

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS
OF OUR SAVIOUR ON THE CROSS



If the print is too small, especially the text, I recommend prining this score magnified on larger paper (e.g. 11x17").

### The Seven Last Words of our Savior on the Cross

In 1785 or '86 Haydn, a devout Catholic, received a commission from the cathedral in Cádiz. He was asked to provide descriptive orchestral interludes between the spoken parts of the service in the great Spanish Baroque church during Holy Week, presumably on Good Friday. In 1787, the year in which it was first performed, he transcribed the work for string quartet to give it wider currency, and eventually, in 1795-96, he made a choral version which was published in 1801. In the preface to that score, Haydn wrote:

About fifteen years ago I was requested by a canon of Cadiz to compose instrumental music on The Seven Last Words of Our Saviour on the Cross. It was customary at the Cathedral of Cadiz to produce an oratorio every year during Lent, the effect of the performance being not a little enhanced by the following circumstances. The walls, windows, and pillars of the church were hung with black cloth, and only one large lamp hanging from the centre of the roof broke the solemn darkness. At midday, the doors were closed and the ceremony began. After a short service the bishop ascended the pulpit, pronounced the first of the seven words (or sentences) and delivered a discourse thereon. This ended, he left the pulpit, and prostrated himself before the altar. The interval was filled by music. The bishop then in like manner pronounced the second word, then the third, and so on, the orchestra following on the conclusion of each discourse. My composition was subject to these conditions, and it was no easy task to compose seven adagios lasting ten minutes each, and to succeed one another without fatiguing the listeners; indeed, I found it quite impossible to confine myself to the appointed limits...

Vienna, in March 1801

In the course of his second journey to London (1794–1795), in Passau, Haydn had heard a revised version of his work, amplified to include a chorus, prepared by the Passau Kapellmeister Joseph Friebert. The words were not the original Latin but pietist poetry, written in German. Haydn was impressed with the new work and decided to improve on it, preparing his own choral version. He had the assistance of Baron Gottfried van Swieten, who revised the lyrics used by Friebert. This was the first work in a serial collaboration with van Swieten as librettist that continued with the later oratorios The Creation and The Seasons. The choral version was privately premiered in Vienna on 26 March 1796 before an audience of the nobility, under the sponsorship of the Gesellschaft der Associierten. The public premiere was on 1 April 1798, sponsored by the Tonkünstler-Societät, a Viennese benefit society for musicians. The work was published in 1801 by Breitkopf.

Haydn thought this work one of his best, and it was actually the last work he conducted in public.

The orchestral scores of the original and choral version differ very little. One significant difference is the interpolation of the vocal introduction to each section. Another is the abandonment of the repeat indication (obligatory in Sonata form) in the earlier versions.

# DIE SIEBEN LETZTEN WORTE UNSERES ERLÖSERS AM KREUZE THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF OUR SAVIOUR ON THE CROSS

#### **INTRODUZIONE**

The First Word: Luke 23:34

Vater, vergib ihnen, Father, forgive them, denn sie wissen nicht, was sie tun. for they know not what they do.

The Second Word: Luke 23:43

Fürwahr, ich sag es dir: Heute Verily I say unto you: today you will wirst du bei mir im Paradiese sein. be with me in Paradise..

The Third Word: John 19:26-27

Frau, hier siehe deinen Sohn, Woman, behold your son. und du, siehe deine Mutter! And you, behold your mother!.

The Fourth Word: Psalm 22:1 and Matthew 27:46

Mein Gott, mein Gott, My God, my God, warum hast du mich verlassen? why have you forsaken me?.

#### **INTRODUZIONE**

The Fifth Word: John 19:28

Jesus rufet: Ach, mich dürstet! Jesus cries out, "I thirst!"

