

Bach 45th Year

Grace Lutheran Church ■ River Forest, Illinois
Sunday afternoons ■ Prelude at 3:45 p.m.

Cantata Vespers 2015–2016



December 26, 2015

Und es waren Hirten in derselben Gegend (BWV 248.2)

And there were shepherds in the same region

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

We are glad that you have joined us for this afternoon'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.

Second Day of Christmas
December 26, 2015 † 7:00 p.m.

EVENING PRAYER



PRELUDE

Concerto grosso in G minor, Op. 6, No. 8 (Christmas)

Arcangelo Corelli
(1653–1713)

Vivace – Grave
Allegro
Adagio – Allegro – Adagio
Vivace
Allegro
Largo

We stand, facing the candle as we sing.

SERVICE OF LIGHT



The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not over- come it.**



Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**



For to us a child is born, to us a Son is giv - en. **In him was life, and the life was the light of all.**

☐ Joy-ous light of glo - ry: ☑ of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther;

heav - en - ly, ho - ly, bless - ed Je - sus Christ.

We have come to the set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.

We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it: You are wor - thy of

be - ing praised with pure voic - es for - ev - er. O Son of God,

O Giv - er of life: The u - ni - verse pro - claims your glo - ry.

☐ The Lord be with you. ☑ And al - so with you.

☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. ☑ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

☐ Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led your people

Israel by a pil - lar of cloud by day and a pil - lar of fire by night:



Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ; may his Word be a lamp



to our feet and a light to our path; for you are mer - ci - ful,



and you love your whole cre - a - tion, and we, your crea - tures, glo - ri - fy you,



Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it. **☩** A - men

✠ PSALMODY ✠

We sit.

PSALM 141

Women sing parts marked ❶. Men sing parts marked ❷. All sing parts marked ☩.



☩ Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



❶ O Lord, I call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I cry to you.



❷ Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



Ⓘ Set a watch be-fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.



Ⓜ Let not my heart in-cline to an - y e - vil thing; let me not be oc - cu -



pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers. Ⓘ But my eyes are



turned to you, Lord God; in you I take ref - uge. Strip me not of my life.



Ⓜ Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



Ⓘ as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Ⓒ Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

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.

Ⓒ Amen.

MOTET: Cantate Domino (from *Cantiones Sacre*, SWV 81)

Heinrich Schütz
(1585–1672)

Cantate Domino canticum novum;

O sing to the Lord a new song:

laus ejus in ecclesia sanctorum.

sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.

Laetetur Israël in eo qui fecit eum,

Let Israel rejoice in his maker:

et filii Sion exsultent in rege suo.

and let the children of Zion be joyful in their king.

Laudent nomen ejus in choro;

Let them praise his name in the dance:

in tympano et psalterio psallant ei.

let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.

Silence for meditation is observed, then:

COLLECT

☩ Lord, let Israel rejoice in you and acknowledge you as creator and redeemer.

In your lovingkindness embrace us now,

that we may proclaim the wonderful truths of salvation with your saints in glory;

through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

☩ **Amen.**

The offering is gathered.

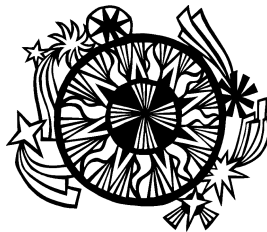
OFFERING/VOLUNTARY

Der Tag, der ist so Freudenreich, BWV 605

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)

The offering assists in defraying costs of the Bach Cantata Vespers ministry.

Your generosity is appreciated.



We stand.

HYMN: We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth

Stanza 4 Setting by Johannes Eccard
(1553–1611)



- C** 1. We praise you, Je-sus, at your birth; Clothed in flesh you came to earth.
W 2. Now in the man-ger we may see God's Son from e - ter - ni - ty,
C 3. The vir - gin Ma-ry's lul - la - by Calms the in - fant Lord Most High.
Choir 4. The Light E - ter - nal, break - ing through, Made the world to gleam a - new;
C 5. The ver - y Son of God sub - lime En - tered in - to earth - ly time
M 6. In pov - er - ty he came to earth Show - ing mer - cy by his birth;
C 7. All this for us our God has done Grant - ing love through his own Son.



