

## Cantatas BWV 70

PART 1. Chorus - Recit (B) - Aria (A) - Recit (T) - Chorus. PART 2. Aria (T) - Recit/chorale (B) - Aria (B) - Chorale.

An unknown librettist expanded Salomon's text for BWV 70a (a Bach cantata for the 2nd day of Advent (music lost) with recitatives (the Franck libretto had none) and an extra chorale to create a 2-part cantata libretto suitable for the 26th Sunday after Trinity. Pre-existing movements were modified only minimally. (In Leipzig, no cantatas were performed on the last 3 Sundays of Advent.) For a comparison of the two libretti, see Martin Petzoldt, "Bach-Kommentar" 1:688-93.

Introduction &amp; updates at melvinunger.com.

NBA I/27; BC A165

26. S. after Trinity (no other cantatas)

\*2 Peter 3:3-13 (Heaven and earth will be destroyed on the

Day of the Lord.)

\*Matthew 25:31-46 (The judgment of the world)

This cantata is an expansion of BWV 70a,

for the 2. S. of Advent:

+Romans 15:4-13 (Christ called the Gentiles as was promised)

+Luke 21:25-36 (Return of Christ: Watch and

pray so you will be ready)

Librettist: Revisions perhaps by J. S. Bach; librettist of 70a

was Salomon Franck (see notes)

FP: 21 November 1723 (St. Nicholas)

Regarding the adaptation of an Advent cantata for Trinity 26, see side note.

J.S. Bach

## Cantata No. 70

wachet! betet! betet! wachet

## Prima Parte.

Cantata about the Final Judgment.

Form of Movement No. 1 (Rhyme: ABBBA)

Sinfonia (mm. 1-16): a+b. CM

A. Line 1 ("Wachet! betet!") (17-43). CM-GM

Sinfonia a+SATB (17-22)

Imitative chorus with instr. acc. (23-27)

Sinfonia ab+SATB (28-43)

B. Lines 2-5 ("Seid bereit") (44-62). GM-CM

(Two sections: 44-52, 53-62) imitative-chordal SATB;

instr. tacet or accompany

A' (abridged) Line 1 ("Wachet! betet!") (63-80). CM

Sinfonia ab+SATB

(Coro.)

(Unchanged from BWV 70a) • Watch and pray; be prepared for Day of Judgment! (70/1).

Trp with military (Intrada) signal (see note).

For comments on the first movement by Alfred Dürr &amp; Uwe Wolff, see side notes.

The military signal on C is played 14x (mm. 1, 15, 16, 18, 19, 34, 50, 52, 54, 55, 64, 65, 78, 79). See note.

Instrumentation:

Tromba

Oboe

Vln I, II

Via

Violoncello obbligato (later version)

SATB

Fagotto, Contino, Organo

Pianoforte.

Note: Joshua Rifkin concludes that the trumpet and oboe were added for the Leipzig version, BWV 70. See "Bach-Jahrbuch" 85 (1999): 127-32. See more in side note.

C major (For the significance of C major, see side note.)

Regarding Bach's 2-part cantatas in the first Leipzig cantata cycle, see side note.

Trp plays sustained notes foreshadowing the "betet" gesture of m. 20 (see full score).

A7

D minor

G7

C major

6.

P

Ob

7

Trp

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

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7

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7

7

C7

Continuo 8va down.

F major

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

7

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7

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7

7

7

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7

7

7

7

7

7

Ascending chromatic fourth in continuo (see note).

Ob & Trp exchange 3-note motives for in mechanical fashion against a bass line of pulsing eighth notes that ascends chromatically in threatening fashion (see full score). The passage suggests the inevitable approach of the Day of Judgment. The 3-note figure also foreshadows the tenor aria that begins Part 2: "Hebt euer Haupt empor."

F# dim.7

G major

D dim.

11.

F# dim.7

C minor

G pedal (continued pulsing eighths, see full score)...

# J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 70

Ob & Trp exchange figures (see full score); oboe plays clashing A-flats.

13.

*P* *cresc.*

G7 G7 G7

15.

C major

The text derives from the Gospel reading for the cantata's original liturgical designation, the second Sunday of Advent, Luke 21:36: [Christ]: "Watch at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of man. (Also parallel passages in Mark 13:33 and Matthew 24:44.)

17. Text painting: The imperative "wachet!" (awake, or keep watch!) is set with ascending runs of sixteenth notes and fanfare-like wake-up calls.

**Soprano.**

Wa - chet, wa - chet, wa - chet, wa - chet, wa - chet,

Watch - - - - - ye, watch ye, watch ye, watch ye, watch - - - - -

**Alto.**

Wa - chet, wa - chet, wa - chet, wa - chet, wa - chet,

Watch - - - - - ye, watch ye, watch ye, watch ye, watch - - - - -

**Tenore.**

Wa - chet, wa - chet, wa - chet,

Watch - - - - - ye, watch ye, watch ye,

**Basso.**

Wa - chet, wa - chet, wa - chet,

Watch - - - - - ye, watch ye, watch ye,

**Choral insertion into Sinfonia a (15-22).**

**A. Line 1**

C major C major

For biblical background, see note.



# antatas BWV 70

20. Text painting: The imperative "betet!" (pray!) is set to sustained notes to suggest perseverance in prayer.

chet, be tet, be  
ye, pray ye, pray

chet, be tet, be  
ye, pray ye, pray

chet, be tet, be  
ye, pray ye, pray

chet, be tet, be  
ye, pray ye, pray

A7 D minor G7

22. tet, wa watch  
ye, watch

tet, wa  
ye, watch

tet, wa chet, wa chet,  
ye, watch ye, watch ye,

tet, ye, watch

C major D7 G7

Imitative chorus with  
instr. acc. (23-27).

## J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 70

25.

The musical score is for a piece titled "Watch Ye Chet". It consists of five staves. The first four staves are vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass) with lyrics underneath. The fifth staff is a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "chet, be - tet, wa - ye, pray ye, watch". The piano accompaniment features chords in the right hand and a moving bass line in the left hand. The piece ends with a double bar line.

chet, be - tet, wa  
ye, pray ye, watch

chet, wa  
ye, watch

wa chet, wa chet, wa  
watch ye, watch ye, watch

wa chet, wa chet, wa  
watch ye, watch ye, watch

C major D7,9 B minor E minor 7

Choral insertion into  
Sinfonia ab (28-43).

27.

- - - chet, wa - chet, wa - chet,  
ye, watch ye, watch ye,

- - - chet, wa - chet, wa - chet,  
ye, watch ye, watch ye,

- - - chet, wa - chet, wa - chet, wa - chet,  
ye, watch ye, watch ye, watch ye,

- chet, wa - chet, wa - chet, wa - chet,  
- ye, watch ye, watch ye, watch ye,

L.H. L.H. mf

A minor 7 D7 G major

# J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 70

30. Text painting: The imperative "betet!" (pray!) is set to sustained notes to suggest perseverance in prayer.

The image displays a musical score for 'The Lord's Prayer'. It includes vocal staves for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass, along with a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in us, as well as in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For the kingdom is thine, the power is thine, and the glory is thine, forever. Amen.' The score is in G major and 4/4 time. The piano part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The vocal parts are arranged in a four-part harmony. The score is marked with 'A' at the beginning and 'cresc.' at the end of the piano part.

