

St. John Passion

Christoph Dalitz

for three mixed parts
and soliloquists

Version 2.1, February 15th, 2021

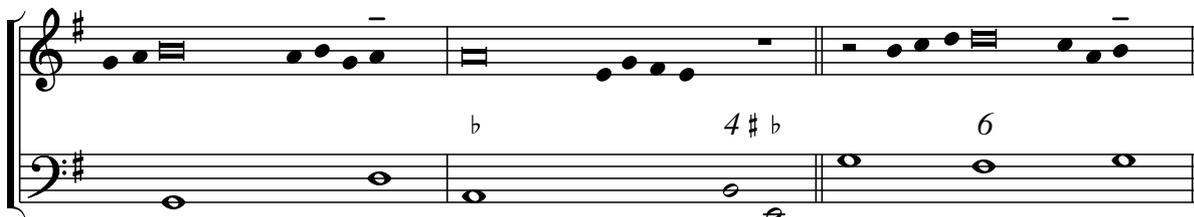
St. John Passion

Christoph Dalitz

This is an English adaption of a setting of the Passion, which I had first written in 1991 and later revised 2014 to fit a public domain German bible translation. For the publication of an English version, I needed an English bible translation that is either in the public domain or under a free license. I have checked the "Open English Bible" (OEB), the "World English Bible" (WEB), the "King James Version" (KJV), the 1899 "Douay–Rheims Bible" (DRB), and eventually settled on the last. The DRB is very close to the KJV, but uses a more modern vocabulary. Its grammar has some inconsistencies, like the use of both "saith" and "said" for the third person singular past tense, but apparently these were inherited from the KJV, which stems from an earlier period with a less standardized grammar. Incidentally, the turba sections are identical between DRB and KJV, so the polyphonic sections can be also used with the KJV, if necessary.

The musical style of the polyphonic sections is that of the early baroque, which means that the music does not merely reflect the syntax of the words, but also their meaning. Unlike traditional settings from the 16th or 17th century, however, Pilate and others are no countertenor parts, which is a rare voice range nowadays. All soloists can thus be sung conveniently by choir members. Although the rhythm is written in half notes throughout, this does not mean that everything should be sung at the same speed! Instead, the speed should be changed for each piece according to its affect. For instance, the introduction must be sung much slower than the cry "Crucify him".

As the Good Friday liturgy usually precludes the use of instruments, the entire Passion is set a capella. If an instrument (harpsichord, theorbo, ...) is nevertheless desirable, e.g. to support the singers, the following harmonization can be used (I would suggest, though, to leave Jesus' words unaccompanied, for contrast):



If you like singing this piece or have any comments, I would greatly appreciate feedback. You can find my contact information on the website <http://music.dalitio.de/>.

Christoph Dalitz, February 2021

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The Passion According to St. John's Gospel

for three mixed parts a capella

Music: Christoph Dalitz (2021)

The suffer-ing of our Lord Je - sus Christ ac -

The suf - fer - ing of our Lord Je - - - sus Christ

The suf - fer - ing of our Lord Je -

cor - ding to John, _____ to John. _____

ac - cor - ding to John, _____ to John. _____

- sus Christ, ac - cor - ding to John, _____ to John.

Chapter 18

evangelist

8 When Je - sus had said these things, he went forth with his dis - cip - les o - ver the brook Ce - dron,

8 where there was a gar - den, in - to which he en - tered with his dis - cip - les. And Ju - das al - so,

8 who be - trayed him, knew the place; be - cause Je - sus had of - ten re - sor - ted thi - ther to - ge - ther

8 with his dis - cip - les. Ju - das there - fore hav - ing re - ceived a band of sol - diers and

8 ser - vants from the chief priests and the Pha - ri - sees, com - eth thi - ther with lan - terns and

8 tor - ches and wea - pons. Je - sus there - fore, know - ing all things that should come u - pon

Jesus *evangelist*

8 him, went forth, and said to them: Whom seek ye? 8 They answered him:

8 Je - sus of Na - za - reth.

8 Je - sus of Na - za - reth.

8 Je - sus of Na - za - reth.

evangelist *Jesus* *evangelist*

8 Je - sus saith to them: I am he. 8 And Ju - das al - so, who be - trayed him,

8 stood with them. As soon there - fore as he had said to them: I am he; they went back - ward,

