Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

We are glad that you have joined us for this evening's Bach Cantata Vespers.

For those who have trouble hearing, sound enhancement units are available in the back of the church and may be obtained from an usher.

Please silence all cell phones and pagers.

Recording or photography of any kind during the service is strictly forbidden.



Friday in the Octave of Trinity Sunday June 24, 2011 + 7:15 p.m.

EVENING PRAYER

+ OPENING +

Prelude

Concerto in G Major for Four Violins

Largo non tanto Allegro Un poco adagio Vivace

Nocturne

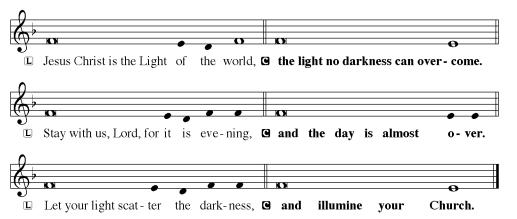
Sarabande (from Suite No. 6 in D Major, BWV 1012)

Georg Philipp Telemann (1681–1767)

Georg Goltermann (1824–1898) Johann Sebastian Bach

(1685–1750) arr. Colin Hampton (1911–1996)

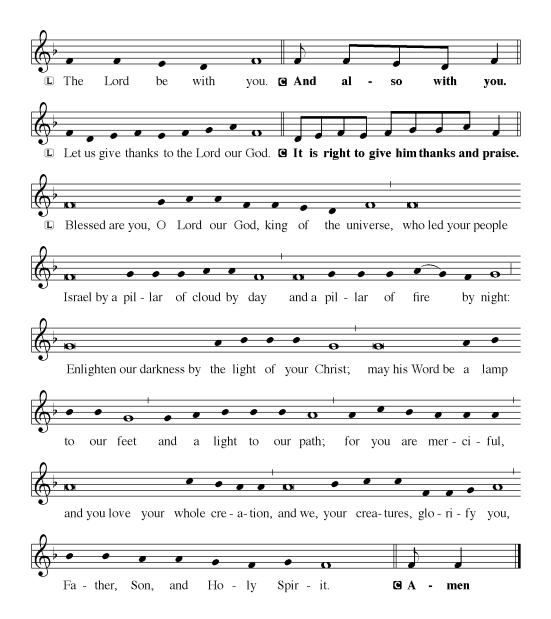
We stand, facing the candle as we sing. SERVICE OF LIGHT







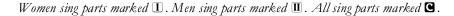






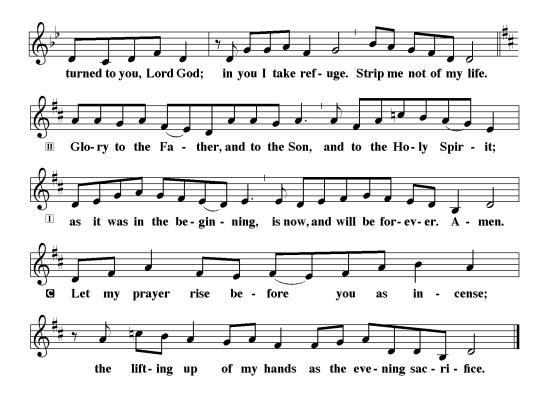
+ PSALMODY +

We sit. **PSALM 141**





6



Silence for meditation is observed, then: **PSALM PRAYER**

- Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before you, O Lord, and let your lovingkindness descend upon us, that with purified minds we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host, and may glorify you forever and ever.
- **G** Amen.





MOTET: He That Shall Endure to the End (from *Elijah*)

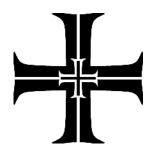
He that shall endure to the end shall be saved. Matthew 24:13

Silence for meditation is observed, then: **PRAYER**

L Almighty God our Father,

dwelling in majesty and mystery, renewing and fulfilling creation by your eternal Spirit, and revealing your glory through our Lord, Jesus Christ: Cleanse us from doubt and fear, and enable us to worship you, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, living and reigning, now and forever.

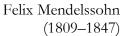
G Amen.



The offering is gathered. **VOLUNTARY**: Machs mit mir, Gott (from Choralvorspiele für Orgel, Opus 67)

Max Reger (1873–1916)

The offering assists in defraying costs associated with the Bach Cantata Camp. Your generosity is appreciated.





We stand. HYMN: "Come, Follow Me," the Savior Spake

The choir sings stanzas two and four in a setting by J. Hermann Schein (1586–1630).



