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NBA I/11; BC A65

Misericordias Domini: 2. S. after Easter (BWV 104, 85, 112)

*1 Peter 2:21–25 (Christ as example; you have returned to the shepherd of your souls)

*John. 10:11–16 (Jesus declares himself as Good Shepherd)

Librettist: Unknown; perhaps Christian Weiß the elder

FP: 23 April 1724 (Leipzig: St. Thomas). This cantata belongs to Bach's first cantata cycle in Leipzig (see note).

Instrumentation:

Ob I, II; also Ob d'am I, II

Taille

Vln I, II

Vla

SATB

Continuo

Form (often homophonic choral insertion)

Ritornello (mm. 1–25) GM

Line 1 (25–36) GM-Bm

Line 2 (37–42) E7-DM

Line 3 (43–45) Bm-DM

Rit (45–46) DM

Line 1 (47–52) DM

Line 2 (fugato: 53–71) Bm-GM

Line 1 (72–83) GM-DM

Line 2 (fugato: 84–111) GM-Em

Line 3 (112–114) Am-GM

The tonal ascent appears related to the idea that the leading of the Good Shepherd means this life can already be a foretaste of heaven (see note for more).

Alfred Dürr writes, "Whether in painting, poetry, or music, baroque art took special delight in the representation of rural life, and particularly the pastoral setting, which seemed calm and peaceful, far from the despotism and intrigues of absolutist princes, and a valuable aid to the realization of ideal feelings, such as love, faith, innocence, friendship, and so on. It therefore comes as no surprise that the Christian faith of the age was enkindled with special ardour by the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. The music of the shepherds—the pastorella—could be directly understood as a symbol of the community watched over by Christ. And a phrase like 'Lead us into Your sheepfold!' (no. 4) could be taken into this world-view without reflection, nor with that touch of the comic which might be felt in it by the modern listener. See Dürr/Jones, p. 299.

Cantata No. 104

Du Hirte Israel, höre

•Shepherd of Israel sought in prayer:

Psalm 80:1 (104/1).

Nº 1.(Coro.)

104/1.

(Pastorale ♩ = 72.)

1. Staccato

G major, G pedal... (Concerning the significance of G major, see note.)

Rocking in Obs, Vln II, Vla.

D major

D7

G major

G7

C major

To create an Arcadian picture of heavenly pastures (but also the earthly forrests of it), Bach employs flowing triplets, oboes, and euphonious harmonies in the key of G major (with pedal points providing rustic drones—perhaps representing constancy and certainty in the safety of the shepherd's hands).

24. Soprano. A Line 1.

Alto. Du Hir - te I - sra-el, du Hir - te

Tenore. Du Hir - te I - sra-el, du Hir - te

Basso. Du Hir - te I - sra-el, du Hir - te

(CORO)

Text painting: At mention of "shepherd," the oboes take over the triplets, doubling the voices thereafter.

For word-for-word English translations, see Unger, *Handbook to Bach's Sacred Cantata Texts*.

Obs

Str

For biblical background, see note.

28.

I - sra-el, hö - re! hö - re! du Hir-te I.sra-el,

I - sra-el, hö - re! hö - re! du Hir-te I.sra-el,

I - sra-el, hö - re! hö - re! du Hir-te I.sra-el,

I - sra-el, hö - re! hö - re! du Hir-te I.sra-el,

G major G pedal...

Punctuating exclamations: "Hear!"

Vln I

Str

32.

+Obs

hö - re, du Hir-te I.srael, hö - re, du Hir-te I.srael,

hö - re, du Hir-te I.srael, hö - re, du Hir-te I.srael,

hö - re, du Hir-te I.srael, hö - re, du Hir-te I.srael,

hö - re, du Hir-te I.srael, hö - re, du Hir-te I.srael,

Parallel 3rds & 6ths (doubled by oboes) suggest sweetness.

+Obs

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 104

36. Line 2. Euphonious counterpoint with parallel 3rds and 6ths.

hö - re, der du Jo - seph hü - test wie der Scha -

hö - re, der du Jo - seph hü - test wie der Scha -

hö - re, der du Jo - seph hü - test wie der Scha -

hö - re, der du Jo - seph hü - test wie der Scha -

G major E7 A major

40. Line 3.

- fe, er - schei - ne, der du sit - zest ü - ber

- fe, er - schei - ne, der du sit - zest ü - ber

- fe, er - schei - ne, der du sit - zest ü - ber

- fe, er - schei - ne, der du sit - zest ü - ber

D major B minor

44. Line 1.

- zest ü - ber Che - ru - bim. Du Hir - te

Che - ru - bim. Du Hir - te

Che - ru - bim. Du Hir - te

- zest ü - ber Che - ru - bim. Du Hir - te

D major D major D pedal...

