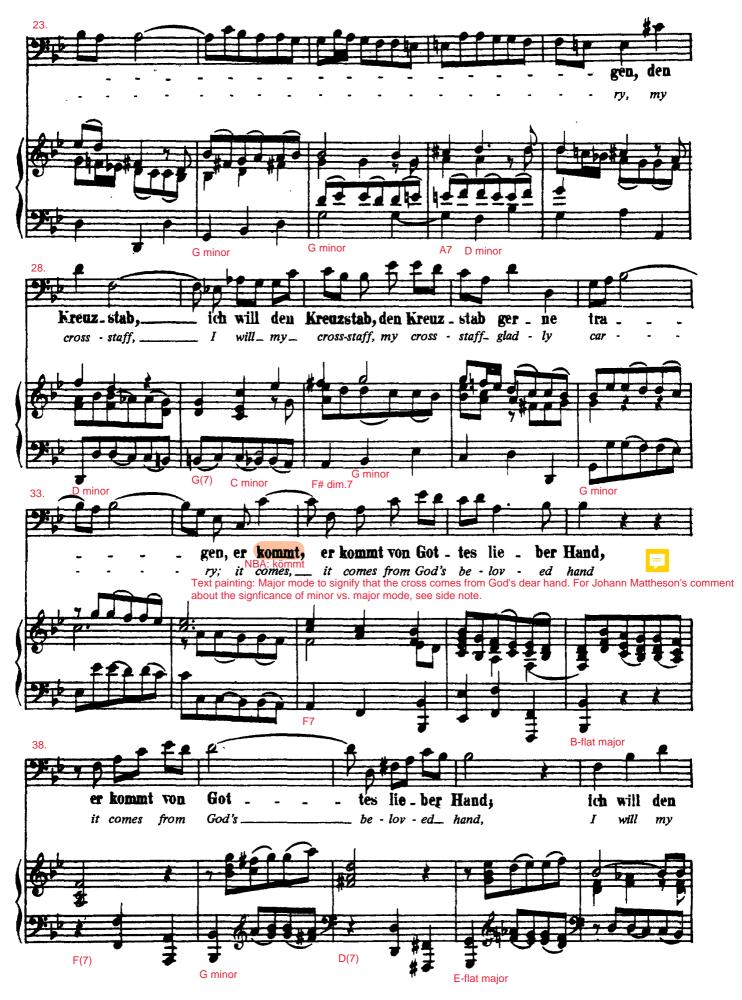
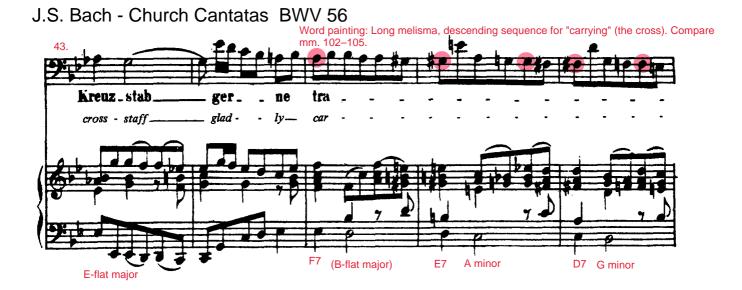
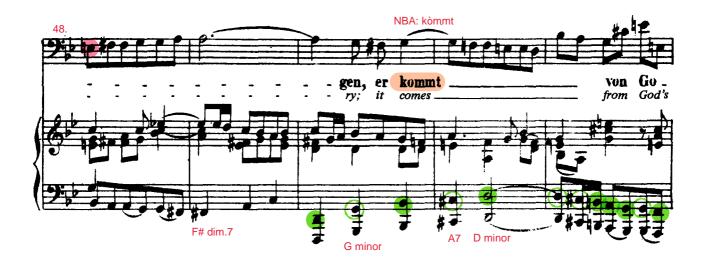


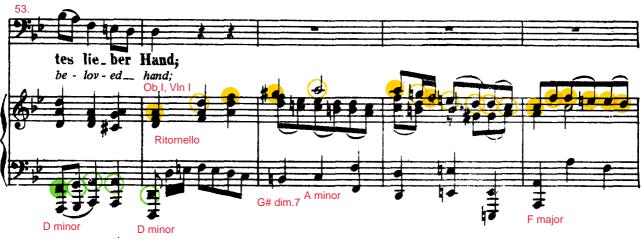
Word painting: Chromaticism (augmented 2nd with a sharp ("Kreuz") to depict "Kreuzstab," then sighing motives for "tragen"; both suggest the pain of carrying the cross.