Text: Johann Scheffler, 1624–1677; tr. Charles W. Schaeffer, 1813-1896, alt. Music: MACHS MIT MIR, GOTT, Bartholomäus Gesius, c. 1555-1613, adapt.



+WORD +

We sit. **READING:** 1 Peter 3:8–15

⁸Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called, that you might inherit a blessing. ¹⁰For

"Those who desire life and desire to see good days, let them keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking deceit;

¹¹let them turn away from evil and do good; let them seek peace and pursue it.

¹²For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

¹³Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.

L The Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: Then the Righteous Will Shine Like the Sun

Charles P. Brown (b. 1969)

Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their fathers. Keep yourselves in the love of God. We love because he first loved us. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you. Matthew 13:43; Jude 21; 1 John 4:19; Ephesians 4:32

READING: Luke 5:1–11

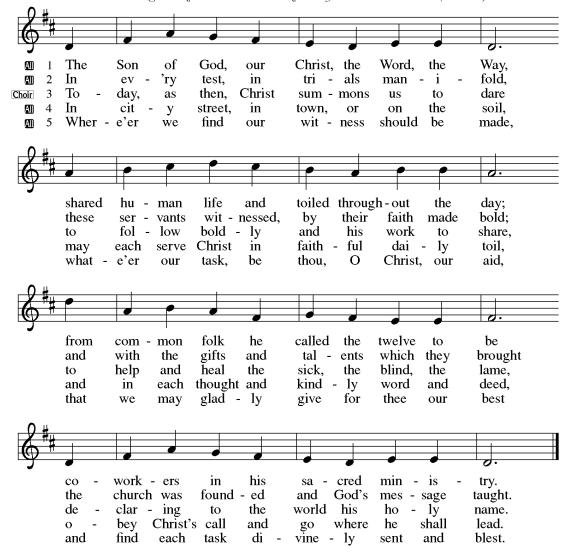
Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ²he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." ⁶When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. ⁷So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" ⁹For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." ¹¹When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

L The Word of the Lord.



We remain seated for the hymn. HYMN: The Son of God, Our Christ

The choir sings stanza three in a harmonization by Michael D. Costello (b. 1979).



Text: Edward M. Blumenfeld, b. 1927, alt. Music: SURSUM CORDA, Alfred M. Smith, 1879–1971 Text © 1957, ren. 1985 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music © 1941 Historic Church of the Ascension, Atlantic City, NJ, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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READING: Romans 8:18–30

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

L The Word of the Lord.

HOMILY

Dr. David S. Yeago

CANTATA: Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten, BWV 93 (If you but trust in God to guide you)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Translation of the German text and notes corresponding to each movement are below. Background notes for the cantata are found on pages 22–23 in this worship folder. Text in boldface type indicates use of the original chorale text by Georg Neumark.

1. Chorus

Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten Und hoffet auf ihn allezeit, Den wird er wunderlich erhalten In allem Kreuz und Traurigkeit. Wer Gott, dem Allerhöchsten, traut, Der hat auf keinen Sand gebaut. The one who leaves to God all power And hopes in him all his days, He will most wondrously protect him Through every cross and sad distress. Who does in God Almighty trust Builds not upon the sand his house.

The complete text and melody of the first stanza of the chorale are presented here just as the text and melody of the seventh stanza appear in the last movement of the cantata. However, in the first movement Bach ingeniously surrounds the chorale melody with a rich polyphonic texture; in the last movement the text is complete, but the full melody is harmonized quite simply.

Notes for this movement continue on the following page.



After an instrumental introduction, the upper choir voices sing brief florid lines. All voices then enter in a simple four-part harmonization of the chorale; as the sopranos sustain the last note of the phrase, the lower voices break out in elaborately embellished parts. The pattern is repeated in succeeding phrases of the melody, but the florid introduction is later assigned to lower voices and then to all voices of the choir. Despite the complex texture, the chorale text would have been easily understood by Bach's congregation. And the memorable chorale melody welcomed by the worshipers.

2. Chorale and Recitative (bass)

Was helfen uns die schweren Sorgen? Sie drücken nur das Herz Mit Zentnerpein, mit tausend Angst und Schmerz. Was hilft uns unser Weh und Ach? Es bringt nur bittres Ungemach. Was hilft es, dass wir alle Morgen

Mit Seufzen von dem Schlaf aufstehn Und mit beträntem Angesicht Des Nachts zu Bette gehn?