**Vocal Parts:**

- Soprano:** be - tet, be - tet,
- Alto:** pray - ye, pray - ye,
- Tenor:** be - tet, be - tet,
- Bass:** pray - ye, pray - ye,

**Piano Accompaniment:**

- Right Hand:** be - tet, be - tet, wa - chet,
- Left Hand:** pray - ye, pray - ye, watch ye,

**Chord Progression:**

- G major
- E7
- A minor
- D7
- G major

33.

be - - - tet, wa - chet, wa - chet, be - tet,  
 pray - - - ye, watch ye, watch ye, pray ye,

be - - - tet, wa - chet, wa - chet, be - tet,  
 pray - - - ye, watch ye, watch ye, pray ye,

wa - chet, be - tet, wa - chet, wa - chet, be - tet, wa - chet,  
 watch ye, pray ye, watch ye, watch ye, pray ye, watch ye,

wa - chet, be - tet, wa - chet, wa - chet, ~~be - tet,~~ wa - chet,  
 watch ye, pray ye, watch ye, watch ye, pray ye, watch ye,

NBA: wachet NBA: betet

G7 Ascending chromatic fourth in continuo. C major



# J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 70

35. NBA: wachet NBA: betet

wachet, wachet, be-tet, wachet, be-tet,  
 watch ye, watch ye, pray ye, watch ye, pray ye,

wa-chet, wachet, be-tet, wa-chet, be-tet,  
 watch ye, watch ye, pray ye, watch ye, pray ye,

be-tet, wa-chet, wachet, be-tet, be-tet,  
 pray ye, watch ye, watch ye, pray ye, pray ye,

be-tet, wa-chet, wachet, be-tet, be-tet,  
 pray ye, watch ye, watch ye, pray ye, pray ye,

*cresc.*

C# dim.7 D major F# dim.7

38.

be-tet, wa-chet, be-tet, be-tet, wa-chet, be-tet,  
 pray ye, watch ye, pray ye, pray ye, watch ye, pray ye,

be-tet, wa-chet, be-tet, be-tet, wa-chet, be-tet,  
 pray ye, watch ye, pray ye, pray ye, watch ye, pray ye,

be-tet, wa-chet, be-tet, be-tet, wa-chet, be-tet,  
 pray ye, watch ye, pray ye, pray ye, watch ye, pray ye,

be-tet, wa-chet, be-tet, be-tet, wa-chet, be-tet,  
 pray ye, watch ye, pray ye, pray ye, watch ye, pray ye,

"Betet" (pray) set with held note that ends with shaking 8th notes to depict tenacity in praying (like a clenched fist).

C# dim.7 G minor D7

41.

tet, a.chet, wa -  
ye, watch ye, watch

tet, wa.chet, wa -  
ye, watch ye, watch

be - tet, wa.chet, wa -  
pray ye, watch ye, watch

be - tet, wa.chet, wa -  
pray ye, watch ye, watch

*cresc.*

G major

43.

B

B. Lines 2-5: (Two sections: 44-52, 53-62)  
imitative-chordal SATB; instr. tacet or accompany.

ch et, be - tet, be - tet, wa - ch et, se id bere it al le zeit, se id be -  
ye, pray ye, pray ye, watch ye, watch and pray, night and day, watch and

ch et, be - tet, be - tet, wa - ch et, se id bere it,  
ye, pray ye, pray ye, watch ye, watch and pray,

ch et, be - tet, be - tet, wa - ch et, se id bere it, se id be -  
ye, pray ye, pray ye, watch ye, watch and pray, watch and

ch et, be - tet, be - tet, wa - ch et, se id bere it, se id be -  
ye, pray ye, pray ye, watch ye, watch and pray, watch and

*P*

G major G7

# J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 70

## C major

## G minor

F major

## C major

E major   A minor

Wandering modulations depict the command to "be prepared at all times" until the Lord comes (arriving at C major).

E(7)



49.

reit, bis der Herr — der Herrlich - keit, der Herr der  
 day, God may call — our - souls a - way, may call our

reit, bis der Herr der Herrlich - keit, der Herr der  
 day, God may call our souls a - way, may call our

zeit, bis der Herr der Herrlich - keit, der Herr der  
 day, God may call our souls a - way, may call our

reit, bis der Herr der Herrlich - keit, der Herr der  
 day, God may call our souls a - way, may call our

+Trp, Ob

cresc.

Trp up 8va

D minor G7 C major

Arrival at C major symbolizes the arrival of Christ, as referenced in the text.

51.

Herrlich - keit die - ser Welt ein En - de ma - chet, seid be -  
 souls — a - way There to hear His fi - nal judg - ment, watch and

Herrlich - keit die - ser Welt ein En - de ma - chet, seid be -  
 souls — a - way There to hear His fi - nal judg - ment, watch and

Herrlich - keit die - ser Welt ein En - de ma - chet, seid be -  
 souls — a - way There to hear His fi - nal judg - ment, watch and

Herrlich - keit die - ser Welt ein En - de machet, seid bereit  
 souls a - way There to hear His fi - nal judg - ment, watch and pray,

harmonic clash

Trp

D7 G major G7 C major

53.

reit al-lezeit, seid be-reit al-le-zeit, al-  
 pray, night and day, watch and pray, night and day, watch

reit, seid bereit al-lezeit, seid be-reit al-lezeit, seid be-  
 pray, watch and pray, night and day, watch and pray, night and day, watch and

reit, seid bereit al-lezeit, seid be-reit al-lezeit, seid bereit al-  
 pray, watch and pray, night and day, watch and pray, night and day, watch and pray, watch

al-lezeit, seid bereit, seid be-reit al-lezeit, al-  
 night and day, watch and pray, watch and pray, night and day, watch

Ob

55.

- lezeit, seid be-reit, bis der Herr der Herr-lich-  
 and pray, for to-day, God may call our souls a-

reit al-lezeit, seid be-reit, bis der Herr der Herr-lich-  
 pray, watch and pray, for to-day, God may call our souls a-

- lezeit, seid be-reit, bis der Herr der Herr-lich-  
 and pray, for to-day, God may call our souls a-

- lezeit, seid be-reit, bis der Herr der Herr-lich-  
 and pray, for to-day, God may call our souls a-

Trp/Ob

cresc.

E7

# J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 70

Simultaneous declamation to emphasize "der Herr der Herrlichkeit" (the Lord of Glory).

