

THE PASSION HYMN “O Man, Thy Grievous Sin Bemoan” (“O Mensch, bewein dein Sünde groß”) was written by Sebald Heyden and was first published as a standalone booklet in Nürnberg, 1530, under the title, “The passion, or the suffering of Jesus Christ, rendered in hymnic form, in the melody of the 119th Psalm, ‘Es sind doch selig alle die,’” with the superscription, “The passion, from the four Evangelists: Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, John 18.” It is a hymn of unusually great length, with 23 stanzas of 12 lines each. In recent German hymnals it appears with only the first and last stanzas.

The melody first appeared in the 1525 Strassburg *Kirchenamt*, where it accompanied the text “*Es sind doch selig alle, die,*” a metrical paraphrase of the first two octaves of Psalm 119. From its first publication, “O Man, Thy Grievous Sin Bemoan” was intended to be sung to this tune. The setting is by Melchior Vulpius, adapted to fit the original form of the melody.

As of the time of this publication, there has been no English translation of the full hymn made publicly available. Translations of the first stanza have appeared in English editions of Bach’s St. Matthew Passion, the most well known of which, by Ivor Atkins (though it is frequently misattributed to Catherine Winkworth), follows:

O man thy grievous sin bemoan,
For which Christ left His Father’s throne,
From highest heaven descending.
Of virgin pure and undefiled,
He here was born, our Savior mild,
For sin to make atonement.
The dead He raised to life again,
The sick He freed from grief and pain,
Until the time appointed,
That He for us should give His Blood,
Should bear our sins’ o’erwhelming load,
The shameful Cross enduring.

The translation for the Free Lutheran Chorale-Book, with the exception of the opening line, is altogether new and may be freely used and reproduced for any purpose whatever.

O Man, Thy Grievous Sin Bemoan

The Passion, or the suffering of Jesus Christ,
drawn from the Four Evangelists.

Sebald Heyden

Translated by the Rev. Christopher J. Neuendorf

The Free Lutheran Chorale-Book
Davenport, Iowa
AD 2020

© Alan, Thy Precious Sin Berman

8.8.7.8.8.7.8.8.7.8.8.7.
 ES SIND DOCH SELIG ALLE, DIE
 Kirchnamn, Strassburg, 1525
 Setting: Melchior Vulpius, adap.
 Tr: Christopher J. Neundorff, 2020

1 O man, thy grievous sin be - moan,
 Whence, from His Fa - ther's
 2 Then, as the Jews' great Feast drew nigh,
 With His dis - ci - ples
 3 To the high priests he crept a - way,
 A - greed his Sav - ior
 4 They on the Mount of Ol - ives prayed.
 With - ives prayed. A - nough! The hour on
 5 He spake: Sleep ye in My dis - tress?
 E - nough! The hour on

bos - om flown,
 To earth came Christ, our Sav - ior.
 Of vir - gin
 stand - ing by, Je - sus ad - dressed them, say - ing:
 The Son of
 to be - tray
 For this - ly sil - ver piec - es.
 With His dis - bor:
 A stone's throw
 us doth press.
 The Son of Man is giv - en
 In - to the

moth - er, un - de - filed,
 For us was born the ho - ly Child,
 Man shall be - trayed,
 Up - on the cross be killed,
 be slain.
 And ate with them the Pas - chal Lamb,
 ci - ples came
 He de - part,
 Prayed to His Fa - ther
 from His heart:
 hands of sin - ners.
 Rise! He who be - trays Me
 draw - eth nigh.

To be our me - di - a - tor
 Un - to the dead new
 Then, lo! while they were stay - ing
 In Si - mon's house, a
 es: He left for us a
 vor Grant that this cup may
 O Fa - ther, in Thy fa - en.
 While yet He spake, lo!
 Stay near and pray to heav -

© Alan, Thy Precious Sin Berman

life He gave,
 The sick from ev - ry ill
 He saved. Un -
 wom - an brought
 Much cost - ly oint - ment she had bought.
 Up -
 pass from Me.
 All things are pos - si - ble with Thee!
 Yet
 Tes - ta - ment His death till this world's end.
 He
 Ju - das came,
 A heard there fol - lowed
 in his train,
 With

til His hour of an - guish,
 When He would be our Sac - ri - fice,
 Pay
 on the Lord she poured it.
 Though some dis - ci - ples took it ill,
 Je -
 washed their feet - but - ed,
 De - pict - ing thus His love for them,
 Com -
 spears and clubs a - en.
 A sign had the be - tray - er told:
 Him

for our sin the aw - ful price,
 Yea, on the cross would lan - guish.
 sus did not a - gainst her rail;
 Ju - das in ha - tred scorned it.
 mand - ing them to do the same;
 With com - fort He con - clud - ed.
 ing -
 off as back to them
 He came, He found them qui - et sleep -
 ing -
 whom I kiss,
 on Him take hold,
 Him shall ye then im - pris - on.

6 Since Jesus knew all things to be,
 He went to meet them willingly
 And spake unto them mildly:
 Whom seek ye here with such a swell?
 Jesus! They spake, and back they fell,
 Fearful, but ragging wildly.
 Judas then kissed Him, as he'd said,
 The dreadful hoard upon Him sped
 And bound Him in their raving.
 Peter drew forth his sword, came near,
 Clef off the bishop's servant's ear,
 But Jesus answered, saying:
 Him to condemn by lying.

7 Fight not! Thy sword put in its sheath;
 Shall I not drink My cup of grief?
 This said, He healed the servant.
 The hoard to Annas Jesus sped
 And Him to Caiaphas they led,
 With bonds and fetters burdened.
 Peter came to the court within
 Through a disciple known to them,
 The bishop questioned Jesus there,
 False witnesses they brought to bear,
 Him to condemn by lying.