

WELCOME TO
BACH VESPERS

WELCOME TO
HOLY TRINITY

LIVE STREAMING
AT HOLY TRINITY

BACH VESPERS | THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday, November 23rd 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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Oliver Holt

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Kearstin Piper Brown

BACH VESPERS DIRECTOR

Robby Meese

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PASTOR

The Reverend Timothy Weisman

V E S P E R S

prelude

Orchestral Suite No.3 in D major, BWV 1068: I. Overture

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

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

“In you, Lord I have put my trust”

IN DICH HAB' ICH GEHOFFET

1. In you, Lord I _____ have put my trust; leave me not help - less
 2. Oh, lis - ten, Lord, _____ most gra - cious - ly and hear my cry, my
 3. You are my strength, _____ my shield, my rock, my for - tress that with -
 4. With you, Lord, I _____ have cast my lot; O faith - ful God, for -
 5. All hon - or praise, _____ and ma - jes - ty to Fa - ther, Son, and

in _____ the dust, let me not be con - found - ed. Let in your
 prayer, my plea, make haste for my pro - tec - tion; for woes and
 - stands each shock, my help, my life, my tow - er, my bat - tle
 - sake _____ me not, To you my soul soul com - mending. Lord, be my
 Spi - rit be, our God for - ev - er glor - ious, in whose rich

Word my faith, O Lord, be al - ways firm - ly ground - ed.
 fear sur - round me here. Help me in my af - flic - tion.
 sword, al - might - y Lord, what can re - sist your pow - er?
 stay and lead the way now and when life is end - ing.
 grace we run our race till we de - part vic - to - ri - ous.

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

Lord, my God, when I call to you,
Hear my plea,
I call to you, hasten to me,
Lord, let me find grace,
I lift up my hand with longing,
My prayer before you must be worthy
And fragrant,
As if you had received from me
an evening sacrifice.

*Herr, mein Gott, wenn ich ruf zu dir,
Vernimm meins Flehens Stimme,
Ich ruf dich an, eil her zu mir,
Herr, lass mich Gnade finden,
Ich heb mein Händ auf mit Begier,
Mein Gbet vor dir muss taugen
Und wohl riechen,
Als hättest du von mir
ein Abendopfer krieget.*

Lord God, keep my mouth,
Preserve my lips also,
Turn away, my heart, at all times,
That no evil may escape me,
That I may not live my life
According to the way of the wicked,
Their food
I do not desire,
Keep me from it diligently.

*Herr Gott, behüte meinen Mund,
Mein Lippen auch bewahre,
Wend ab, mein Herz zu aller Stund,
Dass mir nichts Bös entfahre,
Dass ich ja nicht mein Leben führ
Nach der Gottlosen Weise,
Ihre Speise
Keinswegs begehre ich mir,
Hüt mich davor mit Fleiße.*

If a just man strikes me,
Punish me kindly in due time,
I'll take it well
As balm on my head,
I plead before your face,
Do not forsake me, Lord,
You can measure,
That my enemies who hate me may not
overcome me.

*Wenn mich schlägt ein gerechter Mann,
Straft mich freundlich in Zeiten,
Will ich mir's baß gefallen lan
Als Balsam auf meim Haupte,
Ich fleh vor deinem Angesicht,
Wollst, Herr, mich nicht verlassen,
Du kannst maßen,
Dass nicht bewältgen mich
Die Feinde, die mich hassen.*

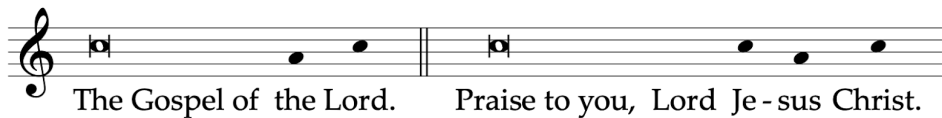
psalm
prayer

Let us pray. *Silence is kept.* O Holy Counselor, come down now with your mighty power into the depths of our hearts. Gladden there with your brightness every dark retreat and kindle our hearts with holy favor, that the incense of our prayers and praises may ever go up to you, our God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

from
the holy
gospels

Matthew 22:15-22

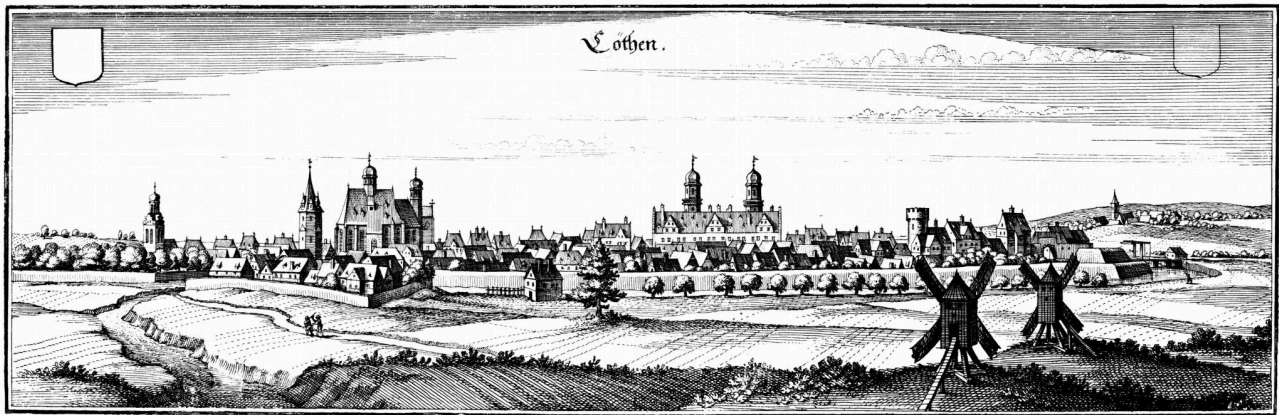
¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” ²¹ They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.



Please extinguish your candle.

sermon

The Reverend Timothy Weisman



Engraving of Köthen ca. 1650 by Matthäus Merian the Elder



Modern-day Schloss Köthen (Köthen Castle)

CANTATA **Falsche Welt, dir trau ich nicht!**

BWV 52

sinfonia

recitativo

False world, I do not rely on you!
Here I must live among scorpions
and deceptive snakes.
Your appearance,
which is ever so friendly,
plots a secret demise:
by Joab's kiss
a pious Abner had to die.
Integrity is exiled from the world,
falsehood has expelled it,
now hypocrisy resides
in its place.
The best friend is unfaithful,
O wretched state!

*Falsche Welt, dir trau ich nicht!
Hier muß ich unter Skorpionen
und unter falschen Schlangen wohnen.
Dein Angesicht,
das noch so freundlich ist,
sinnt auf ein heimliches Verderben:
wenn Joab küsst,
so muß ein frommer Abner sterben.
Die Redlichkeit ist aus der Welt verbannt,
die Falschheit hat sie fortgetrieben,
nun ist die Heuchelei
an ihrer Stelle geblieben.
Der beste Freund ist ungetreu,
O jämmerlicher Stand!*

aria

So what, so what,
even if I am suddenly cast out!
Though the false world is my foe,
O, so God remains yet my friend,
he deems honesty with me.

*Immerhin, immerhin,
wenn ich gleich verstoßen bin!
Ist die falsche Welt mein Feind,
o so bleibt doch Gott mein Freund,
der es redlich mit mir meint.*

recitativo

God is faithful!
He will not and cannot forsake me;
should the world and its fury wish
to snare me in its noose,
then his help stays beside me.
Upon his friendship do I build,
and my soul, spirit and mind
and everything that I am
I entrust to him.

*Gott ist getreu!
Er wird, er kann mich nicht verlassen;
will mich die Welt und ihre Raserei
in ihre Schlingen fassen,
so steht mir seine Hilfe bei.
Auf seine Freundschaft will ich bauen,
und meine Seele, Geist und Sinn
und alles, was ich bin,
ihm anvertrauen.*

aria

I stay beside this dear God,
let the world remain on its own.
With God beside me, and me beside God,
thus I myself can dispel
the mockery of deceptive tongues.

