



BACH VESPERS | TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday, November 12th 2023

WELCOME TO
BACH VESPERS

For at least the last eighteen centuries, some formula for prayer at the end of the day has been part of the Christian tradition. We don't know precisely what the earliest Vespers looked like or sounded like, but certain themes have endured, including confession, gratitude, and light. While Vespers never quite became a significant part of Lutheran piety, that it is still kept at all in the Lutheran tradition may be thanks to one church: the Thomaskirche in Leipzig.

For twenty-seven years Johann Sebastian Bach served as the Kantor of the Thomaskirche, where most of his cantatas were composed—and though Bach's cantatas were generally performed at a Sunday morning liturgy, our practice at Bach Vespers imagines what can happen when we juxtapose the ancient tradition of Vespers with the cantatas of the principal musician of the city that helped it endure. Whether you identify as faith-filled or not so sure, Lutheran or Luther-who? you are welcome to participate in the singing, prayer, and ritual only to the extent you feel comfortable doing so. Welcome. There will always be a place for you here.

WELCOME TO
HOLY TRINITY

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the largest progressive Lutheran body in the United States. As Lutherans, we go about Christianity in a Lutheran way, emphasizing that we are reconciled with God (justified) not by anything we do, but through and because of God's love, freely given (grace). We love questions more than quick fixes (paradox); we read the Bible in a way that honors it as the source and norm of faith, but not as a literal handbook. As Lutherans, we also lift up the gifts and capacity for ministry (vocation) that everyone holds. Holy Trinity is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation welcoming all persons in Christ's name regardless of sexual orientation, race, ethnic origin, gender, class or other possible exclusionary distinctions. With a heart for the city, a passion for justice, and a commitment to the arts, we seek to be a place where all God's people will know they are loved.

LIVE STREAMING
AT HOLY TRINITY

Please be aware that worship this evening is being filmed, photographed, and live streamed on our YouTube channel. Your likeness and/or voice may be captured by our equipment. Please alert an usher at the entrance if you have any concerns. Selections may be used on our website and in our public relations materials.

VESPERS

prelude

Inventio in C a 2 Clav. et Pedal

Heinrich Nikolaus Gerber

(1702-1775)

Gerber studied with J.S. Bach from 1724-1726, during which he studied counterpoint and Bach's inventions, writing his own under the composer's tutelage. Several of Bach's keyboard works survive today thanks to copies made in Gerber's hand.

motet

There is no God as foolish men (Psalm 14)
from *The Whole Booke of Psalmes*

John Farmer

c.1570-c.1601

*There is no God as foolish men affirm in their mad mood,
their drifts are all corrupt and vain, not one of them doth good,
the Lord beheld from heaven high, the whole race of mankind,
and saw not one that sought indeed, the living God to find.*

*They went all wide, and were corrupt, and truly there was non,
that in the world did any good, no, not so much as one.
Is all their judgment so fat lost, thet all work mischief still,
Eating my people e'en as bread, not one to seek God's will.*

*When they thus rage, then suddenly great fear on them shall fall;
For God doth love the righteous men, and will preserve them all.
Ye mock the doings of the poor, to their reproach and shame;
Because they put their trust in God, and call upon his Name.*

*But who shall give thy people health and when wilt thou fulfill
thy promise made to Israel from out of Zion hill.
For when thou shalt restore again such as were captive led,
then Jacob shall therein rejoice, and Israel be glad.*

When invited by the presider, the assembly stands and faces the rear doors.

blowing of the
incense

Let us pray. *Silence is kept.* Let our prayers rise before you as incense, O God, and let your lovingkindness descend upon us, that with the church on earth and the whole heavenly host we may sing your praises, through your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

You may light your candle from one of the aisle candles or from your neighbor. When holding a lit candle during this liturgy, please ensure that your candle remains completely upright at all times.

entrance hymn

“O Trinity, O blessed light”

O HEILIGE DREIFALTIGKEIT

1 O Trin - i - ty, O bless - ed Light, O U - ni -
2 To you our morn - ing song of praise, to you our
3 All glo - ry be to God a - bove and to the

ty of sov - 'reign might: as now the fi - 'ry
eve - ning prayer we raise; to you in awe we
Son, the prince of love, and to the Spir - it,

sun de - parts, shed ho - ly light with - in our hearts.
bend the knee from age to age, e - ter - nal - ly.
One in Three! We praise you, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

The assembly sits. Please ensure that your candle remains completely upright at all times.