57.

keit, der Herr der Herr lich-keit die ser Welt ein En-de  
way, may call our souls a - way There to hear His fi - nal

keit, der Herr der Herr lich - keit die ser Welt ein En - de  
way, may call our souls a - way There to hear His fi - nal

keit, der Herr der Herr lich - keit die ser Welt ein En - de  
way, may call our souls a - way There to hear His fi - nal

keit, der Herr der Herr lich-keit die ser Welt ein En-de  
way, may call our souls a - way There to hear His fi - nal

Pb & Str

A minor B major E minor

60.

machtet, die ser Welt ein En - de, ein En - de  
judg-ment, There to hear His fi - nal, His fi - nal

machtet, die ser Welt ein En - de, ein En - de  
judg-ment, There to hear His fi - nal, His fi - nal

machtet, die ser Welt ein En - de, ein En - de  
judg-ment, There to hear His fi - nal, His fi - nal

machtet, die ser Welt ein En - de, ein En - de  
judg-ment, There to hear His fi - nal, His fi - nal

+Trp

E minor

62. **D**

machet. *judg-ment.* *Grand pause before abridged da capo.* Wa - chet, wachet, wa - chet, wa - chet,  
Watch \_\_\_\_\_ ye, watch ye, watch ye, watch ye,

machet. *judg-ment.* Wa - chet, wachet, wa - chet, wa - chet,  
Watch \_\_\_\_\_ ye, watch ye, watch ye, watch ye,

machet. *judg-ment.* Wa - chet, wa - chet,  
Watch \_\_\_\_\_ ye, watch ye,

machet. *judg-ment.* Wa - chet, wa - chet,  
Watch \_\_\_\_\_ ye, watch ye,

E minor C major C major C major

65. wa - chet, be - tet, be - -  
watch \_\_\_\_\_ ye, pray \_\_\_\_\_ ye, pray \_\_\_\_\_

wa - chet, be - tet, be - -  
watch \_\_\_\_\_ ye, pray \_\_\_\_\_ ye, pray \_\_\_\_\_

wa - chet, be - tet, be - -  
watch \_\_\_\_\_ ye, pray \_\_\_\_\_ ye, pray \_\_\_\_\_

wa - chet, be - tet, be - -  
watch \_\_\_\_\_ ye, pray \_\_\_\_\_ ye, pray \_\_\_\_\_

*mf*

A7 D minor G7

# J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 70

68.

The musical score is arranged in five systems. The first four systems are for vocal parts: Soprano (top), Alto (second), Tenor (third), and Bass (bottom). Each system contains two staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'tet, wa\_chet, wa\_chet, be\_tet, wa\_chet, wa\_chet, be\_tet, ye, watch ye, watch ye, pray ye, watch ye, watch ye, pray ye.' The fifth system is for piano accompaniment, featuring a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The piano part includes chords and melodic lines. At the bottom of the page, there are three red labels: 'C major', 'C7', and 'F major'.

- tet, wa\_chet, wa\_chet, be\_tet, wa\_chet, wa\_chet, be\_tet,  
- ye, watch ye, watch ye, pray ye, watch ye, watch ye, pray ye.

- tet, wa\_chet, wa\_chet, be\_tet, wa\_chet, wa\_chet, be\_tet,  
- ye, watch ye, watch ye, pray ye, watch ye, watch ye, pray ye,

- tet, be - - - tet, wa\_chet,  
- ye, pray - - - ye, watch ye,

- tet, be - - - tet, wa\_chet,  
- ye, pray - - - ye, watch ye,

C major C7 F major

[illegible]



73.

be - - - tet, be - - - tet, wa-chet, be-tet,  
 pray ye, pray ye, watch ye, pray ye,

be - - - tet, be - - - tet, wa-chet, be-tet,  
 pray ye, pray ye, watch ye, pray ye,

be - - - tet, be - - - tet, wa-chet, be-tet,  
 pray ye, pray ye, watch ye, pray ye,

be - - - tet, be - - - tet, wa-chet, be-tet,  
 pray ye, pray ye, watch ye, pray ye,

*cresc.* *+Trp* *L.H.*

B dim.7 F# dim.7 C minor

76.

be-tet, wa-chet, be pray  
 pray ye, watch ye, pray

be-tet, wa-chet, be pray  
 pray ye, watch ye, pray

be-tet, wa-chet, be pray  
 pray ye, watch ye, pray

be-tet, wa-chet, be pray  
 pray ye, watch ye, pray

*L.H.* *Trp tacet...* *cresc.*

G7

78.

tet, wa-chet, wa - chet, be-tet. be - tet, wa - chet!  
ye, watch ye, watch ye, pray ye, pray ye, watch ye!

tet, wa-chet, wa - chet, be-tet, be - tet, wa - chet!  
ye, watch ye, watch ye, pray ye, pray ye, watch ye!

tet, wa-chet, wa - chet, be-tet, be - tet, wa - chet!  
ye, watch ye, watch ye, pray ye, pray ye, watch ye!

tet, wa-chet, wa - chet, be-tet, be - tet, wa - chet!  
ye, watch ye, watch ye, pray ye, pray ye, watch ye!

Trp

C major

C major

Alfred Dürr writes, "In the second movement, an accompagnato performed by the entire instrumental ensemble, Bach depicts in succession the terror of the sinner, the calm of the elect and their joy (lively coloraturas), the destruction of the universe, and finally the fear of those called before Christ's countenance, for whom the text announces consolation." See Alfred Dürr, *The Cantatas of J. S. Bach*, revised and translated by Richard Jones (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005), p. 646.

70/2. **Recitativo.** (New addition) • Last Day: Frightening for sinners, joyful for chosen (70/2) .

Chromatic saturation  
in the vocal part  
in 7 mm.

For biblical  
background,  
see note.

1. **Basso.**

G E C B-flat F# D A

Erschrecket, ihr verstockten Sün-der!  
O trem-ble all ye har-dened sin - ners!

Ein Tag bricht  
The day is

Trp,  
Ob,  
Strings,  
Continuo

Stile concitato (see above) to depict the  
quaking to which the text alludes.

C7

The text alludes to both Epistle and Gospel reading for the day (see side note).

D7 ("incorrect" resolution of the seventh of C7)

# J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 70

an, vor dem sich Niemand bergen kann. Er eilt mit dir zum strengen Rechte, o!  
 near which all the wick-ed right-ly fear. 'Twill swift-ly bring, with e - ven jus - tice, to

G# dim. A minor B7

6. sünd-liche Geschlechte, zum ew' - - - gen Her-ze - lei - de.  
 ev - 'ry e - vil do - er, per - pe - - - tu - al dam - na - tion.

Text painting: Diminished chord and sustained note for "eternal sorrow of heart."

enharmonic equivalent C# dim.7 E dim.7 D-flat major (F minor) C7

(a tempo ♩ = 72) 9. Doch euch, er-wähl-te Gottes-kinder, ist er ein Anfang wah-rer Freu -  
 For you whom God has called His chil-dren, it marks the time of your sal - va -

F minor D7 G minor F7 B-flat major

Text painting: Calm arioso for "elect children of God" with demanding melisma that includes triplets for "joy."

11. Increasingly larger leaps upward for intensification of "joy."

C7 F major

# J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 70

13.

de. tion. Der Heiland ho - let\_ euch, wenn Alles fällt und  
The Lord will fetch you thence when all in dust is

F major F major G7

Text painting: Ascending figures for "the Savior fetches you before his exalted countenance."

The dramatic contrast between God's treatment of sinner vs. saint is emphasized by Heinrich Müller in a sermon for this Sunday, published in a book that was in Bach's library: *Apostolische Schlußkett und Krafft-Kern*, 5th rev. ed. (Frankfurt am Main: Balthasar Christoph Wust, Sen., 1701), pp. 351-57. See Robin Leaver, "The Valuation of Bach's Library" in *Bach 9/2* (April, 1978): 29; Leaver, *Bach's Theological Library* (Neuhausen-Stuttgart: Hänssler, 1983), p. 13.

Text painting: Quaking figures return for reference to God's judgment, the text referencing the Epistle reading of the day: "2 Peter 3:10. 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.

15.

bricht, vor sein er - höhtes Angesicht: drum za - get nicht!  
laid be - fore His might-y pres-ence; hence, be not a - fraid.

E7 A minor N6 D# dim. A minor A minor

Alfred Dürr writes, "The aria, no. 3, is accompanied by continuo only, but its instrumental bass is split up into a calm, supporting fundamental part and an additional part that figuratively breaks up the bass line [see full score]. This obligato part was in 1723 played on the organ (with cello?), but in a 1731 revival by cello only, with organ, bassoon, and violone on the fundamental part. Ostinato effects arise from manifold repetitions in the instrumental parts. The voice takes up the instrumental head-motive and assimilates itself in rhythmic movement to the obligato instrumental part. Livelier motion in the alto emphasizes individual words, such as 'fliehen' ('flee') or 'Feuer' ('fire'). See Dürr/Jones, p. 646.

70/3. **Aria.** This was the second movement in BWV 70a.

1. (Andante ♩ = 80.) (Unchanged from BWV 70a) • Last Day: Yearning for exodus out of this world (70/3).

Form (Rhyme: ABABCC)  
Ritornello (mm. 1-13): Am  
A. Lines 1-4 (2x:13-37) Am-Dm  
Rit. (37-43) Dm  
B. Lines 5-6 (2x:43-58) Dm-Em  
Rit. (58-60) Em  
A' (58-80) Em-Am  
Rit. (80-92) Am

bricht, vor sein er - höhtes Angesicht: drum za - get nicht!  
laid be - fore His might-y pres-ence; hence, be not a - fraid.

E7 A minor N6 D# dim. A minor A minor

For biblical background, see note.

*Il Basso marcato.*

(NBA: 2 bass/continuo lines)

A minor

A minor

The triplet rhythm apparently depicts "fleeing from from the "Sodom and Egypt" of this world, the text referencing the Israelites' exodus from Egypt, Lot and his family's flight out of Sodom (with the subsequent fiery judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah), and the Epistle of the day (see side note).

5.

bricht, vor sein er - höhtes Angesicht: drum za - get nicht!  
laid be - fore His might-y pres-ence; hence, be not a - fraid.

E7 A minor N6 D# dim. A minor A minor

The movement is characterized by a continuous "traveling" bass line that rises and falls, which reflects the text's emphasis on leaving Egypt and Sodom. Especially striking are rising scales of nearly 2 octaves in the obbligato cello line.

9.

*cresc.* *mf*

A minor A minor

Martin Petzoldt notes that Bach often uses the alto voice to represent faith, the church, or the Holy Spirit. See Petzoldt, "Bach-Kommentar" 1:694.

13. Alto.

NBA: Wenn Wann kommt der Tag, an dem wir zie - hen aus dem Ä - gyp - ten die - ser

A Section. When comes the day for which we're sigh - ing? when bonds of earth we cease \_\_\_\_\_ to

A minor G(7) C major E7 A minor

17.

Welt, wann kommt der Tag, wann kommt der Tag, ach! lasst uns bald aus Sodom

bear, when comes the day, when comes the day, from So - dom soon let us - be

A minor G(7)

Word painting: Melismas followed by descent for "fire of judgment falling."

21.

flie - hen, eh' uns das Feu - er ü - ber fällt, ach! lasst uns bald aus

fly - ing, be - fore the fire \_\_\_\_\_ con - sumes us there, from So - dom soon let

C major



24. The image shows a musical score for a song. It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is written on a single staff with a treble clef. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with many triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment is written on two staves, a grand staff with a bass clef on the left and a treble clef on the right. It features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords and moving lines in the right hand. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Allegretto' and the time signature is 3/4. The score is for a song titled 'Sodom flihen, eh' uns das Feuer überfällt'.

Sodom flihen, eh' uns das Feu - er ü - ber-fällt, wann kommt der Tag, wann,  
us - be fly-ing, be-fore the fire ——— con-sumes us there, when comes the day, when,

C major

28.

ach! wann kommt der Tag, an dem wir ziehen aus dem Ägypten die-ser Welt,  
ah! when comes the day, for which we're sighing? when bonds of earth we cease to bear,

*cresc.* *f* *p*

C major C7

32. Word painting: Lengthy, animated melisma for "flee."

ach! ach! lasst uns bald aus So-dom flie  
Ah! from So-dom soon let us be fly

C7 C7 F major A7 D minor

35. *6* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3*

hen, eh' uns das Feu - er ü - ber-fällt.  
ing, be-fore the fire con-sumes us there.

*cresc.* *f* *mf* *Ritornello*

D minor D minor

# J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 70

38.

C7 F major C# dim.7 D minor

Text painting: Rising gestures, reminiscent of movement no. 1, are used for the imperative "awake!"

42.

**B Section.** Wacht, Seelen, auf von Si-cherheit und  
 A - wake, ye souls, from a - pa - thy, for

D minor D minor E7 A minor

The reference to awakening from complacency ("Sicherheit") alludes to biblical passages such as the Epistle of the day (2 Peter 3:10: "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief...") and passages such as 1 Thessalonians 5:3: "When people say, 'There is peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them..."

46.

glaubt, es ist die letzte Zeit, die letz - te Zeit, wacht auf, wacht, Seelen, auf von Sicher.  
 this your fi - nal hour, your fi - nal hour may be, a - wake, a - wake, ye souls, from a - pa -

B(7) E minor E minor D7

50.

heit, wacht auf, wacht, See-len, auf von Si-cher-heit und glaubt, es ist die letz - te.  
 thy, a - wake, a - wake, ye souls, from a - pa - thy, for this your fi - nal hour may

G major E minor B(7)

# J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 70

54.

Zeit, glaubt, es ist die letz - te Zeit, und glaubt, es ist die letz - te  
 be, this your fi - nal hour may be, for this your fi - nal hour — may

E minor E minor

58.

Zeit. Wann kommt der Tag, an dem wir  
 be. When comes the day for which we're

Ritornello A' Section.

E minor E minor A7

62.

zie - hen aus dem Ä - gyp - ten die - ser Welt, ach! lasst uns bald aus So - dom  
 sigh - ing? when bonds of earth we cease — to bear, from So - dom soon let us be

D minor E(7) A minor

66.

flie - hen, eh' uns das Feu - er ü - ber - fällt. Wacht, See - len,  
 fly - ing, be - fore the fire — con - sumes us there. A - wake, ye

Melisma followed by descending figure for the fire of judgment falling.

D(7) G major G major G7

69. *tr*

auf von Si - cherheit und glaubt, — es ist die letz - te Zeit, wachtauf, wacht,  
souls, from a - pa - thy, for this — your fi - nal hour may be, a - wake, a -

C major

E(7)

*p*

73. *tr*

Seelen, auf von Si - cherheit, wacht, Seelen, auf von Si - cherheit und glaubt, —  
wake, ye souls, from a - pa - thy, a - wake, ye souls from a - pa - thy, for this —

A minor

77. *tr*

— es ist die letz - te Zeit, wachtauf, es ist die letz - te Zeit!  
— your fi - nal hour may be, yea this your fi - nal hour — may be.

