

WELCOME TO
BACH VESPERS

WELCOME TO
HOLY TRINITY

LIVE STREAMING
AT HOLY TRINITY

BACH VESPERS | THE 21st SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday, November 9th 2025

For at least the last eighteen centuries, some formula for prayer at the end of the day has been part of the Christian tradition. We don't know precisely what the earliest Vespers looked like or sounded like, but certain themes have endured, including confession, gratitude, and light. While Vespers never quite became a significant part of Lutheran piety, that it is still kept at all in the Lutheran tradition may be thanks to one church: the Thomaskirche in Leipzig.

For twenty-seven years Johann Sebastian Bach served as the Kantor of the Thomaskirche, where most of his cantatas were composed—and though Bach's cantatas were generally performed at a Sunday morning liturgy, our practice at Bach Vespers imagines what can happen when we juxtapose the ancient tradition of Vespers with the cantatas of the principal musician of the city that helped it endure.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the largest progressive Lutheran body in the United States. As Lutherans, we go about Christianity in a Lutheran way, emphasizing that we are reconciled with God (justified) not by anything we do, but through and because of God's love, freely given (grace). We love questions more than quick fixes (paradox), and we read the Bible in a way that honors it as the source and norm of faith, but not as a literal handbook. As Lutherans, we also lift up the gifts and capacity for ministry (vocation) that every person unquestionably holds.

As a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation (and the first in the Metropolitan New York Synod), Holy Trinity welcomes all persons, including all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. Holy Trinity is also committed to practicing racial equity, learning anti-racism, and modeling radical hospitality and inclusion across age, class, national origin, physical and mental health and ability, family configuration, and language. With a heart for the city, a passion for justice, and a commitment to the arts, we seek to be a place where all God's people will know they are loved. Welcome. We've been waiting for you. There is a place for you here.

Please be aware that worship this evening is being filmed, photographed, and live streamed on our YouTube channel. Your likeness and/or voice may be captured by our equipment. Please alert an usher at the entrance if you have any concerns. Selections may be used on our website and in our public relations materials.

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Gonzalo Ruiz
Aani Bourrassa & Kristin Sands
Donna Breitzer & Luke Paulino
Nils Neubert & AJ Rodriguez
Jeff Gavett & Oliver Holt

**soloist*

FEATURED SOLOIST
BACH VESPERS DIRECTOR
MUSIC DIRECTOR & ORGANIST
PASTOR

Morgan Mastrangelo
Robby Meese
Austin Philemon
The Reverend Timothy Weisman

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VESPERS

prelude

Praeludium in d minor, BuxWV 140

Dieterich Buxtehude
(1637-1707)

motet

“Lobet den Herrn, alle Heiden”, BWV 230

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Praise the Lord, all gentiles,
and laud him, all peoples!
For his grace and truth
rules over us into eternity.
Hallelujah.

*Lobet den Herrn, alle Heiden,
und preiset ihn, alle Völker!
Denn seine Gnade und Wahrheit
waltet über uns in Ewigkeit.
Alleluja.*

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

blessing of
the incense

Let us pray. *Silence is kept.* Let our prayers rise before you as incense, O God, and let your lovingkindness descend upon us, that with the church on earth and the whole heavenly host we may sing your praises, through your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

You may light your candle from one of the aisle candles or from your neighbor. When holding a lit candle, please ensure that it remains completely upright at all times.

entrance hymn

“O Trinity, o blessed light”

O HEILIGE DREIFALTIGKEIT

1 O Trin - i - ty, O bless - ed Light, O U - ni -
2 To you our morn - ing song of praise, to you our
3 All glo - ry be to God a - bove and to the

ty of sov - 'reign might: as now the fi - 'ry
eve - ning prayer we raise; to you in awe we
Son, the prince of love, and to the Spir - it,

sun de - parts, shed ho - ly light with - in our hearts.
bend the knee from age to age, e - ter - nal - ly.
One in Three! We praise you, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

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

Have mercy on me, Lord my God,
Of kindness Thou hast ever more,
Cleanse my offenses with Thy blood,
I own my sin, it grieves me sore.
I've sinned against Thy whole command,
This truth confronts me constantly;
Before Thee evil cannot stand,
And Thou art just to punish me.

*Erbarm dich mein, o Herre Gott,
nach deiner großen Barmherzigkeit.
Wasch ab, mach rein mein Missethat,
ich kenn mein Sünd und ist mir leid.
Allein ich dir gesündigt hab,
das ist wider mich stetiglich;
das Böses vor dir mag nicht besta[h]n,
du bleibst gerecht, ob urtheilst mich.*

Behold, Lord, I was born in sin,
In sin conceived with great distress,
Truth Thou desirest deep within,
Lay bare Thy wisdom's graciousness.
With hyssop, Lord, asperge my flesh,
If washed by Thee, then I am pure,
More white than snow,
more glad and fresh,
My bones rejoice to find their cure.