Wir machen unser Kreuz und Leid Durch bange Traurigkeit nur größer.

Drum tut ein Christ viel besser, Er trägt sein Kreuz Mit christlicher Gelassenheit. What help to us are grievous worries? They just oppress the heart
With heavy woe, with untold fear and pain.
What help to us our "woe and ah!"? It just brings bitter, sad distress.
What help to us that ev'ry morning
With sighing from our sleep to rise
And with our tearstained countenance
At night to go to bed?
We make ourselves our cross and grief
Through anxious sadness only greater.
So fares a Christian better;
He bears his cross
With Christ-like confidence and calm.

Bach interpolates between four phrases of the embellished chorale melody original expansions of both text and melody. Sometimes called "tropes" these extensions refer vaguely to the melody and form a commentary on the words of the original chorale.

3. Aria (tenor)

Man halte nur ein wenig stille, Wenn sich die Kreuzesstunde naht, Denn unsres Gottes Gnadenwille Verlässt uns nie mit Rat und Tat. Gott, der die Auserwählten kennt, Gott, der sich uns ein Vater nennt, Wird endlich allen Kummer wenden Und seinen Kindern Hilfe senden. If we be but a little quiet, Whene'er the cross's hour draws nigh, For this our God's dear sense of mercy Forsakes us ne'er in word or deed. God, who his own elected knows, God, who himself our "Father" names, Shall one day ev'ry trouble banish And to his children send salvation.

Strings and *continuo* accompany the soloist in a triple-meter, minuet-like movement that presents the cheerful acceptance of the Father's will by his children. The aria is freely composed with only slight references to the original chorale.

4. Duet (soprano and alto)

Er kennt die rechten Freudesstunden, Er weiß wohl, wenn es nützlich sei; Wenn er uns nur hat treu erfunden Und merket keine Heuchelei, So kömmt Gott, eh wir uns versehn, Und lässet uns viel Guts geschehn. He knows the proper time for gladness, He knows well when it profit brings; If he hath only faithful found us And marketh no hypocrisy, Then God comes, e'en before we know, And leaves to us much good result.

The central axis of the cantata is found in a vocal duet of imitative phrases that support the unison strings playing the simple chorale melody. Bach liked the setting of the chorale melody so much that he arranged it as one of his famous *Schübler Chorales* for organ (BWV 647). The singers, of course, present the text of the original stanza four.

5. Chorale and Recitative (tenor)

Denk nicht in deiner Drangsalhitze, Wenn Blitz und Donner kracht Und die ein schwüles Wetter bange macht, Dass du von Gott verlassen seist. Gott bleibt auch in der größten Not, Ja gar bis in den Tod Mit seiner Gnade bei den Seinen. Du darfst nicht meinen, Dass dieser Gott im Schoße sitze, Der täglich wie der reiche Mann, In Lust und Freuden leben kann. Der sich mit stetem Glücke speist, Bei lauter guten Tagen, Muss oft zuletzt, Nachdem er sich an eitler Lust ergötzt, "Der Tod in Töpfen" sagen. Die Folgezeit verändert viel! Hat Petrus gleich die ganze Nacht Mit leerer Arbeit zugebracht Und nichts gefangen: Auf Jesu Wort kann er noch einen Zug erlangen. Drum traue nur in Armut, Kreuz und Pein Auf deines Jesu Güte Mit gläubigem Gemüte; Nach Regen gibt er Sonnenschein Und setzet jeglichem sein Ziel.

Think not within thy trial by fire, When fire and thunder crack And thee a sultry tempest anxious makes, That thou by God forsaken art. God bides e'en in the greatest stress, Yea, even unto death With his dear mercy midst his people. Thou may'st not think then That this man is in God's lap sitting Who daily, like the wealthy man, In joy and rapture life can lead. Whoe'er on constant fortune feeds, Midst naught but days of pleasure, Must oft at last, When once he hath of idle lust his fill, "The pot is poisoned!" utter. Pursuing time transformeth much! Did Peter once the whole night long With empty labors pass the time And take in nothing? At Jesus' word he can e'en yet a catch discover. Midst poverty then trust, midst cross and pain, Trust in thy Jesus' kindness With faithful heart and spirit. When rains have gone, he sunshine brings, Appointing ev'ry man his end.

Notes for this movement are printed on the following page.