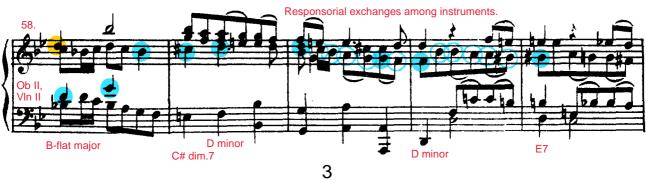


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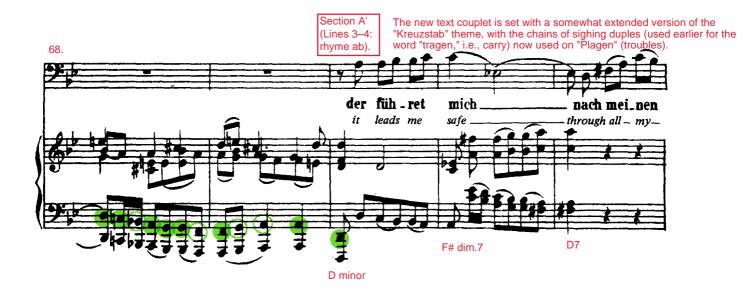


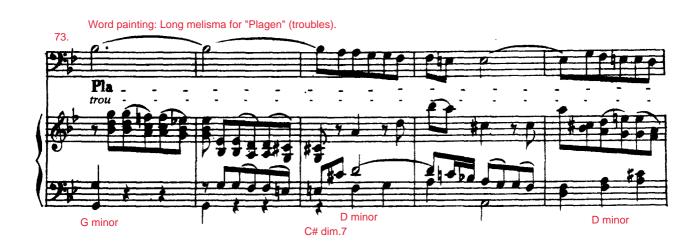


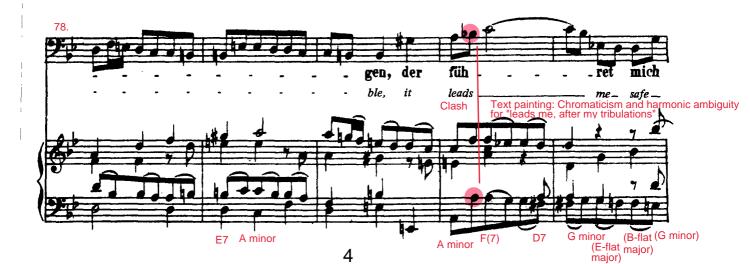




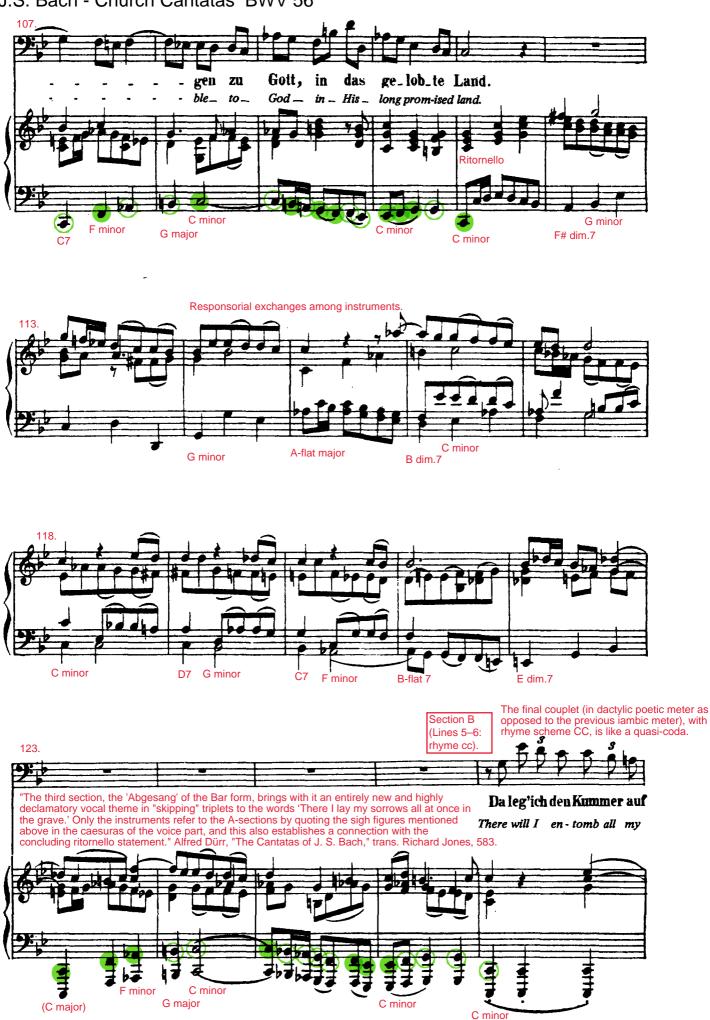












The text alludes to biblical passages such as Revelation 21:3–4. [Then] God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away. (Also Revelation 7:15–17, Isaiah 25:8.) While the skipping rhythm of the vocal line (following the dactylic meter of the poem) and major keys portray the joyous freedom anticipated by the poet, the continuation of sighing duples in the instrumental lines depict the continuing present reality of suffering.

