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Grace Lutheran Church River Forest, Illinois

Sunday afternoons Lecture at 3:00 p.m. Prelude at 3:45 p.m.

## April 28, 2019

Christ lag in Todesbanden, BWV 4 Christ lay in death's bonds

# 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.

We ask that you kindly refrain from applause during this service of worship.

The Second Sunday of Easter April 28, 2019 + 3:45 p.m.

## EVENING PRAYER



### PRELUDE

Notes on the prelude and voluntary music are on pages 27 and 28 of this worship folder.

Choral-Improvisation sur le "Victima paschali"

Partita on "Christ ist erstanden"

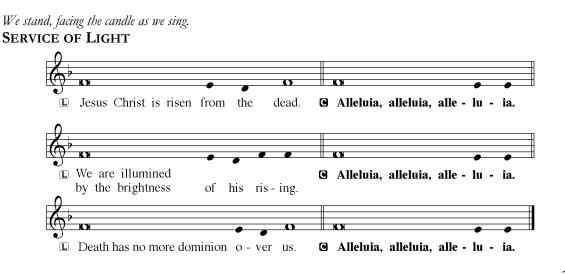
Christ lag in Todesbanden, BWV 718

Charles Tournemire (1870–1939) trans. by Maurice Duruflé (1902–1986)

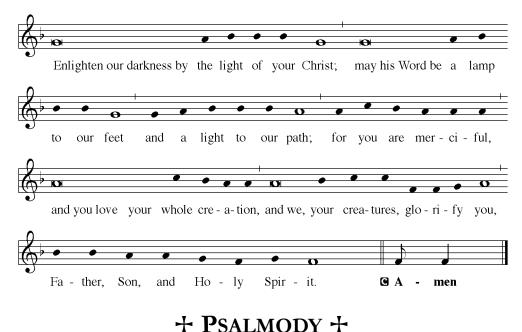
> Jeanne Seitz Sittler (1914–1991)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Daniel Schwandt, organ

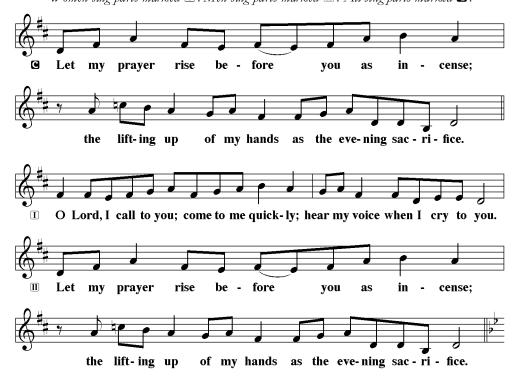






We sit. **PSALM 141** 

Women sing parts marked  $\mathbbm{I}$ . Men sing parts marked  $\mathbbm{I}$ . All sing parts marked  $\mathbbm{G}$ .





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.
- C Amen.

Surrexit Christus hodie. Alleluia!

Christ has risen today. Alleluia! Humano pro solamine. Alleluia! For the comfort of all people. Alleluia! In hoc Paschali gaudio. Alleluia! In this Easter joy. Alleluia! Benedicamus Domino. Alleluia! Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia!

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

L O God,

you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin,

that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection;

through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

The offering is gathered. **VOLUNTARY:** Trio in G Major, BWV (Anh. II) 1027a/4a

Johann Sebastian Bach

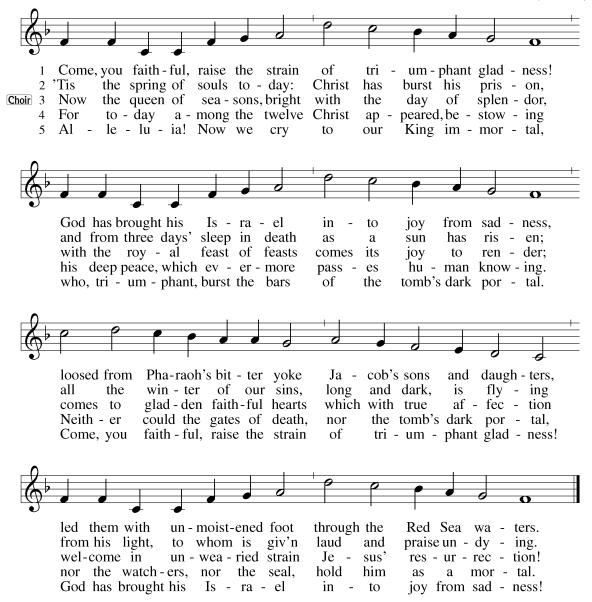
The offering assists in defraying costs of the Bach Cantata Vespers ministry. Please make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church. Your generosity is appreciated.