*Sieh, Herr, in Sünd bin ich geboren,
in Sünd empfang mich mein Mutter;
die Wahrheit liebst, thust offenbaren
deiner Weisheit heimlich Güter.
Bespreng mich, Herr, mit Isopo,
rein werd ich, wo du wäschest mich,
weißer denn Schnee,
mein Ghör wird froh,
alls mein Gebein wird freuen sich.*

O Lord, view not my sin obscene;
Remove all my unrighteousness,
And make my heart within me clean,
A spirit new within me dress.
From out Thy presence cast me not,
Thy Holy Ghost do not decline,
Salvation's joy, O Lord, allot,
And let the Spirit keep me Thine.

*Herr, sieh nicht an die Sünde mein,
thu ab all Ungerechtigkeit,
und mach in mir das Herze rein;
ein neuen Geist in mir bereit.
Verwirf mich nicht von deinem Angesicht,
dein Heilig Geist wend nicht von mir;
die Freud deins Heils, Herr, zu mir richt,
der willig Geist enthält mich dir.*

I'll teach ungodly men Thy way,
Thy truth by sinners will be learn'd,
That from the wicked paths that stray
To Thee, by Thee, they may be turn'd,
Protect me, Savior,
my God alone,
From guilt of blood deliver me!
Thy justice let my tongue make known,
Unlock my lips to worship Thee.

*Die Gottlosen will ich deine Weg,
die Sünder auch dazu lehren,
daß sie vom bösen falschen Steg
zu dir durch dich sich bekehren.
Beschirm mich, Herr,
meins Heils ein Gott,
vor dem Urtheil durchs Blut bedeut.
Mein Zung verkünd dein rechts Gebot;
schaff, daß mein Mund dein Lob
ausbreit.*

Thou wouldst no fleshly gift from me
Else had I quickly given it:
So take this spirit crushed to Thee,
This sad and contrite heart admit.
Do not, O God, this gift reject,
But show Thy kindness graciously
To Zion's hill, Thy saints elect,
Who offer righteousness to Thee.

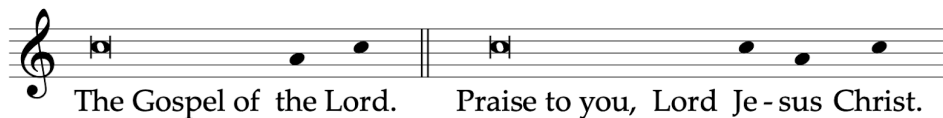
*Kein leiblich Opfer von mir heischst,
ich hätte dir das auch geben:
so nimm nun den zerknirschten Geist,
betrübts und traurigs Herz darneben.
Verschmäh nicht, Gott, das Opfer dein,
thu wohl in deiner Gütigkeit
dem Berg Zion, da Christen sein,
die opfern dir Gerechtigkeit.*

psalm
prayer

Let us pray. *Silence is kept.* God of mercy, you know us better than we know ourselves, and still you love us. Wash us from all our sins, create in us clean hearts, and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit that we may proclaim your praise; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

²³ [Then Jesus said:] “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.

³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”



Please extinguish your candle.

CANTATA **Ich armer Mensch, ich Sündenknecht**

BWV 55

aria	I, wretched person, I, servant of sin, I go before God's countenance Unto judgment, with fear and trembling. He is righteous, I, unrighteous. I, wretched person, I, servant of sin!	<i>Ich armer Mensch, ich Sündenknecht, Ich geh vor Gottes Angesichte Mit Furcht und Zittern zum Gerichte. Er ist gerecht, ich ungerecht. Ich armer Mensch, ich Sündenknecht!</i>
recitativo	I have acted against God And the same path That he has prescribed for me, I have not followed. Where to? Shall choose for my escape The rosy-fingered dawn, Which would point me to the farthest sea, Then indeed the hand of the Most High will find me And bundle the rod of sin for me. Ah, yes; Even if the netherworld had a bed For me and my sins, still the wrath of the Most High would be there. The earth does not protect me; It threatens to devour me, a monster, and I wish to vault myself to heaven, Where God dwells, who pronounces my verdict.	<i>Ich habe wider Gott gehandelt Und bin demselben Pfad, Den er mir vorgeschrieben hat, Nicht nachgewandelt. Wohin? Soll ich der Morgenröte Flügel Zu meiner Flucht erkiesen, Die mich zum letzten Meere wiesen, So wird mich doch die Hand des Allerhöchsten finden Und mir die Sündenrute binden. Ach ja! Wenn gleich die Höll ein Bette Vor mich und meine Sünden hätte, So wäre doch der Grimm des Höchsten da. Die Erde schützt mich nicht, Sie droht mich Scheusal zu verschlingen; und will ich mich zum Himmel schwingen, Da wohnet Gott, der mir das Urteil spricht.</i>
aria	Have mercy! Let my tears soften you; Let them reach to your heart; Let, for the sake of Jesus Christ, The scorn of your jealousy subside! Have mercy!	<i>Erbarme dich! Lass die Tränen dich erweichen, Lass sie dir zu Herzen reichen; Lass um Jesu Christi willen Deinen Zorn des Eifers stillen! Erbarme dich!</i>