8 and fell to the ground. A - gain there - fore he asked them: Whom seek ye? 8 And they said:

8 Je - sus of Na - za - reth.

8 Je - sus of Na - za - reth.

8 Je - sus of Na - za - reth.

evangelist *Jesus*

8 Je - sus answered, I have told you that I am he. If there - fore you

8 seek me, let these go their way. 8 That the word might be ful - filled which he said:

8 Of them whom thou hast gi - ven me, I have not lost an - y one. Then Si - mon

8 Pe - ter, ha - ving a sword, drew it, and struck the ser - vant of the high priest,

8 and cut off his right ear. And the name of the ser - vant was Mal - chus. Je - sus there - fore

8 said to Pe - ter: Put up thy sword in - to the scab - bard. The cha - lice which my *Jesus*

8 Fa - ther hath gi - ven me, shall I not drink it? *evangelist* 8 Then the band and the tri - bune, and the

8 ser - vants of the Jews, took Je - sus, and bound him: And they led him a - way

8 to An - nas first, for he was fa - ther in law to Cai - phas, who was the

8 high priest of that year. Now Cai - phas was he who had gi - ven the coun - sel

8 to the Jews: That it was ex - pe - di - ent that one man should die for the peo - ple.

8 And Si - mon Pe - ter fol - lowed Je - sus, and so did an - o - ther dis - ci - ple. And that

8 dis - ci - ple was known to the high priest, and went in with Je - sus in - to

8 the court of the high priest. But Pe - ter stood at the door with - out. The o - ther dis - ci - ple

8 there - fore, who was known to the high priest, went out, and spoke to the port - ress,

8 and brought in Pe - ter. The maid there - fore that was port - ress, saith to Pe - ter:

maid
 Art not thou al - so one of this man's dis - cip - les? ⁸ *evangelist* *Peter*
 He saith: I am not.

evangelist
⁸ Now the ser - vants and mi - nis - ters stood at a fi - re of coals, be - cause it was cold,
 and warmed them - selves. And with them was Pe - ter al - so, stan - ding, and war - ming
 him - self. The high priest there - fore asked Je - sus of his dis - cip - les, and
⁸ of his doc - trine. *Jesus* Je - sus ans - wered him: I have spo - ken o - pen - ly to the world:
 I have al - ways taught in the sy - na - gogue, and in the tem - ple,
 whi - ther all the Jews re - sort; and in se - cret I have spo - ken no - thing.
 Why ask - eth thou me? ask them who have heard what I have
 spo - ken un - to them: be - hold they know what things I have said.

evangelist
⁸ And when he had said these things, one of the ser - vants stan - ding by,
⁸ *servant* gave Je - sus a blow, say - ing: Ans - wer - est thou the high priest so?
⁸ *evangelist* *Jesus* Je - sus ans - wered him: If I have spo - ken evil, give tes - ti - mo - ny
 of the e - vil; but if well, why stri - kest thou me?
⁸ *evangelist*
 And An - nas sent him bound to Cai - phas the high priest.

8 And Si - mon Pe - ter was stan - ding, and war - ming him - self. They said there - fore to him:

Art not thou al -

Art not thou al - so one of his dis - ci - ples, one of

8 Art not thou al - so one of his dis - ci -

so one of his dis - ci - ples, of his dis - ci - ples?

his dis - ci - ples, art thou of his dis - ci - ples?

8 ples, one of his dis - ci - ples, not al - so thou?

evangelist He de - nied it, and said: *Peter* I am not. *evangelist* One of the ser - vants of the high priest

8 (a kins - man to him whose ear Pe - ter cut off) saith to him: Did I not see thee *servant*

8 in the gar - den with him? *evangelist* A - gain there - fore Pe - ter de - nied; and im - me - di - ate - ly

8 the cock crew. Then they led Je - sus from Cai - phas to the go - ver - nor's hall.

8 And it was mor - ning; and they went not in - to the hall, that they might

8 not be de - fi - led, but that they might eat the pasch.

