

St Matthew's Passion

J.S. Bach

34

Be-hold then! One of His dis-ci-ples which were there with
 Je-sus, drawing his sword forth, he struck the high priest's servent, and smote off his
 ear. Then said Je-sus to him: In that same hour Je-sus said to the
 people: And then all the di-ci-ples forsook Him, and fled.

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And they that had so laid hold on Je-sus led Him a-way un-to the
 high priest, Ca-i-phas; and with him were the scribes and the el-ders as-
 sem-bled all to-ge-ther. Pe-ter al-so fol-lowed af-ter Him a -
 far off, un-to the court of the high priest's pa-lace; and went there-in, and
 sat with the guards and ser-vents, that he might see how all would be
 end-ed. Then did the priests con-spire with the el-ders, and
 all of the coun-cil how that they might false wit-ness bring on Je-sus, that
 He might be put to death. But found they none.

Yea, though many a false and ly-ing wit-ness came, they could find them
 none. At last two there came who falsely witnessed, in this wise: The
 high priest then did arise and say to Him: Yet was Jesus still silent.

And then the high priest gave Him an an-swer thus, and said:
 Je-sus saith to him: There up-on the high priest
 tore his robes a-sun-der, and said: They answered to him and said:

Then mocked they at Him, and they spat on Him, and struck Him with their
 fists. Others among them smote and slapped Him in His face. and shouted:

Pe-ter sat out-side in the pal-ace court; and a dam-sel came un-to
 him and said: But Pe-ter de-nied it be-fore them all, and
 said: And a-gain at the pal-ace door-way he was seen by an-oth-er

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8 maid, who said to them that stood there with him: He de-

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8 nied it a second time; and swore an oath: And in a lit-tle while came

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8 oth-ers who had been stand-ing be-side him, and said to Pe-ter:

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8 But still did he de-ny with cursing and with swearing: Im-

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8 mediate crew the cock. Then Pe-ter brought to mind the words of Jesus, which

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8 said unto him: Ere yet the cock crow-eth, wilt thou have thrice denied Me. And

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8 he went out, and we - - - pt bit-ter-ly.

49

8 Now when the morning came, all the chief priests gathered with the

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8 el-ders of the peop-ple to plot ag-ainst Je-sus, that they might kill Him.

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8 And when they had bound Him, they led Him a -

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8 way, and de-liv-ered Him to the court of the gov-er-nor, Pon-tious Pi-late. When,

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8 there-fore, Ju-das the same who had be-trayed Him saw Je-sus con-demned to

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8 death he re-pen-ted of him-self, and brought once a-gain the thir-ty
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8 sil-ver pieces to the high priests and the elders, and said: They said:

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8 Then he cast the sil-ver pie-ces in the tem-ple, and turned a-
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8 way, and went out; and he hanged— him-self.
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8 And when the priests had ga-thered all of the sil-ver pie-ces, they said

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8 Je-sus there-fore stood be-fore the gov-er-nor; and the
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8 gov-er-nor asked Him, and said: Je-sus an-swered un-to him:
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8 But when He was ac-cused when the priests and eld-ers ac-
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8 cused Him He an-swered noth-ing. Then Pi-late said un-to Him:
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8 And He an-swered him to nev-er a word, not
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8 one in-so-much that the gov-er nor mar-velled great-ly.

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8 Now up-on that feast the gov-er-nor was ac-cus-tomed to re-

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8 lease there-on one pri-son-er un-to them, whom-ev-er they want-ed.

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8 Now at that time, and a-mong the oth-er pri-son-ers, was a

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8 most no-tor-i-ous man, whose name was Barabas. And when they were gath-ered to-

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8 ge-ther, Pi-late said un-to them. For he knew full

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8 well that it was for en-vy that He had been de-li-vered. And while he

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8 sat on the judge-ment seat, then did his wife send him a mes-sage, say-ing:

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8 Still did the high priests ar-gue, and the el-ders, false-ly to in-flame the

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8 peo-ple, that there-by Ba-ra-bas be re-leased, and that Je-sus be cru-ci-fied.

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8 And the governor again returned to the people, and asked them: They

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8 shouted: Then Pilate said unto them: Again they shouted:

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8 The gov-ernor answered: