

BACH VESPERS | REFORMATION SUNDAY

**Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> 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

Trio in d minor, BWV 440

Johann Ludwig Krebs

(1713-1780)

*J.L. Krebs was a student of J.S. Bach and grew up as a boy chorister in the Thomaskirche in Leipzig with Cantor Bach. Trio sonatas were often used as pedagogical exercises, so it's possible that this work was written by Krebs under the supervision of Bach.*

motet

Alleluja, gelobet sei Gott

attr. Johann Kuhnau

*Alleluia, praise be to God,  
let us sing from the bottom of our hearts,  
because God has created such joy today  
that we shall not forget at any time.*

*Johann Kuhnau was Bach's predecessor at the Thomaskirche. Though this movement is traditionally included in the Christmas cantata "Uns ist ein Kind geboren", this Alleluia was not necessarily written for Christmastide. The work could be found in the music library at the Thomaskirche and was the first cantata conducted by J.S. Bach after he was installed in Leipzig exactly 300 years ago in 1723.*

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

blessing 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.*

1 A might - y for - tress is our God,  
 2 No strength of ours can match his might!  
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land  
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide,

a sword and shield vic - to - rious;  
 We would be lost, re - ject - ed.  
 all threat - 'ning to de - vour us,  
 no thanks to foes, who fear it;

he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod  
 But now a cham - pion comes to fight,  
 we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand;  
 for God him - self fights by our side

and wins sal - va - tion glo - rious.  
 whom God him - self e - lect - ed.  
 they can - not o - ver - pow'r us.  
 with weap - ons of the Spir - it.

The old e - vil foe, sworn to work us woe,  
 Ask who this may be: Lord of hosts is he!  
 This world's prince may rage, in fierce war en - gage.  
 If they take our house, goods, fame, child, or spouse,

with dread craft and might he arms him - self to fight.  
 Christ Je - sus our Lord, God's on - ly Son, a - dored.  
 He is doomed to fail; God's judg - ment must pre - vail!  
 wrench our life a - way, they can - not win the day.

On earth he has no e - qual.  
 He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
 The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

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

psalm 22

I will proclaim your name among the assembly,  
Lord God the Father,  
and praise your great power  
In my dear brotherhood, Alleluia.

Becker Psalter

Praise the Lord all together  
In righteous awe of his kingdom,  
The seed of Jacob brings honor  
And Israel was in awe of him. Alleluia.

The miserable of this earth  
Shall eat and be full.  
Those who call to you praise you,  
Your heart shall live forever. Alleluia.

The nations shall come  
And give glory to our God.  
Your ministry pleases the Lord,  
His kingdom extends throughout the entire world. Alleluia.

No one is above the other,  
He filled them all with goodness  
Both those who are great and mighty,  
And those in sorrow shall enter. Alleluia.

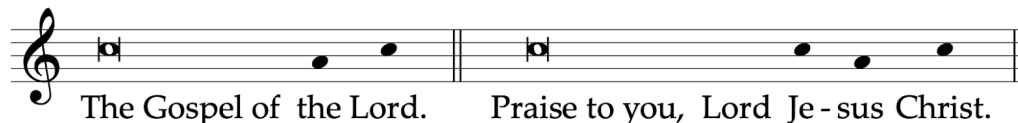
psalm  
prayer

Eternal God, your Son cried out in anguish from the cross, and you delivered him. Do not hide your face from those who cry out to you. By his death and resurrection bring life where there is death: feed the hungry, strengthen the weak, and break the chains of oppression, that all people may rejoice in your saving deeds through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

a reading  
from the  
holy gospels

Luke 16:19-31

<sup>19</sup>“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup>And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup>who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. <sup>22</sup>The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup>In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup>He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’ <sup>25</sup>But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup>Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ <sup>27</sup>He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house— <sup>28</sup>for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ <sup>29</sup>Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ <sup>30</sup>He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ <sup>31</sup>He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”



*Please extinguish your candle.*

coro

The afflicted shall eat,  
such that they become sated,  
and those who ask after the Lord  
will praise him.  
Your heart shall live eternally.

Die Elenden sollen essen,  
dass sie satt werden,  
und die nach dem Herrn fragen,  
werden ihn preisen.  
Euer Herz soll ewiglich leben.

recitativo basso

What use is purple's majesty,  
given that it dies away?  
What use is the greatest  
overabundance,  
Because everything that we see  
must vanish?  
What use is the stimulation  
of idle senses,  
For our body itself must [depart]  
from here [at death]?  
Ah, how quickly it happens,  
That wealth, pleasure, splendor  
Make [life for] the spirit hell.

