

Bach 45th Year

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

Cantata Vespers 2015–2016



December 27, 2015

Herrscher des Himmels, erhöre das Lallen (BWV 248.3)

Lord of the heavens, hear the murmuring

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

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

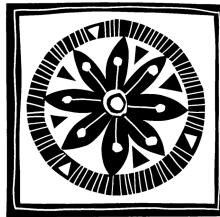
For those who have trouble hearing, sound enhancement units are available in the back of the church and may be obtained from an usher.

Please silence all cell phones and pagers.

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

Third Day of Christmas
December 27, 2015 † 4:00 p.m.

EVENING PRAYER



PRELUDE

Sonata grossa

Johann Melchior Molter
(1696–1765)

Adagio
Allegro
Largo
Tempo di Gavotta
Andante
Tempo di Menuet

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 **I**. Men sing parts marked **II**. 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.

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

II 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: Jubilate Deo

Josquin des Prez
(c. 1450/1455–1521)

Jubilate Deo, omnis terra;

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands:

servite Domino in laetitia. Introite in conspectu ejus in exsultatione.

serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song.

Scitote quoniam Dominus ipse est Deus; ipse fecit nos, et non ipsi nos:

Be sure that the Lord is God; it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;
populus ejus, et oves pascuae ejus.

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Introite portas ejus in confessione; atria ejus in hymnis:

O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise;
confitemini illi. Laudate nomen ejus,

be thankful unto him, and speak good of his name.

quoniam suavis est Dominus: in aeternum misericordia ejus,

For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting;

et usque in generationem et generationem veritas ejus.

and his truth endures from generation to generation.

Psalm 100

Silence for meditation is observed, then:

COLLECT

☞ God our Father, you have created us as your people and you sustain us with your hand.
Help us always to give you thanks,
for you alone are worthy of thanksgiving and praise and honor now and forever.

☞ **Amen.**

The offering is gathered.

OFFERING/VOLUNTARY

Two Chorale Preludes from *Orgelbüchlein*

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)

In dulci jubilo, BWV 608

Lobt Gott, ihr Christen, allzugleich, BWV 609

*The offering assists in defraying costs of the Bach Cantata Vespers ministry.
Your generosity is appreciated.*

We stand.

HYMN: O Savior of Our Fallen Race



1 O Sav - ior of our fall - en race, O Bright-ness of
Choir 2 O Je - sus, ver - y Light of light, our con - stant star
3 Re-mem-ber, Lord of life and grace, how once, to save
Choir 4 To - day, as year by year its light bathes all the world



the Fa - ther's face, O Son who shared the Fa - ther's might
in sin's deep night: now hear the prayers your peo - ple pray
our fall - en race, you put our hu - man ves - ture on
in ra - diancance bright, one pre - cious truth out - shines the sun:



be - fore the world knew day or night:
through-out the world this ho - ly day.
and came to us as Mar - y's son.
sal - va - tion comes from you a - lone. A - men

5 For from the Father's throne you came, Choir 6 And we are jubilant today,
his banished children to reclaim; for you have washed our guilt away.
and earth and sea and sky revere Oh, hear the glad new song we sing
the love of him who sent you here. on this, the birthday of our king!

7 O Christ, redeemer virgin-born,
let songs of praise your name adorn,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit evermore. Amen

Text: Latin office hymn, c. 6th cent.; tr. Gilbert E. Doan, b. 1930

Music: CHRISTE REDEMPTOR, medieval plainsong, mode I

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

✠ WORD ✠

We sit.

READING: Hebrews 1:1–14

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;
today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son”?

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

⁷Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire.”

⁸But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

¹⁰And,

“In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

¹¹they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;

¹²like a cloak you will roll them up,
and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,
and your years will never end.”

¹³But to which of the angels has he ever said,

“Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”?

¹⁴Are not all angels spirits in the divine service, sent to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

READING: John 1:1–14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOMILY

The Rev. F. Dean Lueking

CANTATA: Herrscher des Himmels, erhöre das Lallen, BWV 248.3

J. S. Bach

(Lord of the heavens, hear the murmuring)

A translation of the cantata text is printed on page 20 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-cept. 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 ✠

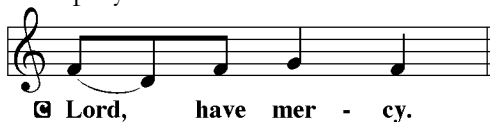
LITANY



☐ 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.

L 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

L Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

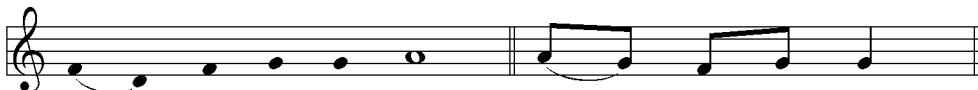
C **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread;

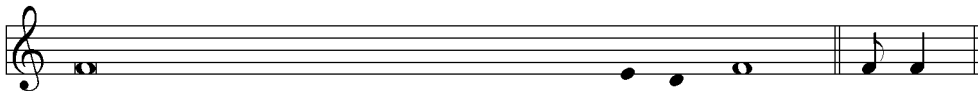
**and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICAMUS DOMINO & BENEDICTION



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



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





- 1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 Choir 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.
 So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless-ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893
 Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

DISMISSAL

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



LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. David R. Lyle, leader

The Rev. F. Dean Lueking, homilist

Senior Choir/Bach Cantata Vespers Chorus and Orchestra

The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor

Tim Spelbring, organist

Clarice Warrick, soprano

Amanda Koopman, mezzo-soprano

Hoss Brock, tenor

Evan Bravos, 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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