

LIBRETTO

Arise, make haste

1. Chorale

Arise, make haste
quite solemnly
to celebrate the Savior's feast day with thanks!
Sweet is the thanks,
the song of praise,
through which we exalt him, the God of love.

2. Aria

Great is the Lord! His wide firmament
resounds everywhere with the glory of his name.
Countless multitudes of stars and suns confess the
glory of the Eternal.
The thunders sound his praise. Roaring seas laud him.

3. Recitative

Wherever my eye turns, wherever I listen,
there I find witnesses to his glory,
there I find witnesses to his might.
Does not one day tell to the other this teaching,
does not one night tell it clearly
to the other night? To whom is it unknown?
As far, o God, as the miracle of your hand,
as the sun reaches, as far as the clouds extend,
the voice of nature heralds you.
Where is the nation
that does not understand your language,
that cannot understand it at all?—Only the fool
mistakes it,
who wishes not to hear it.

4a. Aria

Great is the Lord! Let us sing to him, to him!
May the Lord be our song.
Let us bring him praise, worship, glory!
My whole heart glows.

4b. Chorus

You nations, hear it and kneel down in the dust!
Bear witness: the Lord is God!

4c. Chorus

You heavens, resound from pole to pole
and rejoice: the Lord is God!

5. Recitative

What a song of jubilation rises
up to God's throne!
Do you sing to him, sinners?—Be silent!
What are we before him?—Dust. Yet, even if his ear
listened to the praise of the lowly dust,
insofar as this dust honored him from pure impulses,
still the songs that resound from unholy lips
can never please him.
Creation is joyfully subject to him,
heaven prays to him in deepest reverence.
We men may rise up impudently against him
and dare daily to dishonor his law,
which he as sovereign gave to us.

How my heart trembles before his wrath!
I already hear his judge's voice.
Can you, ah protect me from his rage, o grave,
so that for all eternity his eye may never again perceive me!

Do you not tremble with me, o sinful race?
Is not the God of wisdom and of strength
also holy and righteous?

Yes, holy and just,—yet with love and grace,
a God who willingly removes our guilt,
willingly forgives the sins,
punishes the misdeeds and yet loves the sinner.

6. Duet

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, so that all who believe in him shall not be lost, but rather have eternal life.

7. Accompanied Recitative

You came,
you holiest son of God,
were born in the valley of dust and of night,
in our world, as man, as Jesus Christ,
for us and among us.
You have brought the righteousness of truth, which you
swore before the throne,
you have brought righteousness to the light through you.

God, whose love embraced me even before I knew you;
who, before I even sensed,
loved me even before the world!
My heart shall burn eternally, God, with thanks and love
for you.

8a. Aria

Be a blessing to me, my brothers!
I will rejoice in his goodness with you.
I will dedicate happy songs to him
with you in his sanctuary.

Delighted will I hear from his servant's mouth
the sweet teaching
of that Savior who also died for me,
of the life that he won for me.

Often, when I thought of you, God,
my soul shrank back before your majesty,
until your higher consolation revived it.
Now I see salvation and happiness in you.

Now my pure song of praise to you joins in
rejoicing with your choirs of nations.

8b. Chorus

Ever shall my heart be full of your glory,
my mouth be full of your praise.

9. Chorale

Counsel, might, and hero,
through which the world
and all exists, in heaven and on earth!
Christendom
praises you in delight
and all knees shall be bent to you.

Translation © 2018 by Ruth B. Libbey

Many thanks to Mark Knoll for helpful suggestions regarding points of translation.