recitativo

Have mercy.
Yet now
I console myself,
I will not stand for judgment
But rather go before the throne of grace,
Unto my upright father.
I hold up his son before him,
His suffering, his redeeming,
How he has paid for my debt
Paid it and done enough,
And I ask God for patience;
Henceforth will I not sin anymore,
and God takes me again into his grace..

*Erbarme dich!
Jedoch nun
Tröst ich mich,
Ich will nicht für Gerichte stehen
Und lieber vor dem Gnadenthron
Zu meinem frommen Vater gehen.
Ich halt ihm seinen Sohn,
Sein Leiden, sein Erlösen für,
Wie er für meine Schuld
Bezahlet und genug getan,
Und bitt ihn um Geduld,
Hinfüro will ichs nicht mehr tun.
So nimmt mich Gott zu Gnaden wieder an.*

corale

Though I have turned aside from you,
I do, indeed, come back;
Your son has indeed reconciled us
By his fear, and death pains.
I do not disavow my debt;
But your grace and favor
Is much greater than the sin
That I find ever within myself.

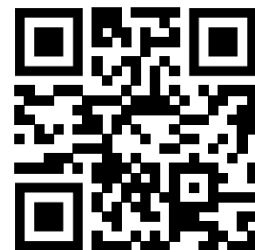
*Bin ich gleich von dir gewichen,
Stell ich mich doch wieder ein;
Hat uns doch dein Sohn verglichen
Durch sein Angst und Todespein.
Ich verleugne nicht die Schuld,
Aber deine Gnad und Huld
Ist viel grösser als die Sünde,
Die ich stets bei mir befinde.*

word of
welcome

Robby Meese

*In addition to giving towards the ministry of Bach Vespers
as the offering plates are being passed, you can*

- *Scan the QR code to the right;*
- *Venmo @holytrinitynyc;*
- *Send a Zelle to office@holytrinitynyc.org.*
- *Give to Bach Vespers through a Donor-advised Fund
by searching for our EIN: 13-1685538.*



The assembly stands when invited by the celebrant.

magnificat

Deutsches Magnificat, SWV 494

Heinrich Schütz

(1585-1672)

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my
spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowly
state of his servant.

*Meine Seele erhebt den Herren, und mein
Geist freuet sich Gottes, meines Heilandes;
denn er hat die Niedrigkeit
seiner Magd angesehen.*

Surely from now on all generations will
call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things
for me, and holy is his name;

*Siehe, von nun an werden mich selig
preisen alle Kindeskind;
denn er hat große Ding an mir getan,
der da mächtig ist und des Name heilig ist.*

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the
imagination of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from
their thrones and lifted up the lowly;

*Er übet Gewalt mit seinem Arm
und zerstreuet, die hoffärtig sind in ihres
Herzens Sinn.
Er stößet die Gewaltigen vom Stuhl
und erhöht die Niedrigen.*

he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

*Die Hungerigen füllet er mit Gütern
und lässet die Reichen leer.*

He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy, according to
the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants
forever.

*Er denket der Barmherzigkeit und hilft
seinem Diener Israel auf,
wie er geredt hat unsern Vätern,
Abraham und seinem Samen ewiglich.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the
beginning, is now, and will be forever and
ever, Amen.