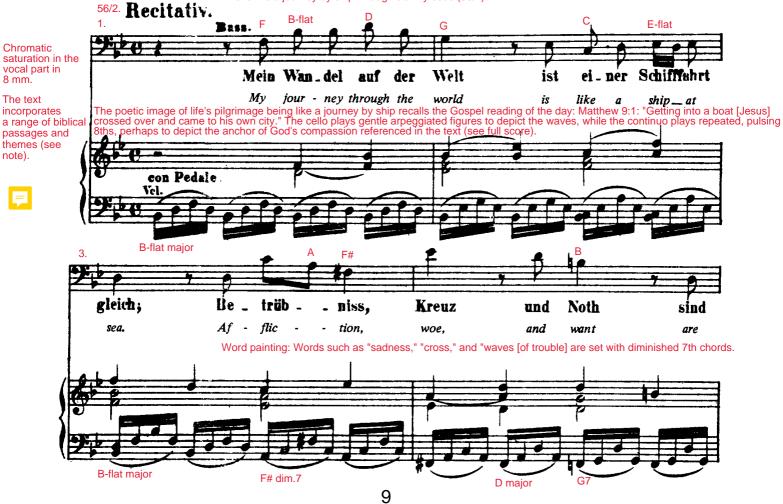




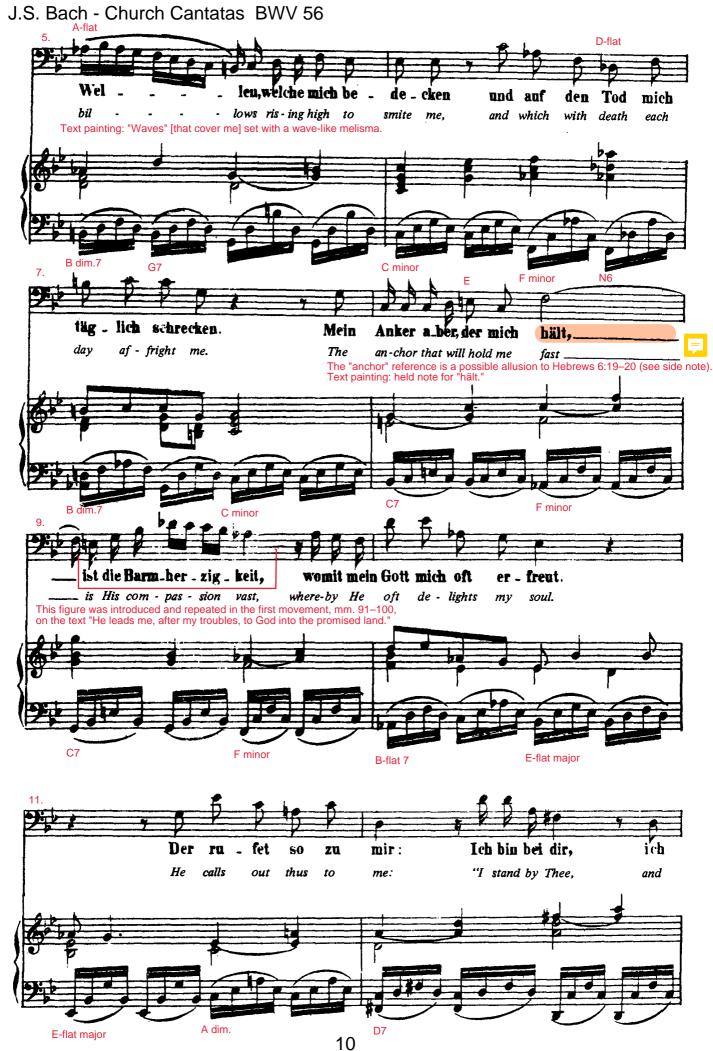




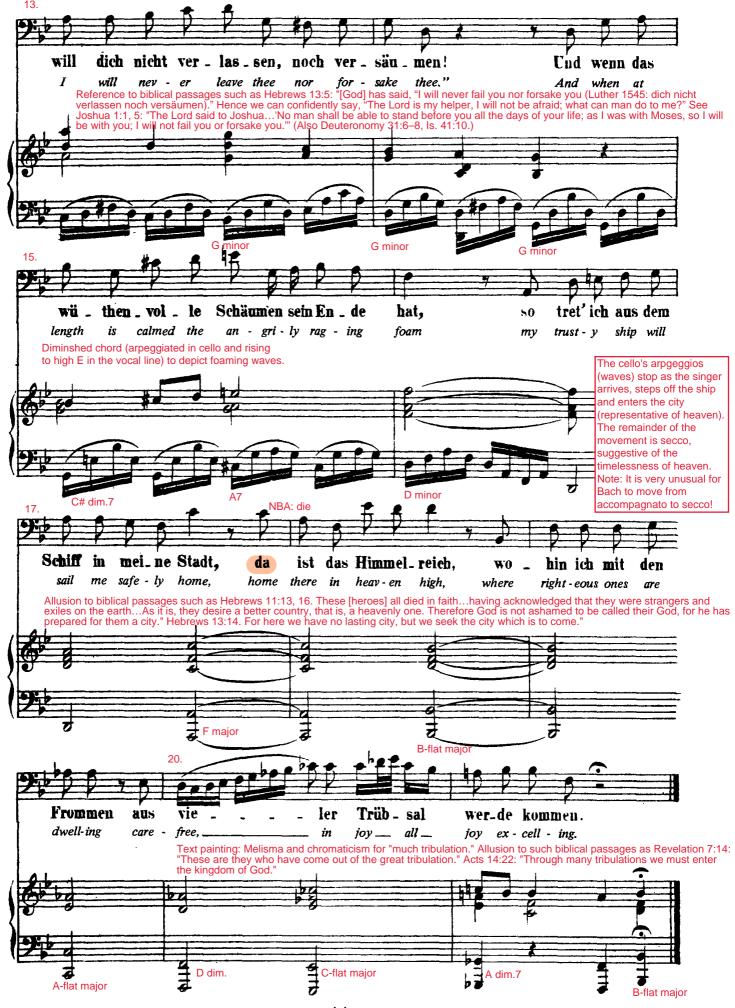




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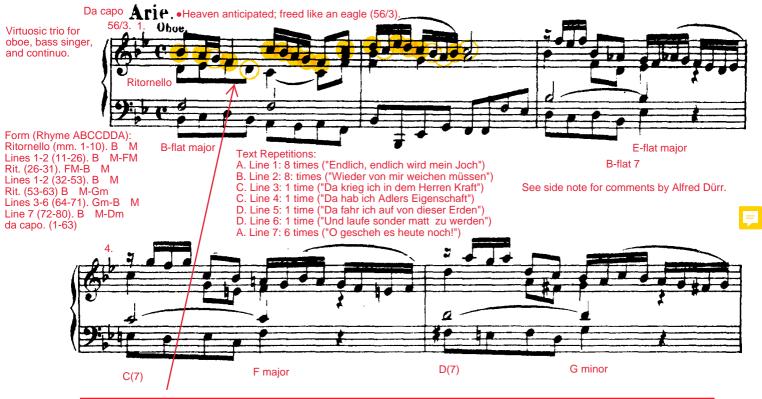
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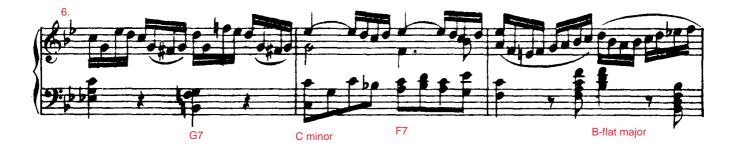
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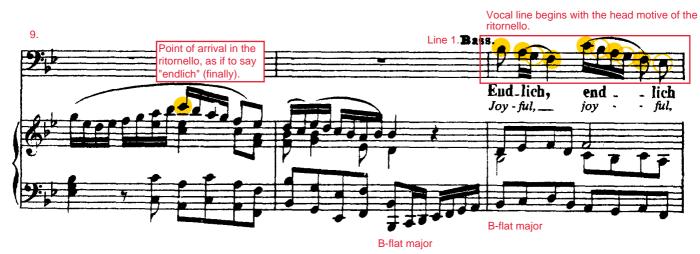