The Sixth Word: John 19:30

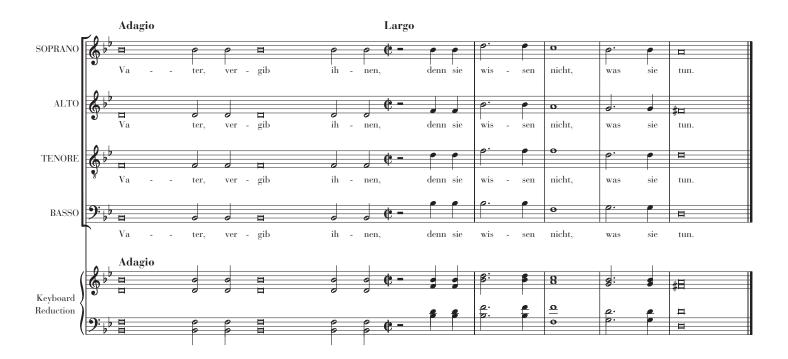
Es ist vollbracht. It is finished.

The Seventh Word: Luke 23:46

Vater, in deine Hände Father, into your hands empfehle ich meinen Geist. I commend my spirit.

IL TERREMOTO THE EARTHQUAKE

### No. 1



The First Word: Luke 23:34

Vater, vergib ihnen, denn sie wissen nicht, was sie tun. Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.

Vater im Himmel, o sieh hernieder vom ewigen Thron! Vater der Liebe, dein Eingeborner, er fleht für Sünder, für deine Kinder, erhöre den Sohn! Ach, wir sind tief gefallen, wir sündigten schwer; doch allen zum Heil, uns allen, floss deines Sohnes Blut. Das Blut des Lamms schreit nicht um Rach'; es tilgt die Sünden. Vater der Liebe, lass uns Gnade finden, erhöre den Sohn! O Vater, o Vater, erhöre den Sohn!

Father in heaven, look down from your eternal throne! Loving father, your only-begotten son prays for sinners, and for your children; harken to your son! Ah, we have fallen low, and have sinned lamentably; yet for our salvation, for that of us all the blood of your son has flowed. The blood of the lamb cries not for vengeance; it redeems sins. Loving father let us find mercy harken to your son! O father, O father, harken to your son!

















### No. 2



The Second Word: Luke 23:43

Fürwahr, ich sag es dir: Heute wirst du bei mir im Paradiese sein. Verily I say unto you: today you will be with me in Paradise.

Ganz Erbarmen, Gnad' und Liebe, bist du Mittler, Gotteslamm.
Kaum ruft jener reuig auf zu dir: Wenn du kommest in dein Reich, ach, so denke mein! so versprichst du ihm voll Milde: heut wirst du bei mir im Paradiese sein. Herr und Gott! Blick auf uns! Sieh an deines Kreuzes Fusse unsre wahre Reu'und Busse! Gib uns auch zur letzten Stunde jenen Trost aus deinem Munde: Heut wirst du bei mir im Paradiese sein.

Full of grace, mercy and love, you are the Mediator and Lamb of God.

No sooner did he, repentant, call out to you: "When you come to your kingdom remember me!" than you promised him compassionately: "Today you will be with me in Paradise." Lord and God! Look upon us! See at the foot of your cross our true contrition and atonement! Give us too, in our final hour, that comfort from your lips: "Today you will be with me in Paradise."

















The Third Word: John 19:26-27

Frau, hier siehe deinen Sohn, und du, siehe deine Mutter!

und du, siehe deine Mutter!

Mutter Jesu, die du trostlos, weinend, seufzend bei dem Kreuze standst und die Oualen seines Leidens in der Stund des bittern Scheidens siebenfach in dir empfandst: Kaum mehr fähig, dich zu fassen, und doch standhaft und gelassen, nimmst als Sohn den treuen Jünger und mit ihm auch uns als Kinder an. Mutter Jesu, o du Zuflucht aller Sünder, hör das Flehen deiner Kinder. Steh uns bei im letzten Streit, Mutter voll der Zärtlichkeit. o steh uns allen bei! Wenn wir mit dem Tode ringen und aus dem beklemmten Herzen unsre Seufzer zu dir dringen, lass uns, Mutter, lass uns da nicht unterliegen! Hilf uns dann den Feind besiegen! Und steh uns bei im letzten Streit! Wenn wir mit dem Tode Ringen, o da zeige dich als Mutter Und empfehl uns deinen Sohn, o Mutter!

Woman, behold your son.
And you, behold your mother!.