Following the organ introduction to the hymn, we stand and sing.

HYMN: Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain Stanza 3 arr. Michael D. Costello (b. 1979) Stanzas 1 and 5 arr. Michael Burkhardt (b. 1957)



Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547

# +WORD +

### We sit.

## READING: 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

[St. Paul writes:] 6Your boasting is not a good thing. Do you not know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? 7Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch, as you really are unleavened. For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed. 8Therefore, let us celebrate the festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

- **L** The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

### READING: Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. <sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" <sup>4</sup>When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." <sup>8</sup>So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

- **L** The Word of the Lord.
- **G** Thanks be to God.

## HOMILY

Pastor Laura Voelkert Weant





### 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 26 and 27 in this worship folder.

### Sinfonia

Strings and *continuo* introduce the cantata with a brief, fourteen-measure *Sinfonia* cast in the somber, even ominous mood that might precede an impending great battle. The first violins repeat the first two notes of the chorale melody, the descending half-step that will be heard in every movement of the cantata. Near the end of the movement the line of the first violin rises, alone, as in an anguished cry, before descending to the final cadence.

### Stanza 1 (Chorus)

Christ lag in Todesbanden Christ lay in death's bonds Für unsre Sünd gegeben, Given up for our sins; Er ist wieder erstanden He is risen again Und hat uns bracht das Leben; And has brought us life, Des wir sollen fröhlich sein, For which we should be joyful, Gott loben und ihm dankbar sein Praise God and be thankful to him Und singen halleluja, And sing alleluia, Halleluja!

### Alleluia!

All instruments and voices join to declare that Christ has won for us the victory over death. Sopranos are given the chorale tune in long notes while the lower voices engage in vigorous imitative counterpoint. The movement ends (as does each stanza of the chorale) with a *Halleluja*, which here breaks forth in the rapid tempo and upwardly rising lines of an exultant *alla breve* (cut time) conclusion.

Stanza 2 (Soprano and Alto) Den Tod niemand zwingen kunnt Death could not be overcome Bei allen Menschenkindern, By any of humanity's children. Das macht' alles unsre Sünd, This was due to our sin. Kein Unschuld war zu finden. No innocence was to be found. Davon kam der Tod so bald Death therefore came so soon Und nahm über uns Gewalt, And took power over us, Hielt uns in seinem Reich gefangen. Held us captive in his kingdom. Halleluja!

### Alleluia!

The *cornett* (today played on a flugelhorn) supports the soprano and a trombone the alto as they solemnly describe the hold that *Tod* (death) had over us. The chorale melody is treated somewhat freely as the voices answer each other, with the soprano usually leading the exchange. The descending two-note opening interval of the chorale is imitated throughout in the inexorable stride of the eighth-note motion of the *continuo*. Even the concluding *Halleluja* is somewhat subdued.

Stanza 3 (Tenor) Jesus Christus, Gottes Sohn, Jesus Christ, God's Son, An unser Statt ist kommen In our place has come Und hat die Sünde weggetan, And has taken our sins away, Damit dem Tod genommen Thus taking from death All sein Recht und sein Gewalt, All its rights and power, Da bleibet nichts denn Tods Gestalt, Nothing remains but death's form, Den Stach'l hat er verloren. It has lost its sting. Halleluja!