Pilate

8 Pi - late there - fore went out to them, and said: What ac - cu - sa - tion

evangelist

8 bring you a - gainst this man? They ans - wered, and said to him:

If he were not a ma - le - fac - tor, we would not have de - li - vered, we

If he were not a ma - le - fac - tor,

8 If he were not a ma - le - fac - tor, we

would not have de - li - vered, de - li - vered him up to thee.

we would not have de - li - vered, de - li - vered him up to thee.

8 would not have de - li - vered, not de - li - vered him up to thee.

evangelist

Pilate

8 Pi - late there - fore said to them: Take him you, and judge him

evangelist

8 ac - cor - ding to your law. The Jews there - fore said to him:

It is not law - ful, it is not law - ful for

It is not law - ful, it is not law - ful for

8 It is not law - ful, not for

us to put a - ny man to death;
 us to put a - ny man _____ to death;
 8 us to put a - ny man to death, _____ to death;

evangelist

8 That the word of Je - sus might be ful - filled, which he said, sig - ni - fy - ing what death
 he should die. Pi - late there - fore went in - to the hall a - gain, and called
Pilate *evangelist*
 8 Je - sus, and said to him: Art thou the king of the Jews? Je - sus an - swered:

Jesus

Say - est thou this thing of thy - self, or have o - thers told it thee of me?

evangelist *Pilate*

8 Pi - late an - swered: Am I a Jew? Thy own na - tion, and the chief priests,
evangelist
 8 have de - li - vered thee up to me: what hast thou done? Je - sus an - swered:

Jesus

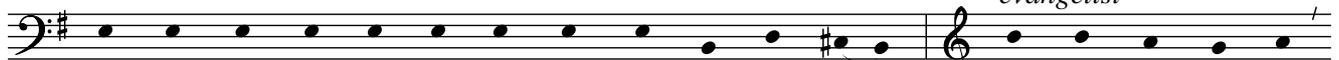
My king - dom is not of this world. If my king - dom were of this world, my ser - vants would

evangelist *Pilate*

cer - tain - ly strive that I should not be de - li - vered to the Jews: but now my
evangelist *Pilate*
 king - dom is not from hence. 8 Pi - late there - fore said to him: Art thou a king then?
evangelist *Jesus*
 8 Je - sus an - swered: Thou say - est that I am a king. For this was I born, and



for this came I in - to the world; that I should give tes - ti - mo - ny to the truth.



evangelist

E - very one that is of the truth, hear - eth my voice. ⁸ Pi - late saith to him:



Pilate *evangelist*

⁸ What is truth? And when he said this, he went out a - gain to the Jews,



Pilate

⁸ and saith to them: I find no cause in him. But you have a cus - tom that I



⁸ should re - lease one un - to you at the pasch: will you, there - fore, that I re - lease



evangelist

⁸ un - to you the king of the Jews? Then cried they all a - gain, say - ing:

Not this man, not this man, not this man but

Not this man, not this man, not this man but

⁸ Not this man, not this man, not this man but

Ba - rab - bas.

Ba - rab - bas.

⁸ Ba - rab - bas.

evangelist

⁸ Now Ba - rab - bas was a rob - ber.

Chapter 19

evangelist

8 Then there-fore, Pi-late took Je-sus, and scourged him. And the sol-diers
8 plat-ting a crown of thorns, put it u-pon his head; and they
8 put on him a pur-ple gar-ment. And they came to him, and said:

Hail, hail king of the Jews, king of the Jews. king of the Jews;
Hail, hail king of the Jews, of the Jews;
8 Hail, hail king of the Jews; _____

evangelist

8 and they gave him blows. Pi-late there-fore went forth a-gain,
8 and saith to them: Be-hold, I bring him forth un-to you, that you may know
8 that I find no cause in him. Je-sus there-fore came forth, bear-ing the
8 crown of thorns and the purple gar-ment. And he saith to them: Be-hold the Man.

evangelist

8 When the chief priests, there-fore, and the ser-vants, had seen him, they cried out, say-ing:

Cru - ci - fy, cru - ci - fy, cru - ci - fy him, cru -

Cru - ci - fy, cru - ci - fy, cru - - - - ci - fy

8 Cru - ci - fy, cru - ci - fy, cru - ci - fy him, cru - ci - fy,

- ci - fy him.

him, cru - ci - fy him.