*Ehre sei dem Vater und dem Sohn und
auch dem Heiligen Geiste,
wie es war im Anfang, jetzt und immerdar
und von Ewigkeit zu Ewigkeit, Amen.*

Let us pray. *Silence is kept.*

collect
for the day
(Veit Dietrich)

Almighty and eternal God, we are poor sinners and stand under your righteous judgment. With all our hearts we thank you for taking all our guilt from us through your dear Son Jesus Christ. Graciously sustain us in faith and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that we may live according to your will, in neighborly love, service and helpfulness, and not give way to wrath or revenge, that we may not incur your wrath but always find in you a gracious Father; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. **Amen.**

collect
for guidance
(Thomas a Kempis)

With confidence in your goodness and mercy, O Lord, I draw near to you, as a sick person to the healer, as one hungry and thirsty to the fountain of life, a creature to the creator, a desolate soul to my own tender comforter. You are my salvation and my redemption, my hope and my strength. Bring joy, therefore, to the soul of your servant; for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. **Amen.**

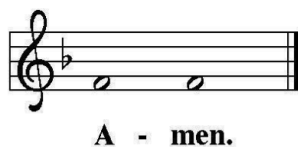
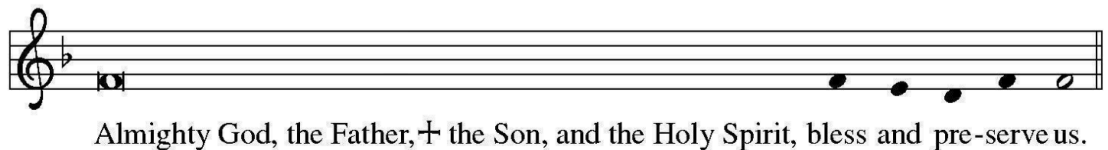
collect
for peace
(Gertrude the Great)

O wonderful Wisdom of God, how strong, how clear is your voice! You call to yourself all who desire you, and make no exception. You live in the humble, you love those who love you, you give justice for the cause of the poor, you are faithful, showing mercy to all, you hate nothing that you have made, you make our human sins appear as nothing, and, with tender heart, you look to us to repent. How wisely you encompass all things! How carefully you have planned our salvation! No evil could hinder your wonderful works, no human folly change your faithful purpose, no sin blot out that great love and goodness, for your royal work prevailed in power, to bring all things to a sweet end. **Amen.**

benedicamus



benediction



*During the hymn, the assembly turns to face the cross as the procession passes by,
orienting ourselves towards Central Park West and the world.*

sending hymn "Gracious God, again is ended"

WERDE MUNTER MEIN GEMÜTE

1. Gra - cious God, a - gain is end - ed of my life an - oth - er day.
2. Faith - ful Fa - ther, thus be - fore Thee now I come with fer - vent plea;
3. Lov - ing Sav - ior, I will sore - ly look to Thee for_ peace - ful sleep;
4. Ho - ly Ghost, Thine eyes for - ev - er watch though dark - ness hide the view;

Show me where I have of - fend - ed, where I fal - tered on the way;
Though un - wor - thy, I im - plore Thee, be Thou mer - ci - ful to me;
Sanc - ti - fy my spir - it whol - ly, an - gels send their watch to keep.
Wak - ing al - ways, fail - ing nev - er, they their lov - ing_ task pur - sue.

Let me by Thy grace di - vine view this sin - ful life of mine.
Let Thy face up - on me shine as the fleet - ing hours de - cline.
Bid all threat - 'ning foes be gone, guard my home and all mine own;
Gen - tle Shep - herd, as Thy sheep now re - pose in trust - ful sleep,

Calm - ly, as the day now clos - es, in Thy love my_ soul re - pos - es.
Help me do Thy will and plea - sure day by day in_ full - er mea - sure.
drive a - way all gloom and sor - row, bless me with a_ glad to - mor - row.
so with - in Thine arms en - fold me, in Thy care se - cure - ly hold me.

The assembly sits for the postlude.

postlude

Praeludium in e minor, BuxWV 142

Dieterich Buxtehude

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BACH VESPERS: The 58th Season

Sundays at 5pm

October 26th

BWV 192 "Nun danket alle Gott"

Anthony Trecek-King, conductor

November 9th

BWV 55 "Ich armer Mensch, ich Sündenknecht"

Morgan Mastrangelo, tenor

Austin Philemon, conductor

November 23rd

BWV 52 "Falsche Welt, dir trau ich nicht"

Kearstin Piper Brown, soprano

Robby Meese, conductor

December 14th

BWV 243 *Magnificat*

Shunske Sato, conductor

February 1st, 2026

BWV 92 "Ich hab in Gottes Herz und Sinn"

Harry Bicket, conductor

February 15th

BWV 127 "Herr Jesu Christ, wahr' Mensch und Gott"

Kelly Hall-Tompkins, soloist

Robby Meese, conductor

March 8th

BWV 182 "Himmelskönig, sei willkommen"

Christine Brandes, conductor

March 22nd

BWV 1052 Keyboard Concerto in d minor

Austin Philemon, organ

Robby Meese, conductor

Friday, April 3rd (7pm)

Heinrich Schütz: St. John Passion

Austin Philemon, conductor

April 5th

BWV 4 "Christ Lag in Todesbanden"

Robby Meese, conductor

A Reconciling in Christ congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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