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This is the central movement in the cantata's chiastic form. In Bach's chiastic forms, center movements (where the mirror image begins) often provide the crux of the matter. There antithetical elements meet or are paradoxically inverted (formal inversion reflects an aspect of reversal or turning in the text). Here the central movement describes the moment when the believer's situation will finally turn. As seen below, Bach devotes most of the aria to the first 2 lines of text.

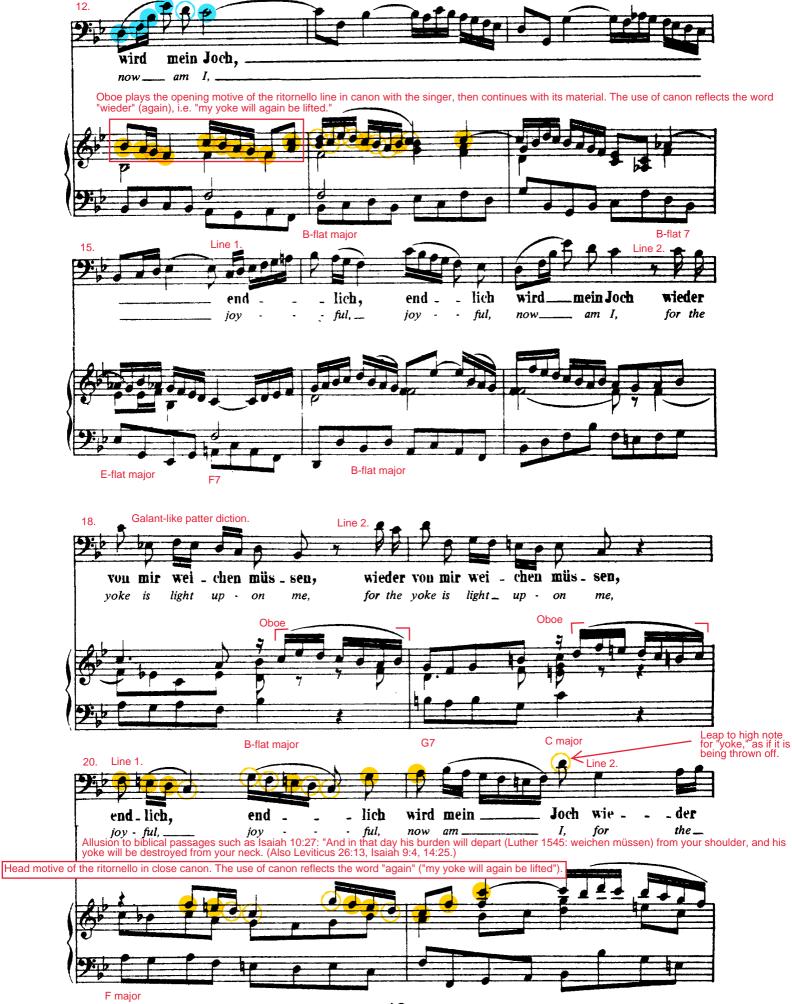


The head motive of the ritornello is associated with the opening line of text ("Finally, finally my yoke [will be lifted]. It appears in both oboe and voice lines throughout the movement as a unifying device.