#### Alleluia!

Christ comes to set aside sin and remove the sting and power of death. The simple rock-solid chorale melody of the tenor is pitted against a hyperactive unison violin melody; all continues in full, unabated *allegro* tempo until striking double-stop violin chords mark the taking from death its *Gewalt* (power). At the climactic *Da bleibet nichts denn Tod's Gestalt* (nothing remains but death's form), voice and instruments come to an abrupt halt before the tenor begins to complete the phrase in an *adagio* tempo. The *allegro* tempo returns again for the last phrase of the stanza and the lively, affirming *Halleluja*.

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## Stanza 4 (Chorus)

Es war ein wunderlicher Krieg, It was a wondrous war, Da Tod und Leben rungen, Where death and life struggled. Das Leben behielt den Sieg, Life won the victory, Es hat den Tod verschlungen. It has swallowed up death. Die Schrift hat verkündigt das, Scripture has proclaimed this, Wie ein Tod den andern fraß, How one death gobbled up another, Ein Spott aus dem Tod ist worden. Making a mockery out of death. Halleluja! Alleluia!

The climax of the symmetric structure of the cantata is now reached as the altos are given the chorale *cantus firmus* ("firm song," or melody) while the other voices sing in mostly anticipatory imitation of each phrase of the hymn. The battle is engaged; music that is reminiscent in style and vigor of the first stanza illustrates the conflict. At the reference to the scorn with which death has been defeated in battle with Christ, the voices sing *ein Spott* (scorn or joke), almost mocking each other on their way together to the joyful *Hallelnja*.



Stanza 5 (Bass)

Hier ist das rechte Osterlamm, Here is the true Easter lamb Davon Gott hat geboten, Of which God has commanded, Das ist hoch an des Kreuzes Stamm That high on the trunk of the cross In heißer Lieb gebraten, It be roasted in fervent love, Das Blut zeichnet unsre Tür, Whose blood marks our door, Das hält der Glaub dem Tode für, Which faith holds up against death, Der Würger kann uns nicht mehr schaden.

The strangler can no longer harm us. Halleluja!

Halleluja!

### Alleluia!

Luther's chorale invokes the metaphor of the Passover lamb of the Old Testament at the exodus from Egypt. The blood of the lamb marked the door posts of the faithful Israelites who are to be spared from death. Similarly, Christ, the Lamb to be sacrificed for our redemption, has conquered death for us. The bass soloist sings an embellished form of the hymn tune to the accompaniment of the strings and *continuo*. The serious yet joyful mood of the text is reflected in the triple meter of the movement. At *Tode* (death) the permanence of our fate is noted on a long-held low E-sharp (F natural) that is followed at *Würger* (strangler) with an even longer-held high D followed by an emphatic, repeated *nicht mehr* (no more). The affirming *Halleluja* of the soloist bounds about in joy.

Stanza 6 (Soprano and Tenor)

So feiern wir das hohe Fest So let us celebrate the high feast Mit Herzensfreud und Wonne, With hearts full of joy and delight, Das uns der Herre scheinen läßt, That the Lord lets shine for us, Er ist selber die Sonne, He is himself the sun, Der durch seiner Gnade Glanz Who by the glory of his grace Erleuchtet unsre Herzen ganz, Lights up our hearts completely, Der Sünden Nacht ist verschwunden. The night of sins has disappeared.

Halleluja!

### Alleluia!

The expectation of a triumphant Easter festival is now declared in a buoyant, even bubbling vocal duet accompanied by a propulsive, dotted eighth-note and sixteenth-note figure in the *continuo* that skips along throughout the movement. Especially in the closing repeated *Halleluja*, Bach creates yet another type of joyful setting in the flowing triplet figures for the voices.

## Stanza 7 (Chorus)

Wir essen und leben wohl We eat and live well In rechten Osterfladen, On the true Easter bread, Der alte Sauerteig nicht soll The old sour dough should not Sein bei dem Wort Gnaden, Be in the word of grace, Christus will die Koste sein Christ will be our food Und speisen die Seel allein, And nourish the soul alone, Der Glaub will keins andern leben. Faith will not live in any other way. Halleluja! Alleluia!

> In clear reference to Holy Communion, Luther's text notes the bread of Christ and his word with which we are fed at Easter. All instruments and voices join in a solid declaration of unambiguous victory set to the music of the four-part chorale and its simple final *Halleluja*.



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.



17 🖁



The litany continues:

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



The litany concludes:

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.



- C 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.
- **G** Amen.

## CHORAL BLESSING: The God of Peace

The God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20–21



Paul D. Weber (b. 1949) 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



HYMN: Awake, My Heart, with Gladness

Stanzas 2 and 4: arr. Carl F. Schalk (b. 1929) Descant by Paul G. Bunjes (1914–1998)



G 4 He brings me to the portal that leads to bliss untold, whereon this rhyme immortal is found in script of gold:
 "Who there my cross has shared finds here a crown prepared; who there with me has died shall here be glorified."

### DISMISSAL

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

## Leading Worship Today

The Rev. David W. Wegner, leader The Rev. Laura Voelkert Weant, homilist

Choir of Grace Lutheran Church The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor

Daniel Schwandt, organist

Maura Janton Cock, soprano Sarah Ponder, mezzo-soprano Matthew Dean, tenor Douglas Anderson, baritone Greg Fudala, Candace Horton, trumpets Daver Ferguson, Tim Coffman, Brad Payne, trombones Kyle Bellin, timpani

Betty Lewis, Paul Zafer, Amanda Fenton, violins I Francois Henkins, Elizabeth Brausa, Lou Torick, violins II Naomi Hildner, Becky Coffman, violas I Becca Wilcox, Amanda Grimm, violas II Jean Hatmaker, cello Douglas Johnson, double bass Tim Spelbring, continuo organ

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Katrina Beck	Lois Cornils	Dan Krout	Mark Bouman
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Janel Dennen	Mary Jane Endicott	Steve Wendel	David Kluge
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Helen VanWyck

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Special thanks are extended to Leonard Berghaus for tuning the portativ organ and to Dr. Karen P. Danford for her translation of the cantata text from German to English.

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry, for your attendance at the services, and for your prayers. *Soli Deo Gloria!* 



## BACKGROUND OF THE CANTATA

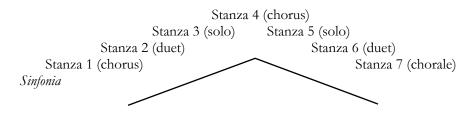
Luther captured the substance and significance of Christ's resurrection in his magnificent chorale, *Christ lag in Todesbanden* (Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands, *LBW* 134). In this powerful hymn, based on biblical passages chiefly from 1 Corinthians and Romans, he explores vividly the essence of this central event of the Christian faith. Whereas the secular world generally observes Easter as a joyful awakening, the rebirth of the world at springtime, and an occasion for renewed hope, Luther describes it as the celebration of a tremendous battle between death and life in which Christ through his death conquered the power of death over mankind.

Luther's hymn is modelled on the 12th century sequence hymn *Victimae paschali* (Christians to the Paschal Victim, *LBW* 137). This ancient hymn tells the biblical story in a conversational style that itself had its origin in an earlier liturgical drama. In the 16th century this sequence hymn also formed the basis of the German chorale *Christ ist erstanden* (Christ Is Arisen, *LBW* 136). Luther reworked the melody of the sequence hymn and the chorale and constructed a seven-stanza chorale text describing the victory of Christ, the Paschal Lamb, over death.

In the cantata *Christ lag in Todesbanden* (BWV 4), Bach gives further voice to Luther's conviction. It is one of Bach's strongest and most popular cantatas and one of his earliest. As such it forms an undeniable witness to the strength and character of his faith as a relatively young man. It was probably written in 1707, when Bach was barely twenty-two years old, as his audition piece for the position of organist in Mühlhausen. It was performed again (and altered slightly) in his first and second complete cantata cycles in Leipzig in 1724 and 1725, evidence of his continuing affection for the cantata and its theme.

