

Final Hymn

PASSION CHORALE 76 76 D

Traditional secular melody
in H. L. Hassler's *Musicalisches Lustgarten* 1601
harmonised by J. S. Bach 1685-1750

The image displays a musical score for a chorale, consisting of four systems of music. Each system is written for two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The music is in a 76-measure piece, with a 7-measure phrase repeated four times. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody in the treble clef is a traditional secular tune, while the bass clef provides a harmonic accompaniment. The score concludes with a final cadence in the key of D major.

O sacred head, sore wounded,
Defiled and put to scorn;
O kingly head, surrounded
With mocking crown of thorn:
What sorrow mars thy grandeur?
Can death thy bloom deflower?
O countenance whose splendour
The hosts of heaven adore.

In thy most bitter passion
My heart to share doth cry,
With thee for my salvation
Upon the Cross to die.
Ah, keep my heart thus movèd
To stand thy Cross beneath,
To mourn thee, well-belovèd,
Yet thank thee for thy death.

My days are few, O fail not,
With thine immortal power,
To hold me that I quail not
In death's most fearful hour:
That I may fight befriended,
And see in my last strife
To me thine arms extended
Upon the Cross of life.

Paul Gerhardt (1607 – 1676), tr. Robert Bridges (1844 – 1930)