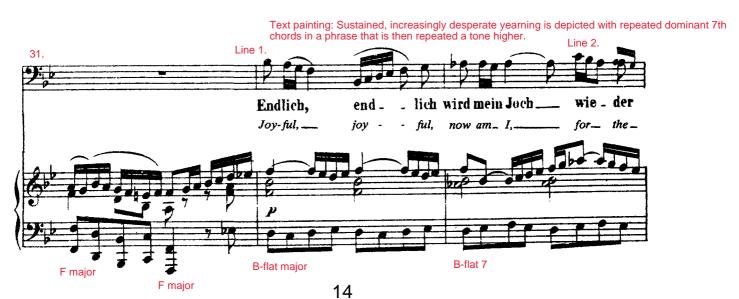
The vocal line departs from the ritornello line with an upward arpeggio, apparently to depict the "lifting of the yoke," referenced in the text. Compare the reversal of roles at m. 38.



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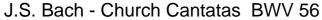


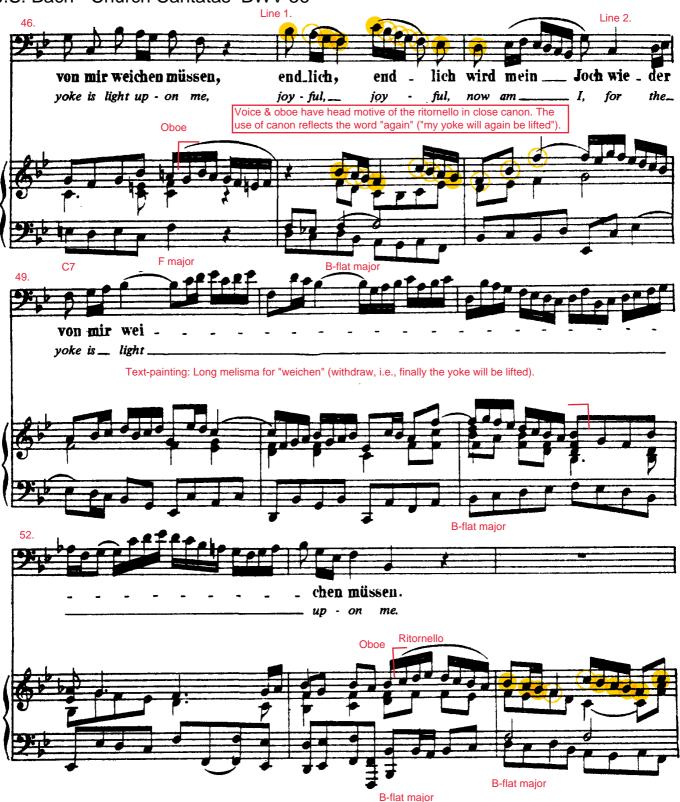


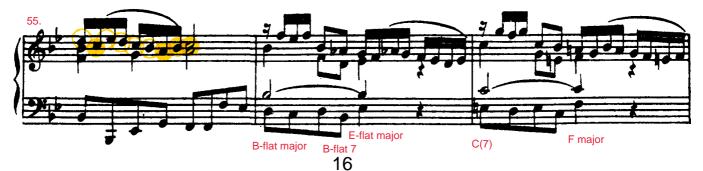