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 104

48.

The musical score is for a four-part vocal setting of a hymn. It consists of five systems of staves. The first four systems each contain a vocal line (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass) with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'I - sra-el, du Hir-te I-sra-el, hö-re, du Hir-te I-sra-el'. The fifth system contains a piano accompaniment for the same piece, with a treble and bass staff. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The vocal parts feature triplets and various melodic lines. The piano accompaniment is in the right hand, with a simple bass line in the left hand.

I - sra-el, du Hir-te I-sra-el, hö-re, du Hir-te I-sra-el,
I - sra-el, du Hir-te I-sra-el, hö-re, du Hir-te I-sra-el,
I - sra-el, hö-re, du Hir-te I - sra-el,
I - sra-el, hö-re, du Hir-te I - sra-el,
I - sra-el, hö-re, du Hir-te I - sra-el,

52.

hö - re,
hö - re,
hö - re, der du Jo - seph hü - test wie der Scha -
hö - re,

Line 2 (fugato).

D major B minor 7 E7 A major A7

56. D major D minor E7

der du Jo_seph hütetest wie der Scha - fe, er -

D major D7

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 104

60.

der du Jo-seph hü-test wie der Scha -

fe, er -

schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er -

64. G major G7

fe, er -
schei - ne, Cries: "Appear!" er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er -
schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er -
der du Jo-seph hü-test wie der Scha -

68 C major D7 G major A7 D major D7

68. C major D7 G major A7 D major D7

schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne,
schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne,
schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne,
schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne, fe,

Cries: "Appear!"

G major G major

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 104

72. Line 1.

du Hir - te I - sra-el, du Hir - te I - sra-el,
 du Hir - te I - sra-el, du Hir - te I - sra-el,
 du Hir - te I - sra-el, du Hir - te I - sra-el,
 du Hir - te I - sra-el, du Hir - te I - sra-el,

G major

76. Cries: "Hear!"
 hö - re! hö - re! du Hir - te I - sra-el, hö - re!
 hö - re! hö - re! du Hir - te I - sra-el, hö - re!
 hö - re! hö - re! du Hir - te I - sra-el, hö - re!
 hö - re! hö - re! du Hir - te I - sra-el, hö - re!

A7 D major

80. D pedal... D7 G major
 hö - re, du Hir - te I - sra-el, hö - re,
 hö - re, du Hir - te I - sra-el, hö - re,
 du Hir - te I - sra-el, hö - re, du Hir - te I - sra-el, hö - re, Line 2 (fugato).
 du Hir - te I - sra-el, hö - re, du Hir - te I - sra-el, hö - re, der du

G major A7 D major D7

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 104

84.

In ascending order, the voices present the subject, the other voices interrupting with cries of "Hear!" and "Appear!" The rising order of entries culminates in m. 103, where all exclaim together, "Appear!"

hö - re! hö - re!

hö - re! hö - re!

hö - re! hö - re! der du

Jo - seph hü - test wie der Scha -

G major

88.

hö - re! hö - re!

hö - re! hö - re! der du

Joseph hütest wie der Scha -

- fe, er - schei - ne, er -

G major G7 C major (D7)

92.

hö - re! hö - re! der du

Joseph hü - test wie der Scha -

- fe, er - schei - ne, er -

schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er -

G major A(7) D major D7 G major

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 104

96.

Joseph hü - test wie der Scha -
fe, er - schei - ne, er -
schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er -
schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er -

The musical score is for a piece in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five systems. The first system contains the vocal melody and piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with the lyrics 'Joseph hü - test wie der Scha -' and continues with 'fe, er - schei - ne, er -'. The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The second system continues the vocal melody with the lyrics 'schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er -'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern. The third system continues the vocal melody with the lyrics 'schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er -'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern. The fourth system continues the vocal melody with the lyrics 'schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er -'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern. The fifth system continues the vocal melody with the lyrics 'schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er -'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern.