Bach utilizes every stanza of Luther's German chorale to articulate in music the ferocious battle waged by Christ to overcome death for us. The form of this early cantata is rooted in the chorale *concertatos* (choral variations on a hymn) of the 17th century, especially those of Johann Pachelbel (1653–1706). Pachelbel's own concertato on *Christ lag in Todesbanden* may have served as a model for Bach.

In his elaborate setting of the hymn Bach utilized an arch, or symmetric, form in the arrangement of the movements: after a brief *Sinfonia*, the choir sings stanzas 1 and 7 and stanza 4, the central movement; stanzas 2 and 6 are duets, and stanzas 3 and 5 are solo movements:



Continued on the following page.

The cantata is scored for *cornett*, 3 trombones, 2 oboes, 2 violins, 2 violas, *basso continuo* (bass and keyboard), soprano, alto, tenor, and bass soloists, and the usual four-part choir. The relatively simple, straightforward nature of the movements for solo voices, suggest that they could also be performed by entire sections of the choir. The *cornett*, which supports the soprano voices in the opening chorus, the duet and the concluding chorale, was an early wooden member of the brass family, having a rather mellow tone. It is now often replaced by a horn, or today, a flugelhorn, a valved bugle with a comparable range and tone. The presence of the trombones, the additional viola, and the *cornett* aid in creating the grave and serious mood that pervades much of the narrative of the Easter conflict and victory.

Carlos Messerli

## NOTES ON THE PRELUDE AND VOLUNTARY

Prelude music for tonight's vespers centers on the evolution of the chorale melody used in Bach's Cantata 4. The musical ancestor of *Christ lag in Todesbanden* is the Easter sequence hymn *Victimae paschali laudes* (Christians, to the Paschal Victim, *LBW* 137). Attributed to Wipo of Burgundy (d. c.1050), this sequence evocatively describes a conversation between the believer and Mary, the first witness of the resurrection. Elements of this melody are retained in *Christ ist Erstanden* (Christ Is Arisen, *LBW* 136), an early type of German hymn known as *leise*. In this case, the "Kyrieleis" (from which comes the term *leise*) is replaced by an Easter alleluia. Martin Luther transformed this melody further with *Christ lag in Todesbanden* (Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands, *LBW* 134), deriving the tune from both the *leise* and the sequence.

Parisian organist and composer Charles Tournemire began organ studies under César Franck at the Paris Conservatory and was eventually one of his successors at the Basilica of St. Clotilde. He composed a wide variety of music but is most remembered for his organ works and his legendary skill as an improviser. In 1930 he recorded five improvisations on chant themes on ten 78 rpm discs. His student Maurice Duruflé transcribed these works in an effort to further preserve the improvisatory genius of Tournemire, and they were published in 1958. Tournemire had to carefully tailor these improvisations to the limited time of the 78 rpm records. In the middle of each improvisation a grand pause is worked in to the music in order for the record to be flipped. His setting of the Easter sequence is a tour-de-force of Tournemire's improvisational skills: virtuosic passage-work, kaleidoscopic harmonies, and passionate melodies. The work is filled with drama and exaltation and concludes with one of the most brilliant climaxes in organ literature.

Jeanne Seitz Sittler was a Chicago church musician and composer, and she composed hymn settings, anthems for children and adult choirs, liturgical music, and a jazz mass. She was also married to Joseph Sittler, legendary Lutheran theologian at the University of Chicago. Her set of variations on *Christ ist Erstanden* shows a sophisticated modern harmonic language that perhaps developed during her study with Nadia Boulanger. This music was discovered in a box of her manuscripts at Augustana Lutheran Church of Hyde Park along with a copy of a 1988 letter from one-time Augustana organist Paul D. Petersen to Paul Manz describing the origins of these variations:

Continued on the following page.



She composed it in several annual sections, showing up on an Easter morning with another part for me to add to the corpus. Although I played the piece with a "standardized" for me set of registrations, Jeanne always encourage much freedom in such matters, as long as strong tunes weren't turned insipid or sentimental.

The variation manuscripts indicate no particular order, tempo, or affect, but are here presented in a format that begins with a simple statement of the tune over moving eighth notes followed by five variations that range from melodic to highly chromatic. The version of the tune she used is as it appeared in the 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal* which differs slightly from the version in *LBW*.