Let the mouth of the wise say: we avoid the true God,
but their hearts are full of unbelief, with their actions they deny it
their nature is indeed corrupt, it is an abomination before God,
no one is doing her any good.

God himself from heaven looked down on the children of all men,
He went to see if he would find someone
who would have judged his understanding,
would do earnestly according to God's words and ask after his own will.

There was no one on the right path, they were all out of step,
everyone followed his own madness and lost his morals,
Nobody would do her any good, although her courage betrayed a lot,
their actions should please God.

How long will those who burden themselves with such effort be ignorant?
and in return do devour my people and feed themselves with its damage?
Their mourning is not based on God, they do not call on him in times of need,
they want to take care of themselves.

Therefore her heart is never still and is always in fear,
God wants to stay with the pious who obey him with faith,
but you revile the poor man's counsel and mock everything he says,
that God has become his consolation.

Who shall save the poor Israel in Zion?
God will have mercy on his people and release the prisoners,
He will do this through his son, and Jacob will rejoice
and Israel rejoice.

God of wisdom and truth, without you our lives go astray, and we face corruption
within and around us. Show your mighty presence among us, that we may joyfully
proclaim your deliverance in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

a reading
from the
christian
scriptures

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. ¹²Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— ¹³the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. ¹⁴If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵If the work is burned, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire.



Please extinguish your candle.

sermon

The Reverend Timothy Weisman



Miniature from the Hours of Catherine of Cleves, Morgan Library & Museum.

Es reißet euch ein schrecklich End

BWV 90

aria tenore

You journey towards a terrifying end
you sinful defilers.
The extent of sin is at full measure,
yet your utterly stubborn mind
has entirely forgotten its judge.

*Es reißet euch ein schrecklich Ende,
ihr sündlichen Verächter, hin.
Der Sünden Maß ist voll gemessen,
doch euer ganz verstockter Sinn
hat seines Richters ganz vergessen.*

recitativo alto

The goodness of the Most High
is renewed day after day,
the ungrateful however sins
incessantly despite grace.
O, a distressful evil shame,
thus you are driven to your demise.
Alas! will not your heart be stirred,
that God's goodness might
lead you to true repentance?
His abiding heart is revealed
for incalculable benefit:
soon he has the temple constructed,
soon the pasture will be prepared
upon which the word's manna falls,
to uphold you so.
Nevertheless, O wicked of this life,
this benefit comes to you in vain.

*Des Höchsten Güte
wird von Tag zu Tage neu,
der Undank aber sündigt
stets auf Gnade.
O, ein verzweifelt böser Schade,
so dich in dein Verderben führt.
Ach! wird dein Herze nicht gerührt,
daß Gottes Güte
dich zur wahren Buße leitet?
Sein treues Herze läßt sich
zu ungezählter Wohltat schauen:
bald läßt er Tempel auerbauen,
bald wird die Aue zubereitet,
auf die des Wortes Manna fällt,
so dich erhält.
Jedoch, o! Bosheit dieses Lebens,
die Wohltat ist an dir vergebens.*

aria basso

Thus the vengeful
judge zealously indeed extinguishes
the lamp of the word,
as punishment.
You must, O sinners,
because of your transgressions
suffer this horror on holy ground,
you make the temple into a house of
murder.

*So löschet im Eifer
der rächende Richter
den Leuchter des Wortes
zur Strafe doch aus.
Ihr müßet, o Sünder,
durch euer Verschulden
den Greuel an heiliger Stätte erdulden,
ihr machet aus Tempeln ein
mörderisch Haus.*

recitativo tenore

But the eye of God views us
as the chosen ones:
and while no one can count
the multitude of foes
the champion of Israel
protects us still,
his arm hinders the enemy's advance
and helps us up;
in peril the
power of the word becomes
even more recognizable
and apparent.

*Doch Gottes Auge sieht auf uns
als Auserwählte:
und wenn kein Mensch
der Feinde Menge zählte,
so schützt uns doch
der Held in Israel,
es hemmt sein Arm der Feinde Lauf
und hilft uns auf;
des Wortes Kraft
wird in Gefahr
um so viel mehr erkannt
und offenbar.*

corale

Lead us with your right hand
and bless our city and our land;
grant us always your holy word,
protect us from the Devil's
cunning and murder;
impart a blessed final hour,
that we might ever be with you.