Ritornello

*cresc.* *f* *mf*

A minor

A minor

81. *tr* *p*

A minor

# J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 70

85.

A minor

89.

*cresc.* *mf*

A minor A minor

Secco

**Recitativo.** (New addition) • Yearning for heaven; spirit is willing, flesh weak (70/4).

70/4. 1. Ten <sup>A</sup>e. <sup>C#</sup> <sup>D</sup> <sup>E</sup> <sup>F</sup> <sup>G</sup> <sup>B-flat</sup> <sup>C</sup> <sup>E-flat</sup>

Auch bei dem himmli-schen Ver-lan-gen hält un-ser Leib den Geist ge-  
Al-though our souls for Heav'n are yearn-ing our bod-ies back to earth are

Secco

A(7) D minor (For the significance of D minor, see side note.) F(7)

In his vocal lines, Bach sometimes uses chromatic pitch saturation in 7 measures to depict the complete depravity of human nature (the number 7 representing "fullness" or "completeness" in the bible). Compare BWV 35/3, 48/2, 78/3, 105/2. Here in 70/4, the 12th pitch (G#) is supplied in measure 7 by the continuo.

3. <sup>F#</sup>

fangen; es legt die Welt durch ih-re Tücke den Frommen Netz und Stricke. Der Geist ist  
turn-ing; it holds the right-eous souls en-tan-gled, with-in its toils, and stran-gled. The spir-it

Diminished chord for "Netz" (net).

D major D7 G minor F# dim.7 D7 G major

For biblical background, see note.

Allusion to Jesus' words in the Garden of Gethsemane: Mark 14:38 [Christ]: "Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Also Matthew 26:41.)

6. <sup>B</sup>

willig, doch das Fleisch ist schwach: dies presst uns aus ein jammervolles Ach!  
will-ing, yet the flesh is weak: our joy but scant, our fu-ture hope but bleak!

Diminished chord and leap up for "this forces."  
Diminished 7th chord for "pitiable."

B(7) D# dim.7 B7 E minor G# dim.7 D# dim.7 F#7 B major

The text alludes to the Epistle of the day: "You must understand this, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own passions and



saying, "Where ever the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things were continued as they were from the beginning of creation." The poem's unusually static rhyme scheme of AAaaaaAA reinforces the text's emphasis on inevitability (2 Peter 3:3-4). The text is divided into 4(x2) +4(x2) lines (with repetitions).

## Aria.

This was no. 3 in BWV 70a.

70/5. (Tempo ordinario ♩ = 56.) (Unchanged from BWV 70a) •Last Day will come despite scoffers (70/5).

Obbligato Vln I joined intermittently by Vln II & Vla.

Form (Rhyme: AAaaaaAA)  
Sinfonia (mm. 1-7) Em  
Lines 1-4, 1 (7-12) Em-Bm  
Rit (12-14) Bm-Dm  
Lines 1-4, 1-2 (14-20) Dm-Am  
Rit (20-22) Am  
Lines 5-6 (22-26) Am-Bm  
Rit (26-27) Bm  
Lines 5-6, 6, 6, 1-2 (27-35) Bm-Em  
Rit. (35-41) Em

Ritornello derived from vocal part

Gavotte rhythm

E minor figura corta circled (see side note)

G major

The librettist modelled this text after a hymn. See side note.



For Alfred Dürr's comments, see side note.



A taunting (na-na) melodic figure (with echoes) in gavotte rhythm reflects the text.

Commentators have noted the similarity of this aria to the bass aria "Chi sale in'alto grado" in Handel's *Almira* (1705).

G major

B7

E minor

## 7. Soprano.

Line 1.

Line 2.

NBA: Laßt **Lass** der Spöt-ter Zun-gen schmä-hen, es wird doch und muss-ge-  
Though the mock-ing-tongues re-vile us they can-not-from faith-be-

E minor G major

Bach's harmonic progressions reflect the import of the text. Constant oscillations between major and minor appear to represent the literary concept of "despite opposition a positive outcome." Extended dominant preparations appear to represent the delayed gratification of the positive outcome.

9.

Line 3.

Line 4.

sche-hen, dass wir Je-sum werden se-hen auf den Wol-ken, in den  
guile us, that one day-our souls we ren-der to the Lord on-high in

A# dim.7 F#7

B minor

# J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 70

The text alludes to the Gospel reading for the cantata's original liturgical designation, Luke 21:27-28, 33 [Jesus]: "And then they will see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near...Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

11. Line 1.

Hö - hen, es wird doch und muss ge - sche - hen!  
splen - dor, to the Lord on high in splen - dor!

B minor B minor

Ritornello

13. Line 1.

Lass der Spöt - ter Zun - gen  
Though the mock - ing tongues re -

D major D minor

15. Line 2. Line 3.

schmä - hen, es wird doch und muss ge - sche - hen, dass wir Je - sum wer - den  
vile us they can - not from faith be - guile us, that one day our souls we

E7 A minor G7

17. Line 4. Line 1.

se - hen auf den Wol - ken, in den Hö - hen; lass der Spöt - ter Zun - gen  
ren - der to the Lord on high in splen - dor, though the mock - ing tongues re -

C major E7 A minor

# J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 70

19. Line 2.

schmähen: vile — us es wird doch they can-not und muss from faith ge - sche.hen! be - guile us,

*p* *f* Ritornello

A minor A minor A minor

21. Line 5 (paraphrase of a verse from the original Gospel reading, Luke 21:33: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away").

Welt und Him.mel mag ver - Earth and Heav - en all - may

*mf*

A minor A minor F#7

23. Line 6.

ge - hen, Christi Wort muss fest be - ste - hen, Christi - sev - er, — God's as - sur - ance stands for - ev - er, God's as -

Text painting: Sustained note on tonic for "endure."

*p* *pp* *mf*

B minor B minor

26. Line 5.

Wort muss fest be - ste.hen, sur - ance stands for - ev - er, Welt und Him.mel mag ver - Earth and Heav - en all - may

Ritornello

*f* *p* *mf*

B minor B minor D7

# J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 70

Melody hints of chorale "Herzlich tut mich verlangen" / "O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden."

28.

Line 6.

Line 6.

ge - hen, Chri - sti Wort muss fest be - ste - hen, Chri - sti Wort muss fest be -  
 sev - er, - Gód's as - sur - ance - stands for - ev - er, God's as - sur - ance stands for -

G major B major E minor E minor

30.

Line 6.

Text painting: Sustained note on tonic for "endure."

ste - hen, Chri - sti Wort muss fest be - ste -  
 ev - er, God's as - sur - ance stands for - ev -

E minor E minor

33.

Line 1.

Line 2.

- hen Laßt **Lass** der Spöt - ter Zun - gen schmähen: es wird doch und muss ge -  
 - er. Though the - mock - ing - tongues re - vile - us they can - not from faith be -

E minor E minor

35.

scheiden!  
 guile us!

f Ritornello p

E minor G major

37.

D7 G major B7

39.

E minor E minor

The tenor recitative related directly to the the tenor aria, no. 8. It appears that Bach originally intended the aria to follow immediately, but then decided to insert a chorale (like the recitative, it ends in G major) and divide the cantata into two parts. See Martin Petzoldt, "Bach-Kommentar" 1:696.

Secco

# **Recitativo.**

(New Addition) • Last Day: God remembers his servants (70/6).