Of the three organ settings of *Christ lag in Todesbanden* by Bach, BWV 718 is perhaps the least well-known. It is a small scale version of the often lengthy and elaborate North German chorale fantasia style, developed most famously by Johann Adam Reincken and Dieterich Buxtehude. In its several sections Bach explores basic variation techniques that would come to fullness in his larger chorale partitas: a highly ornamented two-voice *bicinium* (similar to those of Bach's teacher Georg Böhm), short phrase imitation (like Samuel Scheidt), short triplet sequences (Pachelbel), and an extended concluding flourish (Reincken). In this work, we hear a young Bach exploring and synthesizing numerous techniques of the 17<sup>th</sup> century style of chorale fantasia, of which Reincken famously said to Bach, "I thought it was dead, but I see it lives on in you."

Daniel Schwandt







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Grace Lutheran Church River Forest, Illinois

Sunday afternoons Lecture at 3:00 p.m. Prelude at 3:45 p.m.



September 29 BWV 149	Man singet mit Freuden vom Sieg They sing with joy of victory Mark Allan Powell, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, homilist Handel: Concerto Grosso, Op. 6, No. 11 in A Major, HWV 329 Kapelle, Concordia University Chicago, guest choir; Charles P. Brown, director Reception following the service in Fellowship Hall		
<b>October 27</b> <i>BWV 194</i>	Höchsterwünschtes Freudenfest Most highly desired festival of joy Erin Bouman, Irving Park Lutheran Church, Chicago, homilist Bruce Bengtson, Madison, Wis., organist		
November 24 BWV 20	<b>O Ewigkeit, du Donnerwort</b> <i>O eternity, you word of thunder</i> Mark P. Bangert, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, homilist Thomas Schmidt, Chicago, III., organist		
January 26 BWV 111	Was mein Gott will, das g'sche Amy L. Peeler, Wheaton College, Wheaton, III., h Kontras Quartet: Eleanor Bartsch, François Henk		
February 23 BWV 159	Sehet! Wir gehn hinauf gen Je David R. Lyle, Grace Lutheran Church and School Steven Wente, Concordia University Chicago, org		
March 28, 29 BWV 244	Matthäus-Passion St. Matthew P Admission is free; free-will offering will be receiv Saturday, March 28, 6:00 p.m. (Preview J Sunday, March 29, 4:00 p.m. (Preview J Bach Cantata Vespers Chorus and Orchestra in c Grace Cantor Michael D. Costello, conducting Hoss Brock, tenor (Evangelist) Keven Keys, baritone (Jesus) Maura Janton Cock, soprano	ed lecture at 5:00 p.m.) cture at 3:00 p.m.)	
<b>April 26</b> <i>BWV 146</i>	Wir müssen durch viel Trübsal in das Reich Gottes eingehen We must enter the kingdom of God through much sorrow L. George Detweiler, Norristown, Penn., homilist Kenneth Miller, Atlanta, Ga., organist		
<b>May 17</b> BWV 178	Wo Gott der Herr nicht bei un Jill Peláez Baumgaertner, Wheaton College, Whe	<b>s halt</b> Where God the Lord does not dwell with us	

Vivaldi: Concerto for 4 violins in B minor, RV 580

Hillert: Prelude to Evening Praver

## BIOGRAPHIES



**Michael D. Costello**, director, has served as Cantor at Grace since June 2008. He has served as a church musician in several parishes and as a pastor at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Columbia, South Carolina. A native of Pennsylvania, he graduated from Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, North Carolina, and from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina. He has published choral and organ works with several publishers, is Artistic Director of Chicago Choral Artists, and serves on the Board of Directors for Lutheran Music Program.



**Douglas Anderson**, baritone, is a long-standing member of Grace Lutheran Church and its choir. He has been a soloist in Grace's Bach Cantata Vespers since 1978 and has also been a frequent soloist with Chicago's Music of the Baroque. Dr. Anderson has appeared with many Chicago area ensembles and has performed several times in Evanston's Bach Week Festival. Dr. Anderson is a neurosurgeon and professor at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood. He is married to Ann, who often performs as flutist at Grace. They are the parents of four adult children, all of whom have studied music.