The vir - gin bears a sin - less boy And all the an - gels sing for joy.
The gift from God's e - ter - nal throne Here clothed in our poor flesh and bone.
Up - on her lap con - tent is he Who keeps the earth and sky and sea.
His beams have pierced the core of night, He makes us child - ren of the light.
To lead us from this world of cares To heav - en's courts as bles - sed heirs.
He makes us rich in heav'n - ly ways As we, like an - gels, sing his praise.
There - fore, all Christ - en - dom, re - joice And sing his praise with end - less voice.



Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Stanza 1, German (c. 1380); stanzas 2-7, Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Tr. stanzas 1 and 6, Gregory Wismar; stanzas 2 and 4, F. Samuel Janzow; stanzas 3, 5, and 7, *Lutheran Service Book*.

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Tune: Enchiridion, Erfurt, 1524

GELOBET SEIST DU

8 7 8 8 4

✠ WORD ✠

We sit.

READING: Acts 6:8–15; 7:55–60

⁸Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. ¹⁰But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. ¹¹Then they secretly instigated some men to say, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.” ¹²They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. ¹³They set up false witnesses who said, “This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law; ¹⁴for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us.” ¹⁵And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

^{7:55}But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶Look, he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

℣ The Word of the Lord.

✠ Thanks be to God.

READING: Matthew 23:35–39

[Jesus said:] ³⁴Therefore I send you prophets, sages, and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, ³⁵so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. ³⁶Truly I tell you, all this will come upon this generation.

³⁷Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁸See, your house is left to you, desolate. ³⁹For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

℣ The Word of the Lord.

✠ Thanks be to God.

HOMILY

The Rev. Robert F. Burke

CANTATA: Und es waren Hirten in derselben Gegend, BWV 248.2
(And there were shepherds in the same region)

J. S. Bach

*A translation of the cantata text is printed on page 15 of the Christmas Oratorio booklet.
Please return the booklet so that it may be used throughout the Christmas season.*

Silence is observed, then:

- L** In many and various ways God spoke to his people of old by the prophets.
- C** But now in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.

We stand.

MAGNIFICAT

C My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir- it re-joic- es in
God my Sav-ior, for he has looked with fa- vor on his low- ly ser- vant.
From this day all gen- er - a - tions will call me bless- ed.
The Al- might- y has done great things for me, and ho- ly is his name.
He has mer- cy on those who fear him in ev - 'ry gen- er - a - tion.
He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat- tered the
proud in their con- ceit. He has cast down the might- y from their thrones,

and has lift - ed up the low - ly. He has filled the

hun - gry with good things, and the rich he has sent a - way emp - ty.

He has come to the help of his ser - vant Is - ra - el,

for he has re - mem - bered his prom - ise of mer - cy, the prom - ise he

made to our fa - thers, to A - bra - ham and his chil - dren for - ev - er.

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men



✠ PRAYERS ✠

LITANY



☐ In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ☑ **Lord, have mer - cy.**

After each petition:

☐ ...let us pray to the Lord.



☑ **Lord, have mer - cy.**

The litany continues:

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



☑ **Al - le - lu - ia.**

The litany concludes:

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

Silence is kept, then:

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



☑ **To you, O 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.

☑ **Amen.**

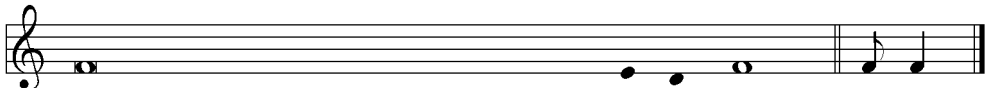
LORD'S PRAYER

- Ⓛ 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



Ⓛ Let us bless the Lord. Ⓞ **Thanks be to God.**



Ⓞ The almighty and merciful Lord, **A - men**
the Father, † the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre-serve you.