Was hilft des Purpurs Majestät,  
da sie vergeht?  
Was hilft der grösste  
Überfluss,  
Weil alles, so wir sehen,  
verschwinden muss?  
Was hilft der Kitzel  
eitler Sinnen,  
Denn unser Leib muss  
selbst von hinnen?  
Ach, wie geschwind ist es geschehen,  
Dass Reichtum, Wollust, Pracht  
Den Geist zur Hölle macht!

aria tenore

My Jesus shall be my everything.  
His precious blood is my purple,  
He himself my very highest good,  
And his spirit's fervor of love  
My very sweetest wine of joy.

Mein Jesus soll mein alles sein!  
Mein Purpur ist sein teures Blut,  
Er selbst mein allerhöchstes Gut,  
Und seines Geistes Liebesglut  
Mein allersüßter Freudenwein.

recitativo tenore

God hurls down and lifts up,  
in time and eternity.  
Whoever seeks heaven in the world  
Will be accursed there  
But whoever survives hell here  
Will be gladdened there.

Gott stürzet und erhöhet  
in Zeit und Ewigkeit.  
Wer in der Welt den Himmel sucht,  
Wird dort verflucht.  
Wer aber hier die Hölle überstehet,  
Wird dort erfreut.

aria soprano

I accept my suffering  
with joy.  
Whoever has borne Lazarus'  
torments patiently,  
The angels will take him to  
themselves.

Ich nehme mein Leiden  
mit Freuden auf mich.  
Wer Lazarus' Plagen  
Geduldig ertragen,  
Den nehmen die Engel  
zu sich.

recitativo soprano

God meanwhile bestows  
a clear conscience,  
Whereby a Christian can enjoy  
A small good with great delight.  
Yes, even if he leads through  
extended distress toward death,  
Then at the end it is, yet, done well.

Indes schenkt Gott  
ein gut Gewissen,  
Dabei ein Christe kann ein kleines Gut  
Mit grosser Lust geniessen.  
Ja, führt er auch durch lange  
Not zum Tod,  
So ist es doch am Ende wohlgetan.

corale

What God does is done well;  
If right now I must taste the cup  
That is bitter according to  
my way of thinking,  
I do not let myself yet be afraid,  
Because yet at the last  
I will be cheered  
With sweet comfort in my heart;  
There shall all sorrows give way.

Was Gott tut, das ist wohlgetan;  
Muss ich den Kelch gleich schmecken,  
Der bitter ist nach  
meinem Wahn,  
Lass ich mich doch nicht schrecken,  
Weil doch zuletzt  
Ich werd ergötzt  
Mit süssem Trost im Herzen;  
Da weichen alle Schmerzen.

sermon

The Reverend Timothy Weisman

## Die Elenden sollen essen Part II

sinfonia

recitativo alto

Only one thing debilitates  
a Christian mind:  
When it contemplates  
the poverty of its spirit.  
It believes, to be sure,  
God's goodness  
That makes all things new;  
Yet it lacks the strength  
To provide to the transcendent life  
The growth and  
the fruit.

Nur eines kränkt  
ein christliches Gemüte:  
Wenn es an seines Geistes  
Armut denkt.  
Es gläubt zwar  
Gottes Güte,  
Die alles neu erschafft;  
Doch mangelt ihm die Kraft,  
Dem überirdischen Leben  
Das Wachstum und  
die Frucht zu geben.

aria alto

Jesus makes me spiritually rich.  
If I can receive his spirit  
I will long for nothing further;  
For my life thrives likewise.

Jesus macht mich geistlich reich.  
Kann ich seinen Geist empfangen,  
Will ich weiter nichts verlangen;  
Denn mein Leben wächst zugleich.

recitativo basso

Whoever just abides in Jesus,  
exercises self-denial,  
Such that in God's love  
he might exercise belief,  
Has, when what is earthly  
has vanished,  
Discovered himself and God.

Wer nur in Jesu bleibt,  
Die Selbstverleugnung treibt,  
Dass er in Gottes Liebe  
sich gläubig übe,  
Hat, wenn das Irdische  
verschwunden,  
Sich selbst und Gott gefunden.

aria basso

My heart believes and loves.  
For Jesus' sweet flames,  
From which my own emanate,  
Coalesce upon me,  
Because he gives himself over to me.

