi-ostinato bass...

E minor

D# dim.7

Simon Heighs suggests that the remarkable falling ninths depict "Satan's infernal abode below" (see *J. S. Bach. Oxford Composer Companions*, ed. Malcolm Boyd [New York: Oxford University Press, 1999], p. 510).

E minor      E minor      D7      E minor

D# dim.7      B7      E minor

cresc.      hemiola

D# dim.7      B7      E minor

6-stanza version of chorale: "selbst"

Tenore. Chorale line 1.

Stollen 1 of chorale's bar form.

Wenn auch gleich aus der Höllen, wenn auch gleich aus der

Text painting: The opposing forces of Satan and God's will are reflected in contrary motion (the tenor freely inverts the ritornello theme). Whether the two lines can be assigned individually to God and Satan (and which line represents which) is debatable. The conflict is resolved in m. 60, when both lines move up.

Ritornello theme.

E minor

Chorale line 2. High note for "Satan."

Höllen der Sa - tan woll te sich

6-stanza version of chorale: "der Satan trotzlich"

Chorale line 3.

Stollen 2. dir selbst ent-ge-gen mit seinen Rottgesellen

E minor      G# dim.7      A minor

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17

stel - - - - - len

Satan's opposition is depicted with an aggressive coloratura on "[entgegen] stellen" ("oppose").

D7      G major

20

und to - - - - - ben wi - der

"sich setzt"

Tritone for Satan's raging (see note for more). Chorale line 4.

Martin Petzoldt notes that Bach skilfully employs the difference between harmonic and melodic minor scales in the coloraturas. See Bach Kommentar 1:160.

D# dim.7      B7      E minor

Chorale line 4.

hemiola

23

dich, wenn auch gleich aus der Höl - len der Sa - tan wollte sich dir

Chorale line 1.

Chorale line 2.

E minor      A7      D major

27

selbst ent - ge - - - - - gen stel - len und to - - -

Chorale line 3.

Chorale line 4.

C#7      F#7      B minor      A7      D major

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31

Satan's rage is depicted with an even longer, aggressive coloratura on "toben" (to "rage").

hemiola

F#7

B minor

34

ben wi-der dich:

Ritornello

B minor

37

B minor

D7

G major

40

F#7

F#7

B minor

hemiola

43

Chorale line 5.

so muss er doch mit Spott,

"Spot" ("ridicule") is given descending, scalar melismas.

so muss er doch mit Spott

Abgesang of chorale's bar form (separated by an intervening ritornello emphasizing the chorale's bipartite form).

B minor

E minor

A7

D major

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## Chorale line 7.

50

mit er dich will fas - - - - sen;  
"Fassen" ("seize") is given a grip-like, hemiola figure.

X f Ritornello

E7      A minor      A minor

**54**

In each movement, Bach treats the final line of the stanza in a special way. Here he emphasizes the line with multiple repetitions.

Bach emphasizes the final line, which stresses God's sovereignty.

denn dein Werk für - dert  
because thy work is-furthered-by

hemiola

A minor

B7

A minor

58

Gott,   
 God

denn dein Werk, dein Werk für - dert Gott,

denn dein Werk für - dert

E minor

cresc.

B7

E minor

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"Denn" ("because") is emphasized.

"Gott" ("God") is emphasized.

Gott, denn dein Werk für - dert Gott, denn dein Werk für - dert Gott,

A7 D major D aug. E minor

"dein Werk" ("your work") is emphasized.

für - dert Gott, dein Werk für - dert Gott, denn dein Werk für - dert Gott.

D# dim. 7 B7 E minor E minor Dal Segno.

### Vers 5. Aria.

107/5. (Tempo ordinario  $\text{♩} = 132$ .)

(Chorale Verse 5) •God's sovereignty complete: to accomplish or hinder (107/5).

Ob d'am I & II 1.

staccato

Ritornello is derived from the vocal line, itself derived from the first line of the chorale.

Oboes d'amore in parallel 3rds & 6ths and the siciliano rhythm suggest a pastoral dance, with an ornamented line (related to the camouflaged chorale) exchanged between Ob d'am I and soprano.

B7 E minor D major F#(7) B minor

### Soprano.

The vocal opening alludes to the first chorale phrase, while the end quotes the last chorale phrase literally (mm. 23-24).

Chorale line 1.

Chorale line 2.

Er richt's zu sei - nen Eh - ren und

Stollen 1.