*Ich halt es mit dem lieben Gott,
die Welt mag nur alleine bleiben.
Gott mit mir, und ich mit Gott,
also kann ich selber Spott
mit den falschen Zungen treiben.*

corale

In you I have hoped, Lord,
help that I neither come to ruin
nor eternally be derided!
This I pray you,
preserve me
in your truth, Lord God!

*In dich hab ich gehoffet, Herr,
hilf, daß ich nicht zuschanden werd,
noch ewiglich zu Spotte!
Das bitt ich dich,
erhalte mich
in deiner Treu, Herr Gotte!*

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

Magnificat quinti toni

Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)

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.
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;
And his mercy is on them that fear
him: throughout all generations.

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

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.

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.

*Magnificat anima mea Dominum;
et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo,
quia respexit
humilitatem ancillae suae;
Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes
generationes.*

*quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est, et
sanctum nomen eius,
Et misericordia eius a progenie in progenies
timentibus eum.*

*Fecit potentiam in brachio suo;
dispersit superbos
mente cordis sui;
deposuit potentes
de sede,
et exaltavit humiles;
esurientes
implevit bonis
et divites dimisit inanes.*

*Suscepit Israel puerum suum,
recordatus misericordiae suae,
sicut locutus est
ad patres nostros,
Abraham et semini eius
in saecula.*

*Gloria Patri, et Filio,
et Spiritui Sancto,
sicut erat in principio,
et nunc, et semper: et in Saecula saeculorum.
Amen.*

Let us pray. *Silence is kept.*

collect
for the day
(Gelasian)

O Lord, absolve your people from their offenses, that from the bonds of our sins which by reason of our frailty we have brought upon ourselves, we may be delivered by your bountiful goodness; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

collect
for guidance
(Anna Ovena Hoyers)

Send down from your throne your divine wisdom to teach me, O God, and let your light break in upon my soul. Open wide the door of my heart, drive out the money-changers and those that sell doves, and take complete possession of my life. Make your presence manifest, and overrule all things to the glory of your Holy Name. **Amen.**

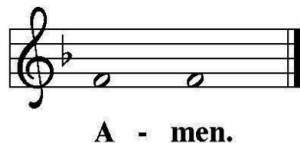
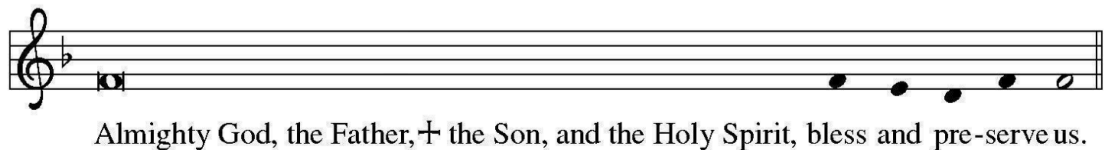
collect
for peace
(Woodrow Wilson)

Almighty God, incline your ear, we beg you, to the prayer of the nations, and so overrule the imperfect counsel of human beings, and set straight the things they cannot govern, that we may walk in paths of obedience to places of vision, and to thoughts that surge and make us wise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

benedicamus



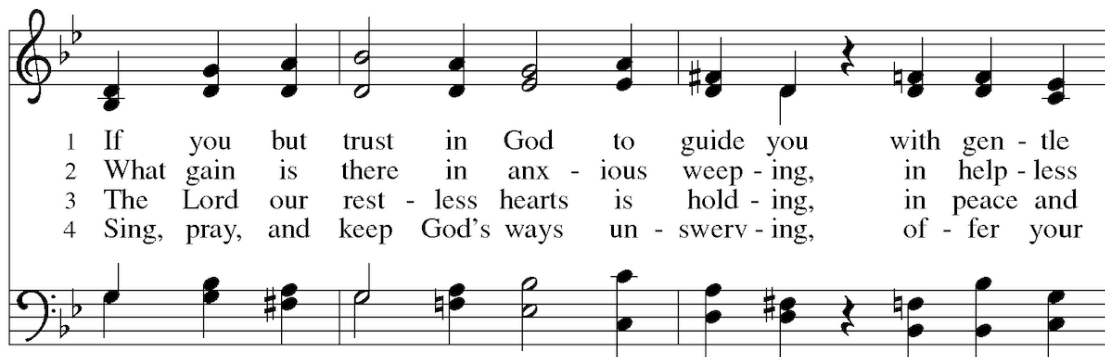
benediction



*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 "If you but trust in God to guide you"