8 cru - ci - fy, cru - ci - fy him.

evangelist *Pilate*

8 Pi - late saith to them: Take him you, and cru - ci - fy him:

8 for I find no cause in him. *evangelist* The Jews ans - wered him:

We have a law; and ac - cor - ding to the law he ought to

We have a law; and ac -

8 We have a law; and ac -

die, be-cause he made him - self, him -
 cor-ding to the law he ought to die,
 cor-ding to the law he ought to die, be-cause he made him -

self, him - self the Son of God.
 be-cause he made him - self the Son of God.
 self, him - self the Son of God.

evangelist

8 When Pi-late there-fore had heard this say-ing, he feared the more. And he en-tered
 8 in-to the hall a-gain, and he said to Jesus: Whence art thou? But Je-sus
 8 gave him no ans-wer. Pi-late there-fore saith to him: Speak-est thou not to me? know-est
 8 thou not that I have pow-er to cru-ci-fy thee, and I have pow-er to re-lease thee?
evangelist *Jesus*
 8 Je-sus answered: Thou shouldst not have a-ny pow-er a-gainst me, un-less it were
 gi-ven thee from a-bove. There-fore, he that hath de-li-vered me to thee,
evangelist
 8 hath the grea-ter sin. 8 And from hence-forth Pi-late sought to re-lease him.

8 But the Jews cried out, say - ing:

8 If thou re-lease this man, thou art not Cae-sar's friend, not Cae - sar's
 If thou re-lease this man, thou art not Cae-sar's friend. —
 not Cae - sar's

8 friend. For who-so-e-ver mak-eth him -
 — For who-so-e-ver mak-eth him-self a king,
 8 friend. For who-so-e-ver mak-eth him-self a king, him-self a king,

8 self a king, speak-eth a - gainst, a - gainst Cae - sar.
 him - self a king, speak-eth a - gainst, a - gainst Cae - - sar.
 8 a king, speak-eth a - gainst, Cae - sar.

evangelist

8 Now when Pi - late had heard these words, he brought Je - sus forth, and sat
 8 down in the judg-ment seat, in the place that is called Li - thos - tro - tos,
 8 and in He - brew Gab - ba - tha. And it was the pa - ras - ceve

8 of the pasch, a - bout the sixth hour, and he saith to the Jews:
Pilate *evangelist*
 8 Be - hold your king. But they cried out:

A - way with him; a - way with him; cru - ci - fy him.
 A - way, a - way with him; cru - ci - fy him.
 8 A - way with him, with him; cru - ci - fy him.

8 *evangelist* *Pilate* *evangelist*
 Pi - late saith to them: Shall I cru - ci - fy your king? The chief priests ans - wered:

We have no king but Cae - sar, we have no king but Cae - sar, but
 We have no king but Cae - sar, we have no king but Cae - sar, but
 8 We have no king but Cae - sar, but Cae - sar, but

Cae - sar.
 Cae - - sar.
 8 Cae - - sar.

evangelist

8 Then there-fore he de - li - vered him to them to be cru - ci - fied. And they
8 took Je - sus, and led him forth. And bea - ring his own cross, he went forth
8 to that place which is called Cal - va - ry, but in He - brew Gol - go - tha.
8 Where they cru - ci - fied him, and with him two o - thers, one on each side,
8 and Je - sus in the midst. And Pi - late wrote a ti - tle al - so,
8 and he put it u - pon the cross. And the wri - ting was: JE - SUS OF
8 NA - ZA-RETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. This ti - tle there - fore ma - ny
8 of the Jews did read: be - cause the place where Je - sus was cru - ci - fied
8 was nigh to the ci - ty: and it was writ - ten in He - brew, in Greek,
8 and in La - tin. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pi - late:

Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said
Write not, The King of the Jews; but that
8 Write not, The King of the Jews;

I am the King, but that he said, I am the
 he said I am the King, but that he said,
 8 but that he said, I am the King, I am the

King, the King of the Jews.
 I am the King of the Jews.
 8 King, of the Jews, the Jews.

evangelist *Pilate*
 8 Pi - late ans - wered: What I have writ - ten, I have writ - ten.
evangelist
 8 The sol - diers there - fore, when they had cru - ci - fied him, took his gar - ments,
 8 and they made four parts, to e - very sol - dier a part, and al - so his coat.
 8 Now the coat was with - out seam, wo - ven from the top throug - hout.
 8 They said then one to an - o - ther:

Let us not cut it, let us not cut it,
 Let us not cut it, not cut it,
 Let us not cut it, not cut it, not cut it,

but let us cast lots for it, lots for
 but let us cast lots for it,
 but let us cast lots for

it, whose, whose it shall be;
 lots for it, whose it shall be;
 it, whose it shall be;

evangelist

that the scrip- ture might be ful- filled, say- ing: They have par- ted my gar- ments
 a- mong them, and u- pon my ves- ture they have cast lots. And the
 sol- diers in- deed did these things. Now there stood by the cross of Je- sus,
 his mo- ther, and his mo- ther's si- ster, Ma- ry of Cle- o- phas, and Ma- ry
 Mag- da- lene. When Je- sus there- fore had seen his mo- ther and the dis- ci- ple

⁸ stan - ding whom he loved, he saith to his mo - ther: *Jesus* Wo - man, be - hold thy son.

evangelist

⁸ Af - ter that, he saith to the dis - ci - ple: *Jesus* Be - hold thy mo - ther. *evangelist* ⁸ And from that

⁸ hour, the dis - ci - ple took her to his own. Af - ter - wards, Je - sus kno - wing

⁸ that all things were now ac - comp - lished, that the scrip - ture might be ful - filled, said:

Jesus I thirst. *evangelist* ⁸ Now there was a ves - sel set there full of vi - ne - gar.

⁸ And they, put - ting a sponge full of vi - ne - gar and hys - sop, put it

⁸ to his mouth. Je - sus there - fore, when he had ta - ken the vi - ne - gar, said:

Jesus It is con - sum - ma - ted. *evangelist* ⁸ And bo - wing his head, he gave up the ghost.

⁸ Then the Jews, be - cause it was the pa - ras - ceve, that the bo - dies might not re - main

⁸ on the cross on the sab - bath day, for that was a great sab - bath day, be - sought

⁸ Pi - late that their legs might be bro - ken, and that they might be ta - ken a - way.

⁸ The sol - diers there - fore came; and they broke the legs of the first, and of the o - ther

⁸ that was cru - ci - fied with him. But af - ter they were come to Je - sus, when they saw

⁸ that he was al - rea - dy dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the

8 sol - diers with a spear o - pened his side, and im - me - di - ate - ly there came out

8 blood and wa - ter. And he that saw it, hath gi - ven tes - ti - mo - ny, and his tes - ti -

8 mo - ny is true. And he know - eth that he saith true; that you al - so may be - lieve.

8 For these things were done, that the scrip - ture might be ful - filled: You shall not

8 break a bone of him. And a - gain an - o - ther scrip - ture saith: They shall look

8 on him whom they pier - ced. And af - ter these things, Jo - seph of A - ri - ma - the - a,

8 be - cause he was a dis - ci - ple of Je - sus, but se - cret - ly for fear of the Jews,

8 be - sought Pi - late that he might take a - way the bo - dy of Je - sus. And Pi - late

8 gave leave. He came there - fore, and took the bo - dy of Je - sus. And Ni - co - de - mus

8 a - lso came, he who at the first came to Je - sus by night, brin - ging a

8 mix - ture of myrrh and a - loes, a - bout an hun - dred pound weight. They took there - fore

8 the bo - dy of Je - sus, and bound it in li - nen cloths, with the spi - ces,

8 as the man - ner of the Jews is to bu - ry. Now there was in the place

8 where he was cru - ci - fied, a gar - den; and in the gar - den a new se - pul - chre,

8 where-in no man yet had been laid. There, there-fore, be-cause of the pa-ra-sceve
8 of the Jews, they laid Je-sus, be-cause the se-pul-chre was nigh at hand.

Glo-ry be to Thee, O Christ, who hast borne on the
Glo-ry be to Thee, O Christ, who hast
8 Glo-ry be to Thee, O Christ,

cross a bit-ter death for
borne on the cross a bit-ter death
8 who hast borne a bit-ter death

our sal-va-tion, sal-va-tion.
for our sal-va-tion.
8 for our sal-va-tion. A

A - - - - - men. A - - - - - men.
A - - - - - men.
8 - - - - - men. A - - - - - men.