G7

C major

All voices declaim together...

100. C major All voices declaim together...

The musical score is for a hymn in C major, 4/4 time. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er - schei - ne, er -". The piano part consists of a simple harmonic accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4.

C major D7

B minor

104. C Major 3/4

schei - ne, er - schei - ne, der du Jo - seph hü - test wie der Scha -

schei - ne, er - schei - ne, der du Jo - seph hü - test wie der

schei - ne, er - schei - ne, der du Jo - seph hü - test wie der

schei - ne, er - schei - ne, der du Jo - seph hü - test wie der

D7

G major

G7

C major

A7

J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 104

107.

Scha - fe, er -
Scha - fe, er -
Scha - fe, er -
Scha - fe, er -

111. D major

D7

G major

G major

Line 3.

Bach ends climactically, foregoing a restatement of the ritornello.

schei - ne, der du sit - zest ü - ber Che - ru - bim.
schei - ne, der du sit - zest ü - ber Che - ru - bim.
schei - ne, der du sit - zest ü - ber Che - ru - bim.
schei - ne, der du sit - zest ü - ber Che - ru - bim.

E minor

G7

C major

D7

G major

G major

Nº 2. Recitativo.

104/2.

• Shepherd on high cares for me, why should I worry? (104/2).

1. Tenore.

NBA: Hirte

NBA: vor

Paired recitative and aria for the tenor.

For biblical background, see note.

Der höch - ste Hü - ter sorgt für mich, was nüt - zen mei - ne
highest shepherd

3.

E minor

A# dim.7

Sor - gen? Es wird ja al - le Morgen des Hir - ten Gü - te neu. Mein Herz, so

Phrygian cadence, F# major often used for questions.

A# dim.7

B minor

6. **Andante.** (♩ = 60.)

fas-se dich, Gott ist ge - treu, ge - treu, Gott ist ge - treu.

B minor "Treading" bass... B (minor)

• Shepherd hidden; Fearful, I cry "abba" (Aramaic: "father") in faith (104/3). Imitation between oboes d'amore, then between singer and continuo in rising scales, presumably represents the leading of the shepherd (which is hidden, causing fear for the wandering, lost sheep, as referenced in the text).

Nº 3. Aria.

104/3.

(Andante con moto ♩ = 80.)

The oboes d'amore provide rustic color.

For biblical background, see note.

1. **Ritornello** *mf*

Ob d'am I Ob d'am II

B minor B minor

4.

A7 D major F#7

Hiccup-like rest adds tension.

6. **A Tenore.**

A Section.

Ver - birgt mein Hir - te - sich zu lan - ge -

p Continuo alone... B minor B minor B minor

9.

This type of aria is called a "Devisenarie" (a term coined by Hugo Riemann) or "motto aria." After the ritornello, the singer presents the first phrase of the aria as a kind of motto. This is followed by a short instrumental bridge before the aria proper begins. The motto sets the tone (and the literary perspective) for the movement.

11.

ver - birgt mein Hir - te -

B minor B minor

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Word painting: Extended melisma for "lange" ("long"): "If my shepherd hides himself too long."

12.

sich zu lan - ge, zu lan -

B minor A7 A minor

15.

- ge, macht mir die Wü - ste all - zu -

Word painting: Long, wrenching, chromatic melisma and harmonic instability/chromatic inflection for "all too fearful."

D minor B7 E minor A7 D major G minor 7

17.

ban -

Chromaticism for "bange" ("fearful").

Enharmonic equivalents

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

20.

- ge, mein schwacher Schritt eilt dennoch fort, eilt den - noch fort.

F# minor B D# dim.7 B Ritornello F# minor

23.

E7 A major C#7

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25. B Section. Large leaps up for "schreit."

Mein Mund schreit, mein Mund schreit nach dir, mein
My mouth cries, my mouth cries to thee,

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

28.

Mund schreit, mein Mund schreit nach dir, und du, mein Hirte,

B minor B7 E minor E minor A7 D major

31.

wirkst in mir, und du, mein Hirte, wirkst in mir ein gläubig-

D7 G major D major E7 A major A major D major

Allusion to passages such as Romans 8:15–17. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God... (Abba = Aramaic "father"). See note for more.

34.