**Maura Janton Cock**, soprano, is Lecturer in Music at Valparaiso University, where she teaches voice and conducts the Women's Choir. She earned degrees from the University of Arizona (Tucson) and Minnesota State University-Moorhead. She has appeared as soloist with the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony, the Tucson Symphony, the Southwest Michigan Symphony, and the Northwest Indiana Symphony. She has worked extensively with Robert Shaw and Helmuth Rilling. Recent engagements include performances with the Michigan Bach Collegium, Bach Chamber Choir and Orchestra of Rockford (Ill.), Miami Bach Society, Dayton (Ohio) Bach Society and the Cuesta Master Chorale and Orchestra (Calif.). She gave the Midwest premiere of Bach's lost aria, *"Alles mit Gott und nichts ohn" ihn,"* and has frequently been a soloist for the Bach Cantata Vespers Series at Grace Lutheran Church.



Matthew Dean, tenor, is a sought-after soloist, collaborator, and storyteller in ensembles and oratorios around the country. He has been an artist in residence at Chicago's Rockefeller Chapel since 2005. A medievalist and folklorist, he has studied in Spain and Siberia, and appears and records with The Newberry Consort, The Rose Ensemble, Bella Voce, Third Coast Baroque, Ensemble Lipzodes, and Schola Antiqua. He has originated roles in works by James Kallembach and Sven-David Sandström, and collaborated with Eighth Blackbird and Giordano Dance. Building community through sound, he leads the international Sounds of Faith initiative, and co-directs The Rookery men's choir.



**Betty Lewis**, principal violinist, received her bachelor's degree from Chicago Musical College at Roosevelt University as a student of Elaine Skorodin. She is an active violinist and violist in the Chicago area performing with groups as diverse as Broadway in Chicago shows and as an extra with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. In the summer, she is on the faculty of the Birch Creek Music Performance Center and is a member of the Peninsula Music Festival, both in Door County, Wisconsin. She maintains a full teaching schedule as well as conducting the orchestras at Francis Parker School in Chicago.



Sarah Ponder, mezzo-soprano, enjoys a busy career as a soloist and versatile ensemble singer, performing with Chicago institutions such as Lyric Opera Chicago, Chicago Symphony Chorus, Chicago a cappella, William Ferris Chorale, and Music of the Baroque in addition to various appearances in the region. A passionate educator and performer, Sarah holds an outreach position with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra where she works with at-risk youth as well as recording original works with Carnegie Hall's Lullaby Project. She has also performed several solo concerts with famed Maestro Riccardo Muti at the piano, bringing opera to new audiences.



**Daniel Schwandt**, organist, recently graduated with a Master of Sacred Music degree in organ from the University of Notre Dame as a student of Douglas Reed and Craig Cramer and is currently finishing his first year of doctoral studies in organ performance. He served as a graduate assistant at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on campus and is currently Music Associate at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in South Bend as part of his doctoral fellowship. Prior to graduate studies, Daniel served for twelve years as the Cantor to the Seminary Community at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, and was Cantor of Augustana Lutheran Church of Hyde Park and later Immanuel Lutheran Church in Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood. He holds a degree in church music from St. Olaf College where he was a student of John Ferguson and sang in the St. Olaf Choir. Daniel is active as a recitalist, hymn festival leader, and workshop presenter, and his music is published through Augsburg Fortress and MorningStar Music.



Laura Voelkert Weant, homilist, is pastor at Bethany Lutheran Church, a small, rural congregation in the beautiful mountains of Boone, North Carolina, where some of her closest neighbors are cows and sheep. She has two young children, Bethany and Lukas. Her husband, Jonathan Weant, is also a pastor at a rural church. Educated in Sacred Music at Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, NC, she received her seminary education at Duke Divinity School and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. The Weants spent their first year of marriage in Germany, and, having satisfied their wanderlust, now enjoy the quiet mountain life.

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