Mein Herze glaubt und liebt.  
Denn Jesu süsse Flammen,  
Aus den' die meinen stammen,  
Gehn über mich zusammen,  
Weil er sich mir ergibt.



recitativo tenore	<p>Oh poverty that no wealth equals:          When the entire world          Flees out of the heart          And Jesus alone just rules!          In this way a Christian is led to God.          Grant, God,          that we do not squander it.</p>	<p>O Armut, der kein Reichtum gleicht!          Wenn aus dem Herzen          Die ganze Welt entweicht          Und Jesus nur allein regiert.          So wird ein Christ zu Gott geführt.          Gib, Gott,          dass wir es nicht verscherzen!</p>
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corale	<p>What God does is done well—          I will abide by this.          If distress, death, and affliction may          Drive me on the rough path,          Then God will,          Most paternally,          Hold me in his arms;          That is why I just let him rule.</p>	<p>Was Gott tut, das ist wohlgetan,          Dabei will ich verbleiben.          Es mag mich auf die rauhe Bahn          Not, Tod und Elend treiben,          So wird Gott mich          Ganz väterlich          In seinen Armen halten;          Drum lass ich ihn nur walten</p>
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offertory	Chorale prelude on <i>Was Gott tut, das ist wohlgetan</i>	Johann Ludwig Krebs
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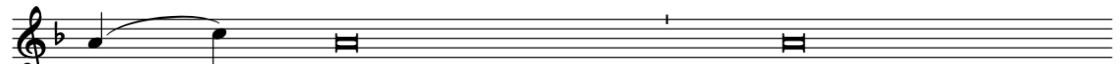
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word of welcome	Anthony Blake Clark, Artistic Director
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*Silence is kept. The assembly stands with the president.*

magnificat



My \_\_\_\_\_ soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in



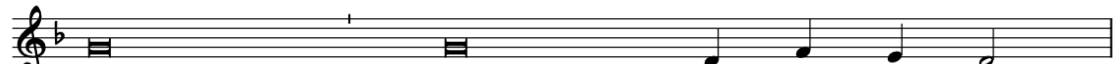
God my Sav - ior, for \_\_\_\_\_ you, Lord, have looked with favor on



your lowly ser - - - vant.



From this day all generations will call me bless - ed: you \_\_\_\_\_



the Almighty, have done great things for me, and holy is your name. \_\_\_\_\_



You have mercy on those who fear you, from generations to gen - er - a - 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 send 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)


O God, the strength of all who trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing, grant us your grace to keep your commandments that we may please you in both will and deed; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

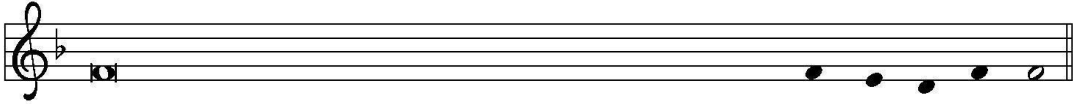
collect  
for guidance  
(Hildegard of Bingen)


Fire of the Spirit, life of the lives of creatures, spiral of sanctity, bond of all natures, glow of charity, lights of clarity, taste of sweetness to sinners: be with us and hear us. Composer of all things, light of all the risen, key of salvation, release from prison, hope of all unions, scope of all chastities, joy in the glory, strong honor: be with us and hear us. **Amen.**

collect  
for peace  
(Anonymous)

We thank you, O God, for the saints of all ages; for those who in times of darkness kept the lamp of faith burning; for the great souls who saw visions of larger truth and dared to declare it; for the multitude of quiet and gracious souls whose presence has purified and sanctified the world; and for those known and loved by us, who have passed from their earthly fellowship in to the fuller light of life with you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

benedicamus   
Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

benediction   
Almighty God, the Father, † the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre-serve us.



**A - men.**

sending hymn

“What God ordains is always good”

WAS GOTT TUT,  
DAS IST WOHLGETAN

What God or - dains is al - ways good: His will is just and ho - ly. As he di - rects my  
What God or - dains is al - ways good: He nev - er will de - ceive me; He leads me in his  
What God or - dains is al - ways good: His lov - ing thought at - tends me No poi - son can be  
What God or - dains is al - ways good: He is my friend and fa - ther; he suf - fers naught to

life for me, I fol - low meek and low - ly. My God in - deed In  
own right way, And nev - er will he leave me. I take con - tent what  
in the cup that my phy - si - cian sends me. My God is true; each  
do my harm though man - y storms may gath - er. Now I may know both

ev - ry need Knows well how he will shield me To him, then, I will yield me.  
he has send; His hand that sends me sad - ness will turn my tears to glad - ness.  
morn - ing new I trust his grave un - end - ing, My life to him com - mend ing.  
joy and woe; some - day I shall see clear - ly that he has loved me dear - ly.

postlude

Prelude and Fugue in C Major, BWV 545

J.S. Bach

dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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# THE BACH VESPERS SEASON

SUNDAYS AT 5PM

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

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