B minor B minor

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A musical score page from a piano-vocal edition. The top staff is for the voice, starting with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a measure number 7. The lyrics 'dei - ner Se - lig - keit,' 'er richt's zu sei - nen Ehren und dei - ner,' and a concluding trill are written below the notes. The bottom staff is for the piano, showing a bass clef and a treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp. The piano part consists of eighth-note chords and patterns. The text 'B minor' is printed at the bottom of both staves.

Chorale line 3. Text painting: Short, emphatic figures, for "soll's sein" ("if it is to be").

9

Se - - lig-keit,  
soll's sein,  
soll's sein,  
soll's sein,

B minor      A7      D major      D7

Stollen 2.

B7      A7      D major

## Chorale line 4.

Chorale line 4.

6-stanza version of chorale: "wanns ihm wär"

11

sein, kein Mensch kann's weh - ren, und wär's ihm noch so leid, und

D major      A# dim.7

B minor

B minor

F# minor

C#7

wär's ihm noch so viel leid.

## Ritornello

## F# minor

## F# minor

## F# minor

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15

Ritornello

Will's  
[If God's will]

F# minor F# major

Chorale line 5.

Word painting: sequential melisma of half circles ("figura circulo mezzo") to depict "forttreiben" (to "drive forth, i.e., to "push it forward").

17

denn Gott ha - ben nicht, so kann's Nie - mand fort.trei - - -  
is that it not happen, then no one can force it.)

N6 F# major E major A major A7 D major

B minor

Chorale line 6.

Chorale line 7.

ben, es muss zu - rük - ke, zu - rük - ke, es  
[It must remain undone.]

D7 G major E7 A(7)

Chorale line 8, a paraphrase of the 3rd request of the Lord's Prayer ("Thy will be done").

muss zu.rük - ke blei - ben, was Gott will, das geschieht,das geschieht,  
What God wills, that (is-what) happens.

F#7 B minor A# dim.7 F#7 B minor B minor

In each movement, Bach treats the final line of the stanza in a special way. Here he emphasizes the final line by repeating it to the final chorale phrase (without melodic embellishment) inserted into a slightly modified ritornello (whose melody alludes to the first chorale line), suggesting finality.

**N.B. Aus der Choral-Melodie.**

Ritornello

B minor      B minor      B minor

schiebt. Ritornello

B minor      D# dim.7      E minor      A7

D major      A# dim.7      B minor      D major      F#7 B minor

**Vers 6. Aria.** (Chorale Verse 6) • Trusting God's sovereignty & yielding to his will (107/6).

107/6. (Moderato  $\text{♩} = 80$ )

The obbligato is played by 2 flutes and muted violin in unison, with the violin sometimes having contrasting slurs (see full score). See note at no. 1 about demanding flute parts in Bach's cantatas at this time.

Fl I, II, Vln I (con sordini)

Ritornello derived from vocal line.

pizzicato

D major

The reinforced, child-like / peasant-like melody with specified short articulation and major key contributes to a carefree, dance-like character. For the significance of major vs. minor, see note at no. 1, m. 30.

D major

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6 **Tenore.**

Chorale lines 1 & 2.

"dem"

Drum ich mich ihm er - ge - be, ihm sei es heimge - stellt, drum

Continuo alone...

Stollen 1.

D major

9 Chorale lines 3 & 4.

Text painting: rests (silence) for "nichts" ("nothing").

ich mich ihm er - ge - be, ihm sei es heim - ge - stellt, nach nichts, nach

Stollen 2.

D major F#7

Energetic coloratura for "streben" ("strive").

11II "mehr ich sonst"

nichts, nach nichts ich sonst mehr stre -

B minor E7 A major A major

14 be, denn nur was ihm gefällt.

Ritornello

A major A major

17

A major A major

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**20**

Abgesang of chorale's bar form (separated by an intervening ritornello emphasizing the chorale's bipartite form.)

**Drauf wart'**  
6-stanza version of chorale: "Sein Will ist mein Begier"

A major      A7      F#7      B minor

**23**

Text painting: Voice and obbligato fall silent.

ich, drauf wart'      ich und bin still,      drauf wart'  
On-that wait      I and am silent,

B minor

**25**

— ich und bin still,

Ritornello

B minor      B minor      B minor

**28**

Chorale line 6.  
6-stanza version of chorale: Der ist und bleibt

sein Will'      der ist      der be - - -

B minor      B minor      A7      D major

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31 Chorale line 7.

ste, sein Will' der ist der be - ste, das glaub' ich steif und fe - ste, steif und  
Continuo alone...