Abba, ein gläubig Abba durch dein Wort.

D major D major D major

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37.

A' Section. The melismas for "lange" ("long") and "bange" ("fearful") are now even longer.

Ver - birgt mein Hir - te - sich zu lan -

Ascending duples suggests rising anxiety...

E7 A major B7 E minor A major B minor A# dim.7

40.

Word painting: Even longer melisma for "lange" ("long"): "If my shepherd hides himself too long."

-ge,

B minor F#7 B minor B minor

43.

ver - birgt mein Hir - te

B minor B minor B minor

45.

Word painting: Another long melisma for "lange" ("long"): "If my shepherd hides himself too long."

sich - zu - lan -

D7 D# dim.7 E minor A minor D7

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47. *- ge, macht mir die*

49. *Wü - ste all - zu ban -*
 Chromatic inflection for "Wüste" ("desert"). Longer, chromatic melisma for "bange" ("fearful").

52. *- ge, mein schwacher Schritt eilt*
 Energetic melisma for "eilt" ("hastens").

55. *den - noch fort, mein schwacher Schritt eilt den - noch fort.*
 Ob d'am I *mf*

58. *Ritornello*
 Ob d'am II

D minor G7 E7 A minor D7

G minor D7 G# dim.7 A minor

E7 F#7 A# dim.7 B minor

B minor B minor

B minor B minor

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61.

A7 D major F#7 B minor B minor

Nº 4. Recitativo.

104/4.

1. Basso.

•Pasture is Word of God, sheepfold is heaven (104/4).

Paired recitative and aria for bass.

For biblical background, see note.



Ja, die ses Wort ist mei ner See len Spei se, ein

Yes, this word is my soul's food, a

Secco

A major A7 D major

3.

Labsal meiner Brust, die Weide, die ich meine Lust, des Himmels Vorschmack, ja mein Al les

tonic to-my breast, the pasture, which I [call] my pleasure, - heaven's foretaste, yes, my all

Regarding "foretaste of heaven," see comment about form at no. 1.

B major E minor E7 A major

6.

heisse. Ach! sammle nur, o gu ter Hirte, uns Ar me und Verwirr te; ach!

do-call. Ah! gather (then) O good shepherd, us poor and straying-ones; Ah,

NBA: Verirrte

A major D# dim.7 B7 E minor E major A minor

9.

lass den Weg nur bald ge endet sein und führe uns in deinen Schafstall ein.

let this path but soon ended be and lead us into thy sheepfold -

D(7) G major E(7) A major D (major)

In contrast to the Old Testament invocation of no. 1, the libretto now presents a New Testament perspective as reflected in Jesus' words in the day's Gospel: "I am the good shepherd..." (John 10:14) as well as in the day's Epistle: "You were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd...of your souls" (1 Peter 2:25). The aria's text reflects the Christian doctrines of "Already - Not Yet" and "Foretaste of Heaven": Christ's kingdom and the believer's blessings are already here but not yet consummated. Bach expresses these ideas with contrasting textures and dynamics and with melodic anticipations.

Da capo **Nº 5. Aria.** • Flock of Jesus receive kindness now & reward later (104/5).
104/5. (Pastorale ♩ = 66.)

Ob d'am I/Vln I
Vln II
Via

Ritornello *mf*

The siciliano-like triplet motion, pedal points, and oboe d'amore underscore the pastoral theme (as in movement no. 1).

D major
D pedal...

D major D major E7

6. **A Basso.**

Variant of ritornello melody...

For biblical background, see note.

Be - glück - te Her - de, Je - su Schafe, be - glückte Her - de,

The dynamic markings are original...

A major

A major

D major
D pedal...

"Foretaste of heaven" expressed with contrasting texture.

9.

Je - su Schafe, die Welt ist euch ein Himmelreich, ein Him - mel - reich, die Welt ist

Continuo alone...

D major

E7

11.