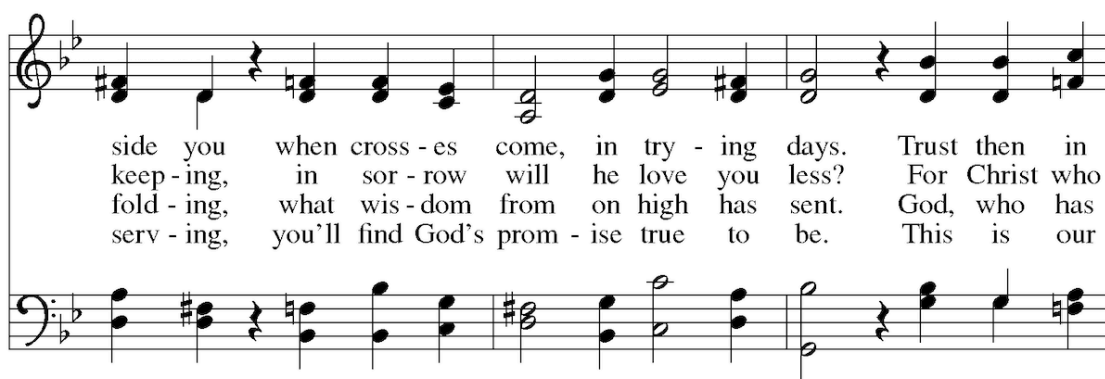
WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT



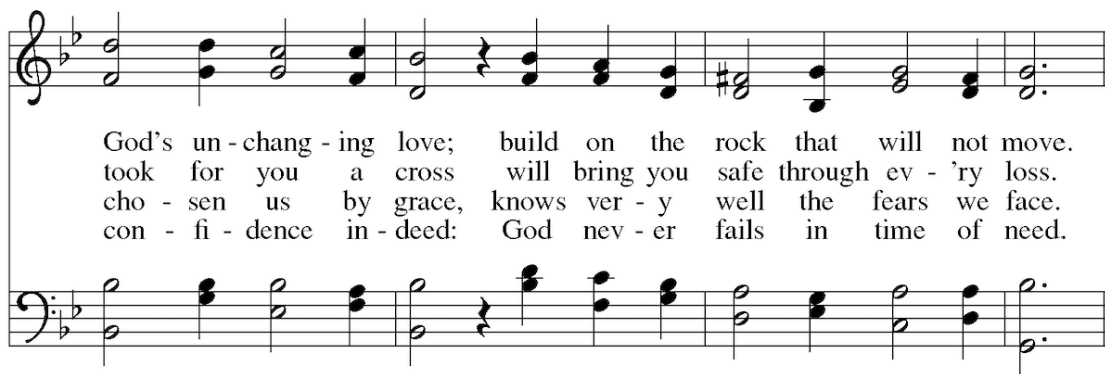
1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

The assembly sits for the postlude.

postlude

Praeludium in E Major, BuxWV 141

Dieterich Buxtehude

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BWV 243 *Magnificat*

Shunske Sato, conductor

Sunday, December 14th 2025, 5pm



Former Artistic Director of Netherlands Bach Society Shunske Sato joins Bach Vespers as the stirring conclusion to his two-week New York residency in partnership with Gotham Early Music Scene, Music Before 1800, and The Juilliard School. Sato, regularly featured as soloist and conductor with orchestras around the world, leads the Bach Vespers Choir and Orchestra's largest ensemble of the 58th season in the annual presentation of the *Magnificat*.

Generously supported by Robert Busch and Richard Dematteis in memory of their parents.

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 traue 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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