HYMN: From East to West, from Shore to Shore

Concertato by Michael D. Costello
(b. 1979)



Women 1. From east to west, from shore - to shore, Let ev - 'ry
Men 2. Be - hold, the world's cre - a - tor wears The form and
Choir 3. *For this how won - drous - ly he wrought! A maid - en,*
All 4. And while the an - gels in the sky Sang praise a -
All 5. All glo - ry for this bless - ed morn To God - the



heart a - wake and sing The ho - ly child whom
fash - ion of a slave; Our ver - y flesh our
in the low - ly place, Be - came, in ways be -
bove the si - lent field, To shep - herds poor the
Fath - er ev - er be; All praise to you, O



Ma - ry bore, The Christ, the ev - er - last - ing king.
mak - er shares, His fall - en crea - tures, all, to save.
yond all thought, The cho - sen ves - sel of his grace.
Lord most high, The one great shep - herd, was re - vealed.
Vir - gin - born, And Ho - ly Ghost e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Coelius Sedulius, d. c. 450; tr. John Ellerton, 1826–1893, alt.
Tune: © 2009 Michael D. Costello. Reprinted by permission.

DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God!**

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. David R. Lyle, leader

The Rev. Robert F. Burke, homilist

Senior Choir/Bach Cantata Vespers Chorus and Orchestra

The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor

Tim Spelbring, organist

Jillian Krickl, soprano

Melissa Arning, mezzo-soprano

Hoss Brock, tenor

Matthew Dean, tenor

Douglas Anderson, baritone

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These listings acknowledge contributions to the 45th season of Bach Cantata Vespers, beginning July 1, 2015. Donations received after December 13, 2015, will be acknowledged in the January 31 bulletin of Grace's Bach Cantata Vespers.

Join us in England and Leipzig, Germany!

Audition to sing with the choir or travel with us as we tour England and visit Leipzig in August 2016.



Bach Cantata Vespers Choir in the Leipzig Thomaskirche (August 2014)



Oxford—Stratford—Cambridge—
Ely—London—Greenwich—Leipzig

For information on the tour,
including itinerary, pricing,
and more, contact Michael
Costello, Grace Cantor, at
708-366-6900 or by e-mail
at mcostello@graceriverforest.org.



Concert at the St. Wigherti Priorat in Werningshausen (August 2012)

Bach

45th Year

Grace Lutheran Church ■ River Forest, Illinois
Sunday afternoons ■ Prelude at 3:45 p.m.

Cantata Vespers

2015–2016



Dec. 25–Jan. 6

BWV 248

Weihnachts-Oratorium *Christmas Oratorio*

Presented in worship at the following dates and times:

December 25, 10 a.m. Jauchzet, frohlocket, auf, preiset die Tage

December 26, 7 p.m. Und es waren Hirten in derselben Gegend

December 27, 4 p.m. Herrscher des Himmels, erhöre das Lallen

January 1, 10 a.m. Fallt mit Danken, fallt mit Loben

January 3, 4 p.m. Ehre sei dir, Gott, gesungen

January 6, 7 p.m. Herr, wenn die stolzen Feinde schnauben

January 31

BWV 125

Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin *In peace and joy I now depart*

Kevin L. Strickland, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Chicago, Ill., homilist
Michael D. Costello, Grace Lutheran Church and School, River Forest, Ill., organist
Kapelle, Concordia University Chicago, guest choir; Charles P. Brown, director

February 28

BWV 199

Mein Herze schwimmt im Blut *My heart swims in blood*

Rebekah Weant Costello, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Itasca, Ill., homilist
A. Corelli: Sonata in B-flat Major, Op. 1, No. 5; J. C. Graupner: Concerto for Bassoon in G Major, GWV 328

March 20

BWV 182

Himmelskönig, sei willkommen *King of heaven, welcome*

James L. Brooks, Harmony Community Church, Lawndale, Chicago, Ill., homilist
G. P. Telemann: Overture in A minor, TWV 55:a2

April 24

BWV 86

Wahrlich, wahrlich, ich sage euch *Truly, truly, I say to you*

David S. Yeago, Trinity School for Ministry, Ambridge, Penn., homilist
Steven Wentz, Concordia University Chicago, organist

May 22

BWV 129

Gelobet sei der Herr, mein Gott *Praised be the Lord, my God*

E. Jon Benson, St. John Lutheran Church, Council Bluffs, Iowa, homilist
J. S. Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 in D Major, BWV 1050

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