Mother of Jesus, you who stood by the cross cheerless, weeping, sighing, you who felt the agony of his passion in the hour of bitter parting, felt it sevenfold within yourself: Hardly able to bear it, yet steadfast and serene, you now take the faithful disciple as your son, and with him, us too as your children. Mother of Jesus, O you refuge of all sinners, hear the prayers of your children. Stand by us in the final struggle, Mother full of tenderness, O stand by us all! As we wrestle with death and as from our distressed souls, our sighs reach your ears, do not allow us, Mother, to be subdued! Help us, then, to conquer our foe! And stand by us in our final struggle! As we wrestle with death, O reveal yourself as mother, and commend us to your son, O Mother!















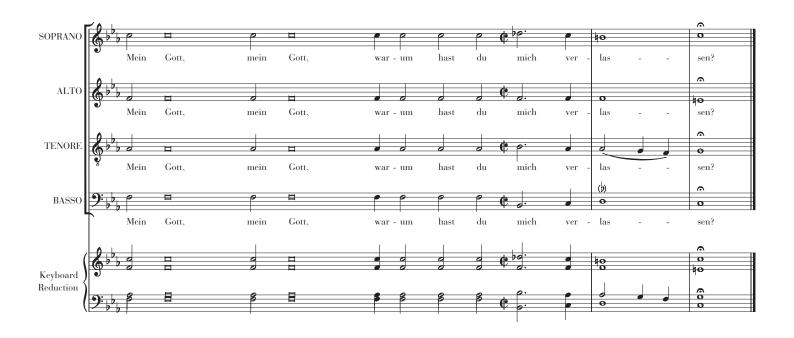








## No. 4



The Fourth Word: Psalm 22:1 and Matthew 27:46

Mein Gott, mein Gott, warum hast du mich verlassen?

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?.

Warum hast du mich verlassen? Wer sieht hier der Gottheit Spur? Wer kann fassen dies Geheimnis? O Gott der Kraft und Macht, O Gott der Macht und Stärke, Wir sind deiner Hände Werke, und deine Lieb, o Herr, hat uns erlöst. O Herr, wir danken dir von Herzen. Unserwegen littst du Schmerzen, Spott, Verlassung, Angst und Pein. Herr, wir sollte dich nicht lieben, dich mit Sünden noch betrüben? Wer kann deine Huld verkennen? Nein, nichts soll uns von dir trennen allhier und dort in Ewigkeit.

Why have you forsaken me? Where is now the hand of God? Who can fathom this mystery? O God of power and might, O God of might and strength, we are the work of your hands, and your love, O Lord, has redeemed us. O Lord, we thank you from the heart. For our sake you suffered pain, Contempt, abandonment, fear and torture. Lord, who would not love you, Who would sadden you with sins? Who can mistake your kindness? No, nothing shall separate us from you here on earth nor in eternity.



















### INTRODUZIONE



No. 5

The Fifth Word: John 19:28

Jesus rufet: Ach, mich dürstet! Jesus cries out, "I thirst!"

Hemmt nun die Rache, stillt eure Wut! Menschen, lasset Mitleid Euch erweichen, ruft Erbarmung in das Herz! Jesus rufet: Ach, mich dürstet! Ihm reicht man Wein, den man mit Galle mischet. So labt man ihn. Kann Grausamkeit noch weiter gehn? Nun kann er nicht mehr fassen den Schmerz, der ihn allmächtig drückt, der Wohltun war. Ach im Durst Ah, vor seinem Ende reichet man ihm Galle dar.

Check your vengeance, calm your rage! Mortals, let compassion move you, and pity fill your hearts! Jesus cries out, "I thirst!" He is given wine mixed with gall. This is how he is treated. Can cruelty go any further? He can now no longer bear the pain which oppresses him so powerfully, he who was a blessing to us. to quench his thirst before expiring, one gave him gall.















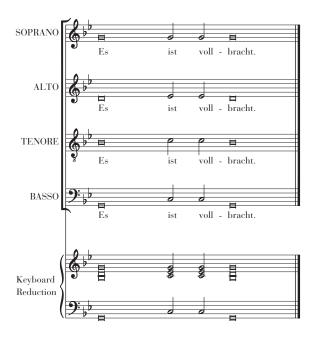








## No. 6



The Sixth Word: John 19:30

#### Es ist vollbracht. It is finished.

Es ist vollbracht! An das Opferholz geheftet, hanget Jesus in der Nacht; und dann ruft er laut: Es ist vollbracht. Was uns jenes Holz geschadet, wird durch dieses gut gemacht. Weh euch Bösen, weh euch Blinden, weh euch allen, die ihr Sünden immer häuft auf Sünden! Menschen denket nach! Werdet ihr Erbarmung finden, wenn er kommt in seiner Herrlichkeit und seiner Macht? Rett uns, Mittler, vom Verderben! Höre, Gottmensch, unser Schrein! Lass dein Leiden und dein Sterben nicht an uns verloren sein. Lass uns einst den Himmel erben und mit dir uns ewig freun.

