

A German Requiem

Texts selected by the composer from the German Bible. Translation, paraphrase, adaptation, and prosodic underlay by Lara Hoggard.

[1] I. Chorus

Matthew 5:4

Blest are they who are sorrowful; blest are they that mourn; for they shall have comfort.

Psalms 126:5, 6

They who in sorrow with tears are sowing, shall with rejoicing in joy be reaping.

Who goeth forth and weepeth, and beareth precious seed, shall come with rejoicing, and bringing his sheaves with him.

[2] II. Chorus

1 Peter 1:24

For mortal flesh is as the grass, and all the comeliness of man is as the grasses' flowers.

The grass hath withered, and the flower thereof hath fallen.

James 5:7, 8

Now therefore be patient, my dear brethren, unto the coming of the Lord.

See how the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and how with patience abideth till he receiveth the morning showers and then the evening rain. So be you patient.

Repeat *1 Peter 1:24*

1 Peter 1:25

But still the Lord's word bideth forevermore.

Isaiah 35:10

The redeemed of the Lord shall return with singing unto Zion; unto Zion they shall come with rejoicing; joy everlasting forever on their heads shall be; joy and delight shall seize them and possess them, and pain and sighing shall flee from them.

[3] III. Baritone Solo and Chorus

Psalms 39:4, 5, 6, 7

Lord, teach me to know the measure of my days on earth, that my life has an ending, and I must perish.

Surely all my days here are as a handbreadth to Thee, and my lifetime is as naught to Thee.

Surely as nothing are all of mankind, who yet securely dwell in their vanities!

Man liveth his days like a shadow, and he disquieteth himself in vain with prideful delusions; his treasures, he knoweth not who shall gather them.

Now, Lord, what then is my comfort?

My hope is in Thee.

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1

But the righteous souls are in the hand of God, and there no grief, nor pain, nigh them shall come.

[4] IV. Chorus

Psalms 84:1, 2, 4

How lovely are Thy dwellings, O Lord of Hosts!

For my soul desireth and longeth for the courts of the

Lord; my soul and body sing with joy unto the living God.

O blessed! they who in Thy house are dwelling; they praise Thy name evermore!

[5] V. Soprano Solo and Chorus

John 16:22

You now are sorrowful;

grieve not: I will again behold you,

and then your heart shall be joyful,

and your joy shall no one take from you.

Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 51:35

Look upon me:

I suffered for a little time;

toil and labour were mine;

and I have found, at last, comfort.

Isaiah 66:13

I will give you comfort,

as one whom his own mother comforts.

[6] VI. Baritone Solo and Chorus

Hebrews 13:14

For we have on earth no abiding place: Howbeit we seek one to come.

1 Corinthians 15:51, 52, 54, 55

Lo, I unfold unto you a mystery:

we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,

at the time of the last trumpet!

For at last shall the trumpet sound,

and the dead shall then rise up incorruptible,

and we shall all be changed.

Then will be fulfilled the Word that is written:

then Death shall be swallowed up in the victory.

Death, where is thy sting?

Hell, where is thy victory?

Revelations 4:11

Lord, Thou art worthy to have all praise and honour and power and might,

for Thou hast heaven and earth created,

and by Thy good will do all things have their being and are created.

[7] VII. Chorus

Revelation 14:13

'Blessed are the dead, who in the Lord die, from henceforth,'

yea, the Spirit speaks,

'that they rest from all their labour;

for their works do follow after them.'