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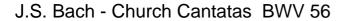
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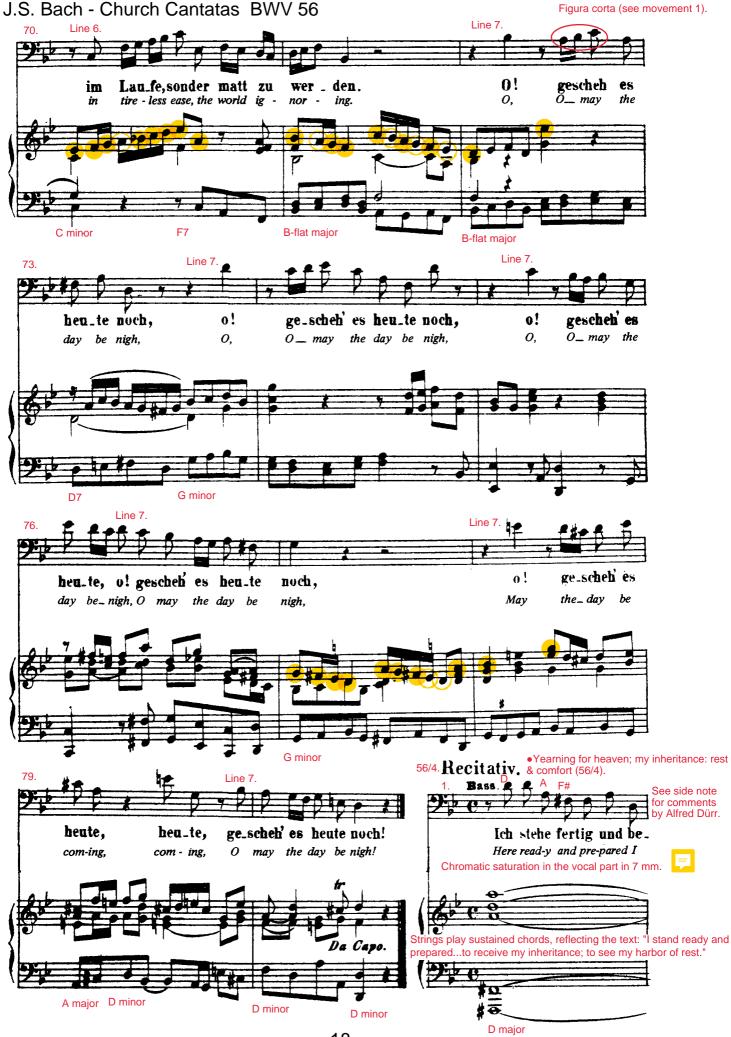




Allusion to Isaiah 40:28–31. "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary, his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

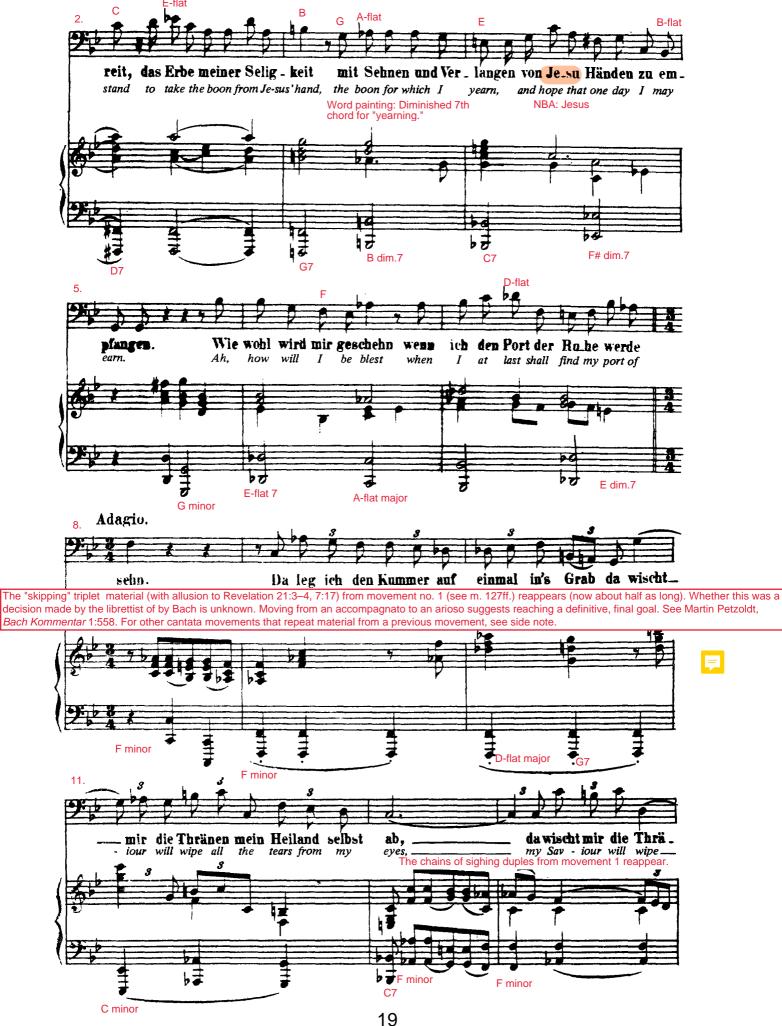


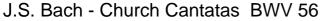
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