Anticipations suggest "foretaste of heaven" as referenced in the text.

euch ein Him - mel - reich, die Welt ist euch ein Him - mel - reich, be - glück -

A major

C#7

F# minor

A major

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13. *te Her-de, Je-su Scha - fe, die Welt ist euch ein Himmelreich.*

E7 A7 D major E7 A major A major

16. *Ritornello*

A major A major

19. **B** *Be-glückte Herde, Je-su Schafe, be-glückte Herde, Je-su Schafe, die*

A major A major D7 D pedal... G major (A7)

22. *Welt ist euch ein Himmelreich, ein Him - melreich, die Welt ist euch ein Him - mel -*

Continuo alone... D major D7 G major E7 A7

25. *reich, die Welt ist euch ein Him - melreich, be-glück - te Her-de, Je-su Scha -*

D7 G major F#7 B minor D major G major A7 D7

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27.

fe, die Welt ist euch ein Him-mel-reich.

G major A7 D major D major

29.

Ritornello

D major D major

32.

D major
D pedal...

Extended notes for "hoffe" (to "hope").

Apparent allusions to passages such as Psalm 34:8:
O taste and see that the Lord is good!...
1 Peter 2:3: You have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

Hier schmeckt ihr Je-su Gü-te schon und hof-fet

Ob d'am I Vln I Vn II

D major D major F#7 B7

35.

The doctrine of "Already - Not Yet" is expressed with contrasting textures.

noch des Glau-bens Lohn, und hof-fet noch des Glaubens Lohn nach

Ob d'am/Vln I & II

E minor A7 D major F#7 B minor A7 D major B minor

38.

Long, low note for "sleep of death."

ei-nem sanf-ten To-des schla-

Chromatic inflection

Ob d'am I/Vln I

pp N6 C major A# dim.7 B minor F#7 G major

The reference to "sanften Todesschlaf" ("gentle sleep of death") is prepared with a N6 chord, then the oboes reenter pianissimo with the pastoral triplets (2x).

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40.

Ob d'am/Vln I

Vln II

(p)

B7 E7 A7

- fe; hier schmeckt ihr Je-su Gü-te schon und hof- - - - - fet

43.

Ob d'am/Vln I & Vln II

Continuo alone...

D major C#7 F# minor C7 F# minor

noch des Glau-bens Lohn, und hof- - - - - fet noch des Glau-bens Lohn nach

46. Very long notes for "sleep of death."

R.H.

pp

N6 G major F# minor D major

ei-nem sanften To- - - - - des-schla-

48.

Singer reaches the lowest note for his final reference to the "sleep of death."

F#7 B minor C#7 F# minor Da Capo. F# minor

- fe, nach ei-nem sanften To-des-schlafe.

104/6. **Nº 6. Choral.** (Mel: „Allein Gott in der Höh' sei Ehr!“)

Soprano ^{1/5}. (See also 85/3.) • Shepherd's Psalm: Psalm 23:1–2 (104/6).

+Ob I
Vln I

+Ob II
Vln II

+Taille
Via

Martin Petzoldt suggests the tenor's voice leading suggests a wayward sheep hurrying to catch up and that this detail underscores the catechismal function of the chorale (encouraging believers to trust the Good Shepherd). See *Bach-Kommentar* 2:796.

For biblical background, see note.

Der Herr ist mein ge - treu - er Hirt, dem ich mich ganz ver - trau - e!
zur Weid' er mich, sein Schäflein, führt, auf schö - ner, grü - ner Au - e!

Der Herr ist mein ge - treu - er Hirt, dem ich mich ganz ver - trau - e!
zur Weid' er mich, sein Schäflein, führt, auf schö - ner, grü - ner Au - e!

Der Herr ist mein ge - treu - er Hirt, dem ich mich ganz vertraue!
zur Weid' er mich, sein Schäflein, führt, auf schöner, grüner Au - e!

Der Herr ist mein ge - treu - er Hirt, dem ich mich ganz ver - trau - e!
zur Weid' er mich, sein Schäflein, führt, auf schö - ner, grü - ner Au - e!

A major 9. A major A major



zum fri - schen Was - ser leit' er mich, mein' Seel' zu la - ben

zum fri - schen Was - ser leit' er mich, mein' Seel' zu la - ben

zum fri - schen Was - ser leit' er mich, mein' Seel' zu la - ben

zum fri - schen Was - ser leit' er mich, mein' Seel' zu la - ben

A major 9. A major A major

kräf - tig - lich durch's sel' - ge Wort der Gna - den.

kräf - tig - lich durch's sel' - ge Wort der Gna - den.

kräf - tig - lich durch's sel' - ge Wort der Gna - den.

kräf - tig - lich durch's sel' - ge Wort der Gna - den.

F# minor F# minor A major A major A major A major