

= Wahrlich , wahrlich , ich sage euch , BWV 86 =

Wahrlich , wahrlich , ich sage euch ( Truly , truly I say to you ) , BWV 86 , is a church cantata by Johann Sebastian Bach . He composed it in Leipzig for Rogate , the fifth Sunday after Easter , and first performed it on 14 May 1724 .

An unknown poet began the text with a quotation from the farewell discourses of Jesus . He used a stanza of Georg Grünwald 's hymn " Kommt her zu mir , spricht Gottes Sohn " in movement 3 and as the closing chorale a stanza from " Es ist das Heil uns kommen her " by Paul Speratus ( 1524 ) . Bach structured the cantata in six movements , a gospel quotation in the beginning , chorales as movements 3 and 6 , otherwise recitatives and arias . He scored it for three vocal soloists , a four @-@ part choir and a Baroque instrumental ensemble of two oboes d 'amore , strings and continuo .

= = History and words = =

Bach composed the cantata in Leipzig in his first annual cycle as Thomaskantor for the fifth Sunday after Easter , called Rogate . The prescribed readings for the Sunday were from the Epistle of James , " doers of the word , not only listeners " ( James 1 : 22 ? 27 ) and from the Gospel of John , from the farewell discourses of Jesus , prayers will be fulfilled ( John 16 : 23 ? 30 ) . The theme of the cantata is a quotation from the gospel at the beginning , the promise of Jesus " Verily , verily , I say unto you , whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name , he will give you " . An unknown poet used as movement 3 the 16th stanza of Georg Grünwald 's hymn " Kommt her zu mir , spricht Gottes Sohn " ( 1530 ) , and as the closing chorale the eleventh stanza of " Es ist das Heil uns kommen her " by Paul Speratus ( 1524 ) . The poet hints at the question how the promise can be understood looking at the reality of life . In movement 2 he uses the image of a rose with thorns to illustrate two conflicting aspects . In movements 3 and 4 he confirms the promise which has to be seen in the perspective of time . Movement 5 refers to the waiting for a promise being kept , and the closing chorale assures that God knows the right time . The structure of the six movements ? a gospel quotation in the beginning , chorales as movements 3 and 6 , the sequence of recitative and arias ? is similar to Wo gehest du hin ? BWV 166 , first performed one week earlier .

Bach first performed the cantata on 14 May 1724 .

= = Scoring and structure = =

Bach structured the cantata in six movements , beginning with a biblical quotation for the vox Christi , Jesus speaking . An aria is followed by a chorale for the soprano , a set of recitative and aria , and the closing chorale , the only movement for choir . Bach scored the work for three vocal soloists ( alto , tenor , bass ) , a four @-@ part choir and a Baroque instrumental ensemble of two oboes d 'amore ( Oa ) , two violins ( VI ) , viola ( Va ) and basso continuo .

In the following table of the movements , the scoring follows the Neue Bach @-@ Ausgabe . The keys and time signatures are taken from Alfred Dürr , using the symbol for common time ( 4 / 4 ) . The continuo , playing throughout , is not shown .

= = Music = =

= = = 1 = = =

The gospel quotation , " Wahrlich , wahrlich , ich sage euch , so ihr den Vater etwas bitten werdet in meinem Namen , so wird er 's euch geben . " ( Truly , truly I say to you , whatever you ask of the Father in My name , so will it be given to you . ) , is given to the bass as the vox Christi , the voice of Jesus . The instruments , strings probably doubled by oboe d 'amore , introduce vocal motifs which the voice picks up . The bass sings the text three times , while the instruments continue playing the

same motifs . Julian Mincham observes : " The richness of the text , the unobtrusive nature of the melodic ideas and the gently flowing rhythms combine to create an appropriate atmosphere of dignified restraint " .

== 2 ==

In the alto aria , " Ich will doch wohl Rosen brechen " ( I will yet indeed pluck roses ) , the voice is accompanied by the strings and a violin obbligato in virtuoso figuration , which may illustrate the heavenly light promised as the final fulfillment . John Eliot Gardiner , who conducted the Bach Cantata Pilgrimage in 2000 , interprets the solo violin 's motif as an image of plucking a rose , who notes that the solo violin is silent when fulfillment is reached ( " For He has pledged His word " ) .

== 3 ==

In the chorale , " Und was der ewig gültig Gott in seinem Wort versprochen hat " ( And whatever the eternally merciful God has promised with His word ) , the unadorned cantus firmus in the soprano is embedded in a trio of the two oboes d 'amore and the continuo . Gardiner notes that the oboes ' music may illustrate the " stratospheric circling of the angelic host " which the hymn text refers to .

== 4 ==

In a short tenor recitative for tenor , " Gott macht es nicht gleichwie die Welt , die viel verspricht und wenig hält " ( God does not do as the world does , that promises much and upholds little ) , the musicologist Julian Mincham notes " a moment of harsh severity in the melody at the mention of the world 's failings " .

== 5 ==

In the tenor aria , " Gott hilft gewiß ; wird gleich die Hilfe aufgeschoben " ( God helps indeed ; even if that help is delayed ) , a motif on the first line is introduced by the violin , repeated by the voice , and repeated several times .

== 6 ==

The closing chorale , " Die Hoffnung wart ' der rechten Zeit " ( Hope awaits the right time ) , is set for four parts .

== Selected recordings ==

The selection is taken from the listing on the Bach @-@ Cantatas website . Choirs are roughly marked as large by red background ; vocal groups with one voice per part ( OVPP ) and instrumental groups playing period instruments in historically informed performances are highlighted green .

== Complete cycles ==