70/6.

1. Tenore.

For biblical background, see note.



Je\_doch! bei dem un - ar - ti - gen Geschlechte denkt Gott an sei - ne  
A - las! at right-eous men the e - vil rab - ble still foul - ly rave and

Secco

Diminished 7th chord for "wicked."

D major G# dim.7 E7 A minor B dim.

4.

Knechte, dass die se bö - se Art sie fer - ner nicht ver - let - zet, in - dem er sie in  
bab - ble, but God is our Al - ly, from fur - ther harm will spare us, and in His hand, a -

Diminished 7th chord for "evil."

C major C# dim.7 D minor



6.

sei - ner Hand be - wahrt und in ein himmlisch E - den set - zet.  
loft up through the sky to Pa - ra - dise E - ter - nal bear us.

G7 C major D7 G major G major

Bach used this chorale tune (usually in 4/4 meter) in BWV 25/6, 194/6, 70/7 (in triple meter), 32/6, 39/7, 19/7, and 30/6.

70/7. **Choral. (Eigene Melodie.)** (New addition) • Last Day anticipated: Joy as soul thinks of heaven (70/7). This is the 10th and final stanza of the 1620 chorale "Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele" by Caspar von Warenberg.

1/9. Soprano.

+Trp,  
Ob,  
Vln I

For Eric Chafe's  
comments on  
Bach's change  
of meter, see  
side note.

Freu' dich sehr, o mei - ne See - le, und ver - giss all' Noth und Qual,  
weil dich nun Chri - stus, dein Her - re, ruft aus die - sem Jam - mer - thal.)  
Glad re - joice, my spir - it, to - day, cast a - side all care and fears,  
Christ the Lord now calls you a - way, bids you leave this vale of tears.)

+Vln II

Alto.

Freu' dich sehr, o mei - ne See - le, und ver - giss all' Noth und Qual,  
weil dich nun Chri - stus, dein Her - re, ruft aus die - sem Jam - mer - thal.)  
Glad re - joice, my spir - it, to - day, cast a - side all care and fears,  
Christ the Lord now calls you a - way, bids you leave this vale of tears.)

+ Vla

Tenore.

Freu' dich sehr, o mei - ne See - le, und ver - giss all' Noth und Qual,  
weil dich nun Chri - stus, dein Her - re, ruft aus die - sem Jam - mer - thal.)  
Glad re - joice, my spir - it, to - day, cast a - side all care and fears,  
Christ the Lord now calls you a - way, bids you leave this vale of tears.)

For biblical  
background,  
see note.

Basso.

Freu' dich sehr, o mei - ne See - le, und ver - giss all' Noth und Qual,  
weil dich nun Chri - stus, dein Her - re, ruft aus die - sem Jam - mer - thal.)  
Glad re - joice, my spir - it, to - day, cast a - side all care and fears,  
Christ the Lord now calls you a - way, bids you leave this vale of tears.)

G major

D major

G major

G major

# J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 70

17.

Sei - ne Freud' und Herrlich - keit sollst du seh'n in E - wig - keit, mit den  
 There with Him in joy to see His ex - alt - ed maj - es - ty 'mid the

Sei - ne Freud' und Herr - lich - keit sollst du seh'n in E - wig - keit, mit den  
 There with Him in joy to see His ex - alt - ed maj - es - ty 'mid the

Sei - ne Freud' und Herr - lich - keit sollst du seh'n in E - wig - keit, mit den  
 There with Him in joy to see His ex - alt - ed maj - es - ty 'mid the

Sei - ne Freud' und Herr - lich - keit sollst du seh'n in E - wig - keit, mit den  
 There with Him in joy to see His ex - alt - ed maj - es - ty 'mid the

G major G major D major G major

26.

En - geln ju - bi - li - ren, in E - wig - keit trium - phi - ren.  
 an - gel con - gre - ga - tion, in e - ter - nal a - do - ra - tion,

En - geln ju - bi - li - ren, in E - wig - keit trium - phi - ren.  
 an - gel con - gre - ga - tion, in e - ter - nal a - do - ra - tion,

En - geln ju - bi - li - ren, in E - wig - keit tri - um - phi - ren.  
 an - gel con - gre - ga - tion, in e - ter - nal a - do - ra - tion,

En - geln ju - bi - li - ren, in E - wig - keit tri - um - phi - ren.  
 an - gel con - gre - ga - tion, in e - ter - nal a - do - ra - tion,

B major E minor E minor G major

**Fine della prima Parte.**

The second part of the cantata would have been performed after the sermon. The text of the opening aria alludes to the Gospel reading of the cantata's original liturgical designation: "Now when these things begin to take place, look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:28).

Form (Rhyme: ABACC)  
(changed from ABBACC)  
Ritornello (mm. 1-13) GM  
Lines 1-3 (13-23) GM-Bm  
Rit (23-25) Bm  
Lines 4-5 (25-30) Bm-CM  
Rit (30-32) CM  
Lines 4-5+1-2 da capo  
(32-40) CM-GM  
Rit (40-52) GM

Bach omitted a line from Franck's libretto and structured the movement as a da capo form (see more below).

This was no. 4 in BWV 70a.

## Aria.

70/8. (Moderato)  $\text{♩} = 72$ .

1.

Ob I/Vin I

Vin II, Vla  
Ritornello derived from vocal line.

G major

## Seconda Parte.

(Unchanged from BWV 70a). • Last Day: Lift up your heads, O ye righteous! (70/8).

Performed "sub communione," i.e., during the Eucharist.

For Alfred Dürr's comments, see side note.



B minor 7

A7 D major

D major

For biblical background, see note.



## Tenore.

13. A Section.

The opening is reminiscent of the chorale tune "O Gott, du frommer Gott," also used with the words "Was frag ich nach der Welt" (more in note below).

Hebt eu-er Haupt em-por und seid getrost, ihr  
Hold ye your heads now high, and be as-sured, ye

G major

(A7) D major

A major

18. men, seid getrost, seid ge - trost, zu eu - rer See - len Flor; \_\_\_\_\_  
ful, be as - sured, be as - sured, your souls will nev - er die, \_\_\_\_\_

*P*

D major Bm7 C# minor F# minor (E7) A major

21. \_\_\_\_\_ hebt eu - er Haupt em - por und seid ge - trost, ihr From - men, zu \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ hold ye your heads now - high, and be as - sured, ye faith - ful, \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_

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

23. eu - rer See - len Flor. Ihr  
souls will nev - er die, but

*f* Ritornello *p*

B minor B minor B minor B minor

B Section.

26. Eden represents paradise, ever green.

sollt in E - den grü - nen, Gott e - wiglich zu die - nen, ihr sollt in E - den  
there in heav - en's splen - dor e - ter - nal serv - ice ren - der, but there in heav - en's

E# dim.7 C#7 F# minor B7 E minor C(#7) D7

28. grü - nen, Gott e - wig lich zu die - nen, Gott e - wig lich zu dienen.  
splen - dor - to God their serv - ice ren - der, - to God their serv - ice ren - der.

*Ritornello*

B minor 7 A7 B7 E minor C major C major C major

31. Ihr sollt in E - den grü - nen, Gott e - wig lich zu  
But there in heav - en's splen - dor - to God their serv - ice

*p*

C major D7 G major

A' Section (abridged da capo).