Reflecting the form of movement two, this recitative also offers extended commentary on the chorale text. Instead of citing only four text phrases, Bach here gives all six lines of the text of stanza five of the chorale and inserts "troped" phrases of text set to lines of embellished chorale melody. The movement contains several direct biblical references: *Der täglich wie der reiche Mann* (Who daily, like the wealthy man) refers to the story of the Rich Man and Poor Lazarus in Luke 16:19–25; "*Der Tod in Töpfen!*" (literally: "Death is in the pots!") brings to mind the warning given Elisha at the school of the prophets when poison was found in their food, as told in II Kings 4:38–41; *Hat Petrus gleich die ganze Nacht Mit leerer Arbeit zugebracht Und nichts gefangen* (Did Peter once the whole night long With empty labors pass the time) refers appropriately to the Gospel of the Day, Luke 5:1–11, and Peter's great catch of fishes.

6. Aria (soprano)

Ich will auf den Herren schaun Und stets meinem Gott vertraun. **Er ist der rechte Wundermann.** Der die Reichen arm und bloß Und die Armen reich und groß Nach seinem Willen machen kann. I will to the Lord now look And e'er in my God put trust. **He worketh truly wonders rare.** He can wealthy, poor and bare, And the poor, both rich and great, According to his pleasure make.

A single oboe accompanies the soprano in the movement that mirrors movement three. Perhaps Bach wanted to illustrate the textual references to humans looking up to the power of the Almighty with the many rising melodic phrases of both singer and instruments. Only the line "Er ist der rechte Wundersmann" (He is the true miracle-worker) comes directly from stanza six of the chorale.

7. Chorale

Sing, bet und geh auf Gottes Wegen, Verricht das Deine nur getreu Und trau des Himmels reichem Segen, So wird er bei dir werden neu; Denn welcher seine Zuversicht Auf Gott setzt, den verlässt er nicht. Sing, pray, and walk in God's own pathways, Perform thine own work ever true And trust in heaven's ample blessing, Then shall he stand by thee anew; For who doth all his confidence Rest in God, he forsaketh not.

Bach brings the cantata to a close with a second framing chorale movement, but now the melody is harmonized quite simply.

Silence is observed, then:

L In many and various ways God spoke to his people of old by the prophets.

G But now in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.

We stand. MAGNIFICAT



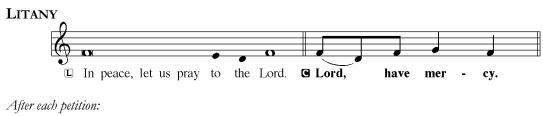


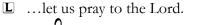






+ PRAYERS +







The litany concludes:

L For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us give thanks to the Lord.



L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence is kept, then:

L Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.



 O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

C Amen.



The choir sings this Gaelic prayer in a setting by Carl F. Schalk.

- O Holy Christ, O Lord of Light, Succour me now in my affright.
 O Holy Christ, ride fast and rout My foes that ring my soul about O Holy Christ, now in this hour, Keep trust with me and be my tower. Amen.
- C Amen.
- Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICAMUS DOMINO



BENEDICTION



All The day Lord, you gave has end - ed; 1 us, Choir 2 We thank that church, sleep - ing you your un All 3 As each con ti nent and is - land to The Choir 4 sun, here hav ing set, is wak - ing All 5 So be it, Lord; your realm shall nev - er, 0 falls the dark ness at your be hest. while earth rolls light, in on ward to the dawn leads day, on an oth er your chil dren un der west _ ern skies, like earth's proud em _ pires, pass а way; То you our ing hymns cend - ed; morn as _ through all the world its watch keep - ing, is the voice of prayer is nev er si - lent, and hour by hour, as day is break - ing, but stand and grow and rule for ev - er, praise shall hal your low now _ our rest. and by night. nev rests day _ er or dies the strain of praise nor а way. fresh hymns thank ful of praise а _ rise. till all your crea tures own your sway.

Stanzas two and four are sung by the choir.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826–1893, alt. Music: ST. CLEMENT, Clement C. Scholefield, 1839–1904

DISMISSAL

- **L** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- G Thanks be to God!

Please join us for a reception in Fellowship Hall.



LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Bruce K. Modahl, leader David S. Yeago, homilist The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor Charles P. Brown, director Steven Wente, service organist Laura Zimmer, continuo organist

Oboes

Meg Busse Christine Janzow Phillips

Violins

Paul Christian (Glen Ellyn, IL) Elizabeth Coffman Lauren Conley (South Elgin, IL) Olivia Mullins (Oak Park, IL) Carolyn Zimmer

Violas

Naomi Hildner Caroline Wood

Cello

Kjerstin Anderson (Oak Park, IL) Sarah Coffman Anne Monson Olivia Sharon Monson (Provo, UT)

Double Bass

Judith Hanna, double bass

Soloists

Douglas Anderson, baritone Christopher M. Cock, tenor Maura Janton Cock, soprano

Soprano

Sarah Block (Elgin, IL) Elizabeth Bretscher (Elgin, IL) Hannah E. McGinnis (Maywood, IL) Mary O'Brien (Melrose Park, IL) Aissa Perez (Hillside, IL) Elizabeth Schmeiser (Cheyenne, WY) Ngaire Whiteside-Bull (River Grove, IL) Katharine E. T. Yeago (Columbia, SC)

Alto

Kjerstin Anderson (Oak Park, IL) Kimberly Baker (Elgin, IL) Sarah Gruendler (Elmwood Park, IL) Bethany Johnson Sarah Schmeiser (Cheyenne, WY) Autumn Selover (Northlake, IL) Madeline Wolf (River Forest, IL)

Tenor

Donald David Childs (Forest Park, IL) Tyler Keady (Chicago, IL) Michael Weil

Bass

Aniello Barone (Melrose Park, IL) Luke Bretscher (Elgin, IL) Phill Kovari (Elgin, IL) Arif Negez Alexander M. Shuppara (Oak Park, IL)

Students are indicated by the inclusion of home city and state behind their names.

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BACKGROUND OF THE CANTATA

At the age of some of our young singers at tonight's worship service, Johann Sebastian Bach, born on March 21, 1685, had already had experiences that set the course for much of his later life. He grew up in Eisenach, where his father, the director of town music, could probably play every instrument himself. Everyone called the boy Sebastian since all but one of his five siblings were also given the name Johann or Johanna. Because his was a musical home and nearly all of his relatives were church musicians, his evident aptitude for music was encouraged. He found he could be of informal help to his father when needed, and he too began to learn to play most wind and stringed instruments; he especially showed great promise on the clavichord and harpsichord, as well as on the violin. His interest in organ construction was fostered when he helped the local organ tuner by crawling among the pipes in the New Church as an agile preteen.

Sadly, both of Sebastian's parents died when he was only ten years old, but his music instruction continued as he went to live with his older brother, Johann Christoph, cantor in Ohrdruf, in 1695. After two years of attendance at the Lyceum preparatory school there, he was awarded a choral scholarship at the highly respected St. Michael's School in Lüneburg, where he continued to study music, the classics, and theology. There he developed as a beginning composer and a gifted organist with a unique understanding of the complexities of organ design and construction. Leaving Lüneburg in 1702 at 17, he was hired as a lower-level violinist at the ducal court in Weimar. More significantly, he received his first appointment to examine (to certify for official acceptance) a new pipe organ in nearby Arnstadt, an unusual opportunity for one only 19 years old. The great performances and compositions of Sebastian did not come for some time, but his earnest study of all aspects of music in early life had laid the groundwork for the creation of his cantatas and his many other masterworks.

All of the movements of the present cantata are based on the Lutheran chorale, *Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten*, by Georg Neumark from 1641 (#453 in *Lutheran Book of Worship*, "If you but trust in God to guide you"). The cantata is part of Bach's second annual cycle of cantatas for the church year, a series in which the texts and tunes of familiar hymns form the basis of the works. Although it was performed for the first time on July 9, 1724, the form in which it is heard today is based on music from 1732–33 when it was revived. The anonymous librettist used the text of the original chorale for the first, fourth, and last movements, and lines or thoughts of the other stanzas form a basis for the remaining movements. The melody of the chorale, particularly the opening interval of the rising fourth, is found in all movements.

The shape of the original chorale melody is "barform," which simply means that the first phrase (the *Stollen*) is immediately repeated before proceeding to the remaining lines (the *Abgesang*). The A-A-B form was a favorite of the *Meistersinger* guilds of the fourteenth century and later, which were immortalized in the opera of Richard Wagner. Many traditional Lutheran chorales, including those found in *LBW*, were written in barform.

The cantata was composed for the Fifth Sunday after Trinity, which features the Epistle reading of I Peter 3:8–15 describing the godly life in Christ, and the Holy Gospel text of Luke 5:1–11, which relates the story of the great catch of fish by the, at first, reluctant Peter. As the chorale text and its libretto expansion unfold, it becomes clear that the theme is not one of blind resignation as much as creative acceptance of God's will in all circumstances of life and childlike trust in his benevolent guidance.