It is finished. Nailed to the cross, Jesus hangs in the night; and then he cries aloud: "It is finished!" The harm brought upon us by this cross will be redeemed by this same cross. Woe to the evil, woe to the blind, woe to you all, you who heap sins upon sins! Mortals, reflect! Will you find pity when he comes in his glory and his power? Save us, Intercessor, from perdition! Hear, God-man, our cries! Let not your suffering and your death be lost on us. Let us yet inherit heaven And rejoice forever with you.









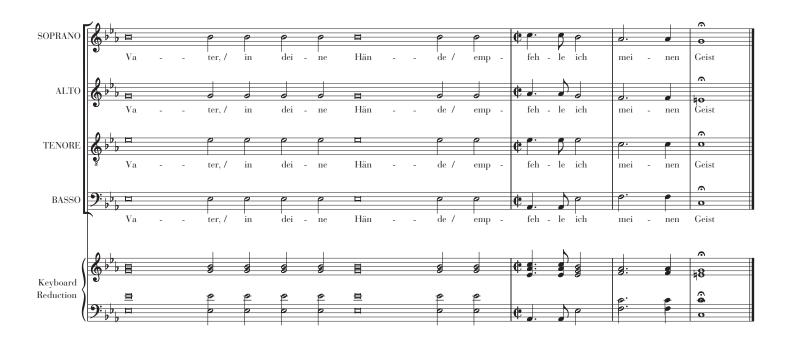








# No. 7



The Seventh Word: Luke 23:46

Vater, in deine Hände Father, into your hands empfehle ich meinen Geist. I commend my spirit.

empfehl ich meinen Geist.
Nun steigt sein Leiden höher nicht,
Nun triumphiert er laut und spricht:
nimm, Vater, meine Seele,
dir empfehl ich meinen Geist.
Und dann neight er sein Haupt
und stirbt.
Vom ewigen Verderben
hat uns sein Blut errettet;
aus Liebe für uns Menschen
starb er den Tod der Sünder.
Du gabst uns neues Leben;
was können wir dir geben?
Was können wir?

Zu deinen Füssen leigen wir,

nimm unser Herz als Opfer an!

O Jesu, tief gerührt;

In deine Händ', o Herr,

Now his agony can increase no more, now he triumphs and speaks aloud: "Father, take my soul, I commend my spirit to you." And then he lowers his head and dies. From eternal damnation his blood has saved us. out of love for mankind he died the death of sinners. You gave us new life; what can we give you? What can we do? We lie at your feet, O Jesus, deeply moved, take our hearts as a sacrifice!

Into your hands, O Lord,

I commend my spirit.

















### Il Terremoto The Earthquake

Matthew 27:51-53 and Luke 23:45:

"The earth shook, and the rocks were split.

The tombs were also opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And the sunlight darkened."

Er ist nicht mehr.
Der Erde Tiefen schallen wider:
er ist nicht mehr.
Erzittre, Golgatha, erzittre!
Er starb auf deinen Höhen.
O Sonne, fleuch und leuchte
diesem Tage nicht!
Zerreisse, zerreisse Land,
Worauf die Mörder stehen.
Ihr Gräber, tut euch auf,
ihr Väter, steigt
ans Licht!
Das Erdreich, das euch deckt,
ist ganz mit Blut befleckt.

He is no more.
The depths of the earth ring out:
"He is no more."
Tremble, Golgatha, tremble!
He died on your heights.
O sun, flee, and abstain
from lighting this day!
Break open, break open, earth,
on which murderers stand.
Open, graves,
and you, forefathers, rise toward
the light!
The earth that covers you
is utterly drenched with blood.

#### IL TERREMOTO