D major D7 G major A7 D major

In each movement, Bach treats the final line of the stanza in a special way. Here he states the line about God's sovereignty 6 times (with additional internal repetitions), emphasizing "wie" ("how").

83n Chorale line 8.

fe - ste, Gott mach' es wie er will, Gott mach' es  
Word painting: Held note for "feste" ("firmly"). 6-stanza version of chorale: "Wohl dem, der glaubt mit mir"

D major D major

36

wie - er will, wie - er will, Gott mach' es wie er will, wie - er will, Gott mach' es  
D major D7 G major G major

39

wie - er will, Gott mach' es wie er will, Gott mach' es wie - er will!  
Continuo alone...  
A7 D major D major D major Dal Segno.

Instead of doubling the vocal lines (as more usually the case for the final chorale), the instruments have independent material in a dance rhythm: Meredith Little and Natalie Jenne say it is like a French gigue. (Helmut Rilling also calls it a gigue.) Other writers call it a siciliano rhythm. Compare *Dance and the Music of J. S. Bach*, expanded ed. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2001), pp. 254, 303; Helmut Rilling, *The Oregon Bach Festival Master Class Lectures*, vol. 3 (Dayton, Ohio: Roger Dean Publishing, 2001), p. 89; Martin Petzoldt, *Bach Kommentar 1:161*; Alfred Dürr, *The Cantatas of J. S. Bach*, translated by Richard Jones (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005), p. 448.

## Vers 7. Choral. (Mel: „Von Gott will ich nicht lassen“)

107/7.

(♩ = 66.)

F1, II, Ob d'am, Vn I

Ritornello

B minor

B minor

6. Soprano.

+Corno da caccia

Stollen 1 & 2 of the chorale's bar form.

Homophonic setting  
of the chorale  
inserted into ritornello.

Herr, gieb, dass ich dein  
von Her - zens - grund ver -

Alto.

Herr, gieb, dass ich dein  
von Her - zens - grund ver -

Tenore.

Herr, gieb, dass ich dein  
von Her - zens - grund ver -

Basso.

Herr, gieb, dass ich dein  
von Her - zens - grund ver -

B minor

E7

Eh - - - re ja all' mein Le - - - ben lang -  
meh - - - re, dir sa - ge Lob und Dank.

Eh - - - re ja all' mein Le - - - ben lang -  
meh - - - re, dir sa - ge Lob und Dank.

Eh - - - re ja all' mein Le - - - ben lang -  
meh - - - re, dir sa - ge Lob und Dank.

Eh - - - re ja all' mein Le - - - ben lang -  
meh - - - re, dir sa - ge Lob und Dank.

A major

C#7

F# minor

F#7

tr

(F# minor)

F# major

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Abgesang of chorale's bar form (as in the opening movement, no embellishment).

16

O Va - ter,  
O Va - ter,  
O Va - - ter,  
O Va - - ter,

Ritornello

B minor A7 D major D major

21

Sohn und Geist!  
Sohn und Geist!  
Sohn und Geist!  
Sohn und Geist!

Ritornello

D major A7 D major D7

26

Lines 6-8 (joined as in opening movement).

Der who du aus out-of lau - sheer ter Gna - mercy - den ab -  
Der du aus lau - ter Gna - - den ab -  
Der du aus lau - ter Gna - - den ab -  
Der du aus lau - ter Gna - - den ab -

G major A7 D major D major E7 A major A7

The combined final lines of the chorale (lines 6–8) describe the trinitarian God's watchful care, which averts all distress and harm. Associated with the pastoral rhythm of the siciliano, these lines suggest the image of the Good Shepherd.

31

wen - dest Noth und Scha - den, sei im - mer -  
 distress and harm, be evermore

wen - dest Noth und Scha - den, sei im - mer -

wen - dest Noth und Scha - den, sei im - mer -

wen - dest Noth und Scha - den, sei im - mer -

D major      D7      G major      C#7      F# minor      F#7

36

dar ge - preist.  
 praised.

dar ge - preist.

dar ge - preist.

In each movement, Bach treats the final line of the stanza in a special way. Here he emphasizes "immerdar gepreist" ("evermore praised") by extending the cantus firmus beyond the other parts through the modulation to E minor (the final harmonic progression of BM - Em - Bm - BM perhaps expressing some trepidation about a final outcome).

dar ge - preist.

Johann Heermann

Ritornello

B major      B7      E minor      F#7      B minor      B major