The construction of the cantata reveals a favorite structural plan of the composer, namely the symmetrical arch shape. Following this design Bach wrote somewhat comparable movements at the beginning and end of the cantata and second and third movements that match the fifth and six movements of the work. The pivotal point of the design is the central fourth movement. This demanding architectural structure is similar to one Bach used in the cantata *Christ lag in Todesbanden*, BWV 4 (Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands, *LBW* 134), and in the motet, *Jesu, meine freude*, BWV 227 (Jesus, priceless treasure, *LBW* 457).

The instrumentation consists of 2 oboes, 2 violins, viola, cello, *basso continuo* (keyboard and bass), four-part choir, and soprano, alto, tenor, and bass soloists.

Carlos Messerli

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If you would like to add your name to our Bach Cantata Vespers mailing list or would like to contribute to the series, a form is located in the atrium and, online, at www.bachvespers.org.

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BIOGRAPHIES

Douglas Anderson, baritone, is a long-standing member of Grace Lutheran Church and its choir. He has been soloist in Grace's Bach Cantata Vespers since 1978 and has also been a soloist many times with Chicago's Music of the Baroque. Dr. Anderson is also a neurosurgeon and Professor at Loyola University Medical Center.

Charles P. Brown, director, is the Director of Choral Activities at Concordia University Chicago, where he conducts the Kapelle and Männerchor. He also teaches courses in choral conducting, choral music education, and choral literature.

Christopher M. Cock, tenor, is Professor of Music at Valparaiso University, where he is Director of Choral and Vocal Activities, the Bach Institute, and holds the Phyllis and Richard Duesenberg Chair in Lutheran Music. He frequently appears in his signature role as a Bach Evangelist and is often a soloist for Grace's Bach Cantata Vespers.

Maura Janton Cock, soprano, is an Adjunct Instructor of Voice at Valparaiso University and Administrative Assistant of the Bach Institute on that campus. She has appeared as soloist in oratorios, passions, and cantatas at Valparaiso and most recently for the Michigan Bach Collegium, Bach Chamber Choir and Orchestra of Rockford, Illinois, and the Miami Bach Society. She frequently has been a soloist in Grace's Vesper cantatas.

Elizabeth Coffman, violinist, is Assistant Professor of Music at Concordia University Chicago. She is currently a member of the Chicago Sinfonietta and is the director of the string program at Ascension School in Oak Park. She has performed with several professional orchestras and has served on the faculties of DePauw University and the University of Indianapolis.

Michael D. Costello, director, is the Cantor at Grace Lutheran Church & School, where he directs the Bach Cantata Vespers ministry, serves as primary organist, directs the Grace Senior Choir, and coordinates Grace's ministry of music. Michael is also a pastor and enjoys stepping in and out of a variety of roles. Michael's compositions for choir and organ are published through Augsburg Fortress and MorningStar Music Publishers.

Bruce K. Modahl, homilist, is the Senior Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church & School. He received a doctor of ministry degree from Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia; a master's of theology in homiletics from Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey; a master's of divinity from Christ Seminary–Seminex, St. Louis, Missouri; and an undergraduate degree from Concordia Senior College, Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Anne Monson, cellist, is Assistant Professor of Music at Concordia University Chicago. After graduation from the University of Illinois, she accepted the position of assistant principal cellist in the National Symphony of Costa Rica. She spent eight years performing in various orchestras in Mexico and, upon her return to the United States, taught at Brigham Young University.

Steven Wente, service organist, is Professor of Music and Organist to the Chapel of Our Lord at Concordia University Chicago, where he teaches organ, music history and related courses. He serves as chair of the music department and coordinates the Master of Church Music and the Master of Arts in Music programs.

David S. Yeago, homilist, is the Michael C. Peeler Professor of Systematic Theology at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC. His articles have addressed a wide range of issues, including ecumenism, Biblical hermeneutics, and the theology of Martin Luther. His current research is focused on the theological interpretation of scripture and the role of scripture in Christian formation.

Laura Zimmer, continuo organist, is an Assistant Cantor at Grace Lutheran Church, primarily serving as organist and accompanist. She also is the Administrative Assistant in the Music Department at Concordia University in River Forest. Laura has two degrees from Concordia, River Forest, including a BA in Elementary Education and a Master of Church Music.