34. die - nen, hebt eu - er Haupt em - por und seid getrost, ihr Frommen, seid ge -  
ren - der, hold ye your heads now high, and be as - sured, ye faith - ful, be as -

(A7) D major D7 G major

37. trost! seid ge - trost! hebt euer Haupt empor, hebt euer Haupt em -  
sured! Be as - sured! Hold ye your heads now high, hold ye your heads now

*Text painting: Rising scale for "lift your heads aloft."*



# J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 70

39.

porund seid getrost, ihr From - men!  
high, and be as-sured, ye faith - ful!

Ritornello

G major G major (A7) D7

42.

*mf*

G major E minor 6 (D major) D6 A7 D major

44.

*f*

D major (E7) A major D major A7

46.

*mf*

D major G# dim.7 E7 A minor (D7) G major

48.

50.

G major (A7) D major D7 G major G major

"Flourishing in the Eden of paradise" has a harmonic progression that moves from B minor to C major. C seems to represent Christ for Bach. Significantly, the hymn "Was frag ich nach der Welt" (to which the aria's opening motive alludes), begins and ends with a focus on Jesus as the soul's treasure. See more in note.

# **Recitativo.**

70/9. (Maestoso  $\text{♩} = 66$ )  
Basso.

(New addition) • Last day: Frightening, yet Jesus comforts me (70/9). The text references the images of the day's Epistle: "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" (2 Peter. 3:10).

For biblical background, see note.



1.

Ach, soll nicht die-ser gro-ss-e Tag, der Welt Ver-

Ah! shall not thought of Judg-ment Day when moun-tains

Strings Stile concitato for Day of Judgment.

D# dim.7 B major E minor

Text painting: Descending lines (with augmented octave) to depict the collapse of the world.

3.

fall und der Po-sau-ne Schall, Choral. Po-

fall and blar-ing trum-pets call.

In Bach's first Leipzig cantata cycle, instrumentally rendered chorale tunes (an additional hermeneutical layer introduced by the composer) appear in 25/1, 48/1, 70/9, 75/8, and 77/1.

The text's reference to the trumpet call of Judgment Day leads to the trumpet playing the 1586 chorale "Es ist gewißlich an der Zeit," a German paraphrase of the "Dies irae" by Bartolomäus Ringwaldt (1530–1599) to a 1565 tune. See Petzoldt, *Bach-Kommentar* 1:697.

World's collapse

C7 F major

Listeners may have thought of the second stanza of the 7-stanza chorale because of its reference to the trumpet call.

Stollen 1 of the chorale's bar form.

Bach synchronizes the trumpet entry with the first word of the presumed chorale stanza (i.e., "trumpets").

5.

der un-er hör-te letz-te Schlag,

suf- fice to point the bet-ter way?

sau - - nen wird man hö - ren gehn

(Mel.: „Es ist gewisslich an der Zeit“)

Vln I

p

D7 B dim.7 G7 E7

Bach synchronizes the syllables of "unheard" (i.e., unprecedented) with "heard" of the presumed chorale stanza.

(Trumpets will be heard)

7.

des Richters aus-gesproch-ne Wor-te, an

Will the harsh and dread-ed sen-tence

E7 A minor

G# dim.7

Martin Petzoldt notes that Bach places the line of the presumed chorale stanza (that judgment is executed on the whole earth) right after judgment's pronouncement, signifying that judgment on (destruction of) the earth comes by God's utterance, just as the earth's creation did. See "Bach-Kommentar 1:697.

Text painting: The words "hell's open door" has an ascending line of an octave, starting with the singer's lowest note in the recitative just as the trumpet reaches its highest note. Martin Petzold suggests this tonal distance signifies the **wide reach** of God's word of judgment. See *Back-Kommentar* 1:697.

9. **des Höllen - ra - chens off - ne Pforte** in meinem Sinn viel Zweifel,  
*I will re - ceive, but for re - pen - tence, a - rouse my soul, un - cer - tain,*

al - ler Wel - te En - - - de; (To the ends of the earth)

C# dim.7 D7 G major C7 B dim.7 C minor F# dim.7 G7 E7

12. **Furcht und Schrecken, der ich ein Kind der Sünde bin, er - wecken? Jedoch, es**  
*weak and shak - en? Will not I still to pen - i - tence a - wak - en? Ah, yes, al -*

*crêsc.* *mf*

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

15. **ge - het mei - ner See - le ein Freu - den - schein, ein Licht des Trostes auf. Der**  
*read - y to my spir - it a light ap - pears to com - fort all my fears. The*

Die a - - - ber noch das Le - - ben han, (But those who are still alive.)

Abgesang of chorale's bar form. Str

E major E7 A minor C minor (d7) G major

18. **Heiland kann sein Her - ze nicht ver - heh - len, so vor Er - bar - men bricht, so vor Er -**  
*Sav - iour can - not hide His deep com - pas - sion. He pit - ies now my lot, He pit - ies*

die wird der Herr von (the Lord will, from that hour on.)

L.H. *crêsc.*

E major A minor A minor

Text repetitions for a more arioso-like melodic style...

20.

bar - men bricht, sein Gnaden-arm verlässt mich nicht, sein Gnaden-arm verlässt mich  
 now — my lot, and in His grace for-gets me not, and in His grace for-gets me

Stun - den an.

Rocking/sighing figures accompany "his arm of mercy will not forsake me," and continue for "thus I end my life's course with joy."

*p* *cresc.*

A minor A minor C major C7

23.

nicht, ver - lässt mich nicht, verlässt mich nicht. Wohl an! wohlan! so — ende ich. so  
 not, for - gets - me not, for-gets - me not. 'Tis well! 'tis well! when comes the day, when

ver - - wan - deln und ver - - neu - - - - en.

(transform and renew.) This choral line alludes to 1 Corinthians 15, see side note.)

*p*

F major (D7) G major C7

26.

en-de ich, wohlan! so en - de ich mit Freu -  
 comes the day, 'tis well! when comes the day with joy -

Word painting: Long melisma for "joy."

R.H. *pp*

F major G7 C major C7 F major D7

28.

- den meinen Lauf, mit Freuden meinen Lauf.  
 will I a - way, with joy will I a - way.

(morendo)

G major G7 A minor C major C major C7 F major C major



NBA: "Molt' adagio"

# Aria.

(Unchanged from BWV 70a) • Last Day anticipated despite cataclysmic events (70/10).

70/10 Adagio. (♩ = 56.)

Basso. A Section.

Martin Petzoldt suggests that the reference to the "blessed day of refreshment" ("Erquickungstag") allude to Simeon's canticle, the Nunc dimittis, with its Eucharistic associations (since it is sung after Communion); see above note.

This was no. 5 in BWV 70a.

The bass aria begins without ritornello, creating a seamless continuation from the preceding movement (striking because the recitative was composed later), perhaps also intended to suggest the suddenness of the Last Day.

1.

Se - lig - ster Er - quik kungs-Tag, füh - re - mich zu  
Hail - thou - day when I - may - dwell high - a - bove with

Continuo alone...

For Alfred Dürr's comments, see side note.



"Molt' adagio" is very unusual for Bach; compare "adagio assai" for the chorale prelude "O Mensch bewein dein' Sünde groß" (BWV 622).



For biblical background, see note.

C major (For the significance of C, note at movement no. 1.)

BWV 70a had "führe mich zum Friedens-Zimmern" (lead me to the chamber of peace). The change to "lead me to thy chambers" reflects the Gospel reading of the cantata's new liturgical occasion, Matthew 25:34 [Christ]: Then the King will say to those at his right hand, "Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world," but also passages such as Isaiah 32:18, John 14:1-3, and Revelation 21:1-4 (see side note).

7.

dei - nen Zim - mern, füh - re - mich zu dei - nen Zim - mern;  
God - in - heav - en. high - a - bove with God - in heav - en;

cresc.

D7 G major G7

13.

se - lig - ster Er - quik - kungs-Tag, füh - re - mich zu dei -  
hail - thou day when I - may - dwell high - a - bove with God -

C major C7 F major D minor 6 C major G7 C major

19.

- nen Zim - mern, füh - re - mich zu dei - nen Zim - mern!  
- in heav - en, high - a - bove with God - in heav - en!

C(7) F major G7 C major C major



Text painting: Fast tempo, stile concitato, and large vocal leaps with melismas are used to describe the Last Day, reflecting the day's Epistle, 2 Peter 3:10: 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.

**Presto.** (♩ = 100.)

B Section.

25. *Schalle, schalle, letzter Schlag!* *Welt und Himmel, geht zu*  
*Crash and crack-le, roar and knell, Trp* *when cre - a - tion meets de-*

*Str* *stile concitato* *Continuo alone...*

C major E major E7 A minor

29. *Trüm - mern!* *Schalle, schalle, letzter Schlag!*  
*struc tion -* *Crash and crack-le, roar and knell,*

*Str* *Trp*

D major D7 G major

33. *Welt und Himmel, geht zu Trüm - mern!* *Schal - le, schal - le, letz - ter*  
*when cre - a - tion meets de - struc - tion* *Crash and crack - le, roar and*

*cresc.*

G major G7 C major

36. *Schlag, schalle, schalle, letzter Schlag!* *Welt und Himmel, geht zu*  
*knell, crash and crack - le, roar and knell, when cre - a - tion meets de-*

*ff*

C major

40. *Trüm -* *Text painting: "[shatter to] pieces" set with virtuosic melisma.*  
*struc* *Trp*

*Str* *f* *sempre cresc.*

C major C7 F major

# J.S. Bach - Church Cantatas BWV 70

44. Word painting: Diminished 7th chords for "Trümmern" (rubble).

- mern, zu Trümmern, Welt und Him-mel, geht zu  
- tion, de - struc - tion, when cre - a - tion meets de -

D7 C# dim.7 E7

47. Text painting: "[shatter to] pieces" set with vocal leaps of over an octave and virtuosic melisma.

Trüm struc

F# dim.7 G minor (A7)

D pedal...

50.

- mern, Welt und Himmel, geht zu Trümmern!  
- tion, when cre - a - tion meets de-struc - tion!

D major D7 G major G major

dim.

Section C (Quasi da capo): the mood of stillness returns.

Adagio. (♩ = 56.)

53. Je - sus - füh - ret mich zur - Stil - le, an - den Ort, da  
Je - sus - leads me far - from - sad - ness, There - with Him - where

figura corta (see note at 70/5).

p Continuo alone to end...

C7 F major (G7) C major

59.

Lust die Fül - le, an den Ort, da Lust die Fül -  
all is glad - ness, there with Him where all is glad -

C major E7 A minor C major

Text painting: Ascending scales for "Jesus leads me to quietness" with ornamented, wide-ranging melisma for "Fülle" (all encompassing fullness).

64.

le; Je - sus führet mich zur Stil - le, an den Ort, da Lust die Fül - le.  
ness; Je - sus leads me far from sad - ness, there with Him where all is glad - ness.

Shortened coda: Bach repeats the couplet as a quasi-recitative.

C major C7 F major C7 F major C major C major

This was no. 6 in BWV 70a.

This is the fifth stanza of six in the 1658 chorale "Meinen Jesum laß ich nicht" by Christian Keymann (1607–1662).

70/11. **Choral.** (Mel.: „Meinen Jesum lass ich nicht“.) (Music unchanged from BWV 70a, text apparently has slight alterations.)

1. Soprano.

+Trp & Ob

Nicht nach Welt, nach Him - mel nicht mei - ne See - le wünscht und seh -  
Not for heav - en nor the world is my wea - ry spir - it yearn -

Nicht nach Welt, nach Himmel nicht mei - ne See - le wünscht und seh -  
Not for heav - en nor the world is my wea - ry spir - it yearn -

Nicht nach Welt, nach Him - mel nicht mei - ne See - le wünscht und seh -  
Not for heav - en nor the world is my wea - ry spir - it yearn -

Nicht nach Welt, nach Him - mel nicht mei - ne See - le wünscht und seh -  
Not for heav - en nor the world is my wea - ry spir - it yearn -

C(7) F major G7 C major G major D7 G major

Presumably BWV 70a had "stöhnen" (groans), as rendered in many hymnals of the day, instead of "sehnet" (years).

A 3-part "halo of strings" is added to 4 vocal lines in low register, resulting in a 7-part texture that expresses the text ("I yearn not for earth or heaven").

For biblical background, see note.

Sighing duples for the longing referenced in the text.

5.

net, Je - sum wünsch' ich und sein Licht, der mich hat mit Gott ver - söh - net,  
 ing Je - sus pled with God for me, all His wrath to kind - ness - turn - ing;  
 Who me with God did reconcile,

net, Je - sum wünsch' ich und sein Licht, der mich hat mit Gott ver - söh - net,  
 ing Je - sus pled with God for - me, all His wrath to kind - ness turn - ing;

net, Je - sum wünsch' ich und sein Licht, der mich hat mit Gott ver - söh - net,  
 ing Je - sus pled with God for - me, all His wrath to kind - ness turn - ing;

net, Je - sum wünsch' ich und sein Licht, der mich hat mit Gott ver - söh - net,  
 ing Je - sus pled with God for - me, all His wrath to kind - ness turn - ing;

G major F major G7 C major A7 D minor G7 C major C major

Petzoldt argues that the last 3 lines of the chorale function as a catechismal statement, making it applicable to the Eucharist, which occurred at this point in the liturgy. See "Bach-Kommentar" 1:699.

10.

NBA: freiet (frees). Presumably BWV 70a had "frei macht" (makes free). as rendered in hymnals of the day

der mich frei macht vom Ge - richt, mei - nen Je - sum lass' ich nicht.  
 from His judg - ment set me free; Je - sus mine, I cling to Thee,  
 Who frees me from judgment; I will not let my Jesus go.

der mich frei macht vom Gericht, mei - nen Je - sum lass' ich nicht.  
 from His judg - ment set me free; Je - sus mine, I cling to Thee.

der mich frei macht vom Ge - richt, mei - nen Je - sum lass' ich nicht.  
 from His judg - ment set me free; Je - sus mine, I cling to Thee.

der mich frei macht vom Ge - richt, mei - nen Je - sum lass' ich nicht.  
 from His judg - ment set me free; Je - sus mine, I cling to Thee.

C major D7 G major E minor A7 D minor G(7) C major