*Leit uns mit deiner rechten Hand
und segne unser Stadt und Land;
gib uns allzeit dein heiliges Wort,
behüt für's Teufels
List und Mord;
verleih ein selges Stündelein,
auf daß wir ewig bei dir sein!*

{

word of
welcome

Anthony Blake Clark, Artistic Director

offertory

Suite in D major, HWV 341: I. Overture

George Frederic Handel

(1685-1759)

In addition to giving towards the ministry of Bach Vespers as the offering plates are being passed, you can

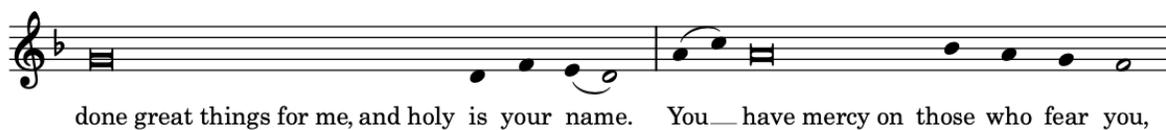
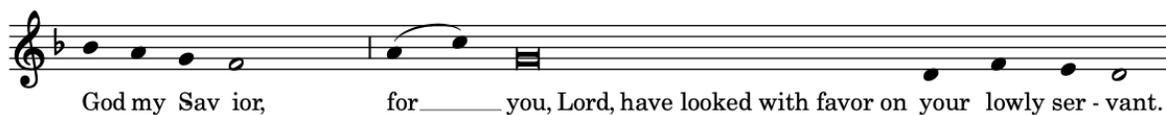
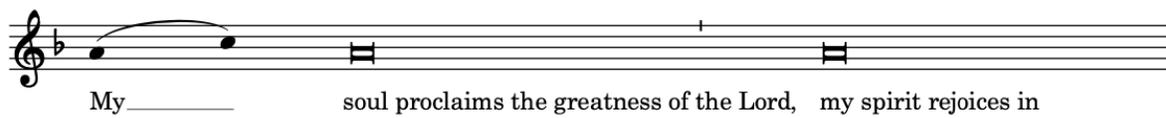
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Silence is kept. The assembly stands with the president.

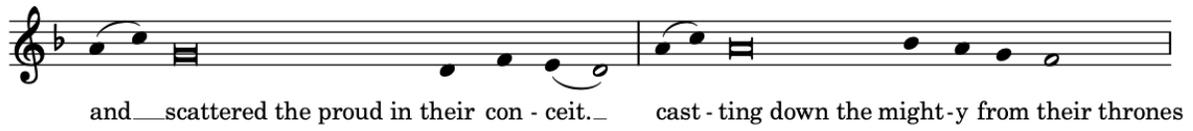
magnificat

TONUS PEREGRINUS





from generations to gene - ra - tion. You have shown strength with your arm



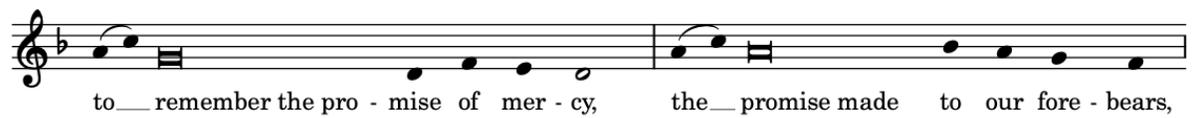
and scattered the proud in their con - ceit. cast - ting down the might - y from their thrones



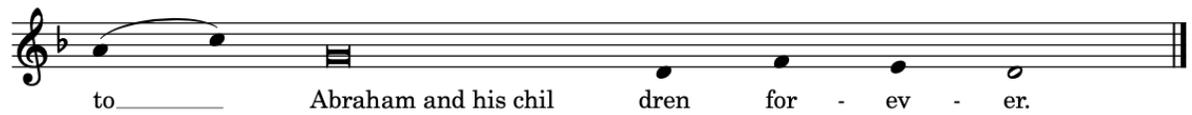
and lifting up the low - ly. You have filed the hungry with good things



and sent the rich a - way emp - ty. You have come to the aid of your ser - vant Is - rael,



to remember the pro - mise of mer - cy, the promise made to our fore - bears,



to Abraham and his chil dren for - ev - er.

Let us pray. *Silence is kept.*

collect
for the day
(Gelasian)

Almighty God, we implore you, show your mercy to your humble servants that we, who put no trust in our own merits, may not be dealt with after the severity of your judgment but according to your mercy; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

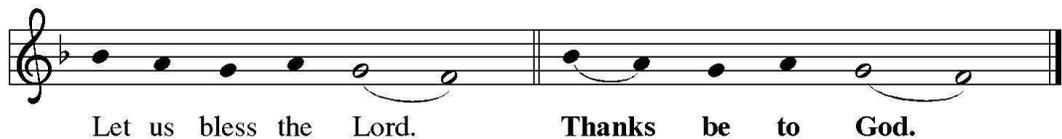
collect
for guidance
(Julian of Norwich)

In you, God almighty, we have our preservation and our bliss. In you, Christ, we have our restoring and our saving. You are our mother, brother, and Savior. In you, our Lord the Holy Spirit, is marvelous and plenteous grace. You are our clothing; for love you wrap us and embrace us. You are our maker, our lover, our keeper. Teach us to believe that by your grace all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well. **Amen.**

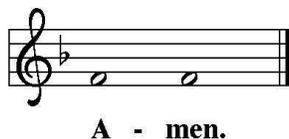
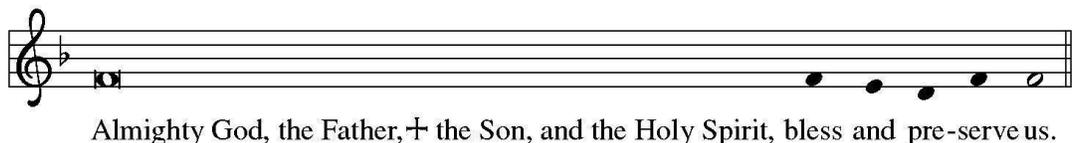
collect
for peace
(Martin Luther)

Lord Jesus Christ, hurry. Do not delay in bringing the blessed day when the hope of happy redemption will be fulfilled. For this reason you have asked us to pray: Your kingdom come. Since you have so commanded us to pray, give us grace and help to pray diligently, firmly believing that we shall finally come to such glory. Continually mortify this old body that we may finally receive a new body not so full of sin nor so inclined to all manner of evil as the life we now live. Give us bodies that will not become sick, nor suffer persecutions, nor die. Give us bodies redeemed from all temporal and spiritual misery, like your own glorified body, dear Lord Jesus Christ. Grant that the glad and blessed day of our redemption and glorification may come soon, and that we may realize it as we now hear and believe your word. **Amen.**

benedicamus



benediction



During the hymn, the assembly turns to face the cross as the procession passes by, orienting ourselves towards Central Park West and the world.

sending hymn

“Lord, God of hosts, whose mighty hand”

VATER UNSER

1. Lord God of hosts, whose might - y hand Do - min - ion holds on
2. For those who weak and bro - ken lie In wea - ri - ness and
3. For those to whom the call shall come, We pray thy ten - der
4. For those who mi - ni - ster and heal, And spend them - selves, their

sea and land, In— peace and— war thy will we see Shap -
ag - o - ny, Great Heal - er,— to their beds of pain Come,
wel - come home; The— toil, the— bit - ter - ness, all past, We
skill, their zeal; Re - new their hearts with Christ - like faith, And

- ing the larg - er lib - er - ty; Na - tions may rise and
touch, and make them whole a - gain. O hear a peo - ple's
trust them to they love at last. O hear a peo - ple's
guard them from di - sease and death; And in thine own good

na - tions fall, Thy change - less__ pur - pose rules them all.
prayers, and bless Thy ser - vants in their hour of stress.
prayers for all Who, no - bly__ stri - ving no - bly fall.
time, Lord, send Thy peace on__ earth till time shall end.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are centered between the two staves. The music ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

The assembly sits for the postlude.

postlude	Prelude & Fugue in E Minor, BWV 533, "Cathedral"	J.S. Bach
dismissal	Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.	

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	*indicates soloist
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THE BACH VESPERS SEASON

SUNDAYS AT 5PM

October 29th	BWV 75 “Die Elenden sollen essen”
November 12th	BWV 90 “Es reiet euch ein schrecklich Ende”
December 10th	BWV 243 Magnificat in D Major
December 17th	Lessons & Carols
January 7th	BWV 153 “Schau, lieber Gott, wie meine Feind”
February 11th	BWV 22 “Jesus nahm zu sich die Zwlfe”
February 18th	Organ Vespers with Dr. Jeremy Filsell
March 29th	BWV 199 “Mein Herze Schwimmt in Blut”
March 31st	BWV 4 “ Christ Lag in Todesbanden”
April 28th	BWV 165 “O heiliges Geist und Wasserbad”
May 18th	Gala Concert: BWV 232 Mass in B-minor

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