

WELCOME TO
BACH VESPERS

BACH VESPERS | ESTOMIHI Sunday, February 15th 2026

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.

WELCOME TO
HOLY TRINITY

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.

LIVE STREAMING
AT HOLY TRINITY

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.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

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Tim Cage and Robert Crumb
Anne & Marlin Kinzey
Tom Barritt

VIOLINS

Tatiana Daubek, Dongmyung Ahn, Kiyoun Jang, Francis Liu,
Jessica Park, & Anna Parks

VIOLAS

Annie Garlid & Jessica Meyer

CELLO

Oliver Weston & Nathan Whittaker

BASS

Dara Bloom

OBOES

Gonzalo Ruiz & Pablo O'Connell

BASSOON

Clay Zeller-Townson

RECORDERS

Rachely Begley & Dirk Wels

TRUMPET

Dean Oaks

SOPRANOS

Maura Tuffy*, Aani Bourrassa, Elizaveta Kozlova, Kristin Sands

ALTOS

Catherine Hedberg, Clifton Massey, & Luke Paulino

TENORS

AJ Rodriguez*, Matt Krenz, & Stephen Sands

BASSES

Anicet Castel*, Jonathan Harris, & Max Parsons

**soloist*

VIOLIN SOLOIST

Kelly Hall-Tompkins

GUEST CONDUCTOR

Dylan Sauerwald

BACH VESPERS DIRECTOR

Robby Meese

MUSIC DIRECTOR & ORGANIST

Austin Philemon

PASTOR

The Reverend Timothy Weisman

Tonight's cantata is generously sponsored in memory of Bonnie Eggers by her family

V E S P E R S

prelude

Sonata no. 1 in b minor, BWV 1014: I. Adagio

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

“Evening and morning”

DIE GÜLDNE SONNE



1 Eve - ning and morn - ing, sun - set and dawn - ing,
2 Gra - cious Lord, hear me, par - don and spare me;
3 Ills that still grieve me soon are to leave me;
4 To God in heav - en all praise be giv - en!



wealth, peace, and glad - ness, com - fort in sad - ness:
calm all my ter - rors, blot out my er - rors,
though bil - lows tow - er, and winds gain pow - er,
O God, we of - fer and glad - ly prof - fer



these are your works, rich in glo - ry di - vine!
that jus - ti - fied in your sight I may stand.
af - ter the storm the fair sun shows its face.
gifts from your hand; these a - lone you will prize:



Times with - out num - ber, a - wake or in slum - ber,
Or - der my go - ings, di - rect all my do - ings;
Joys e'er in - creas - ing and peace nev - er ceas - ing;
hearts that re - ceive you and faith to be - lieve you;



your eye ob - serves us, from dan - ger pre - serves us,
guard me and guide me and stay close be - side me;
these shall I trea - sure and share in full mea - sure
hymns that a - dore you are pre - cious be - fore you



caus - ing your mer - cy up - on us to shine.
all I com - mit to your fa - ther - ly hand.
when in your man - sions you grant me a place.
and to your throne like sweet in - cense a - rise.

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

My soul shall praise God the Lord,
I will gladly praise Him with all my heart,
I will sing praises to my God,
As long as I live, until death.

*Mein Seel soll loben Gott den Herrn,
Ich lob ihn ja von Herzen gern,
Ich will lobsingen meinem Gott,
Solang ich leb bis in den Tod.*

Do not put your trust in princes,
Do not place your confidence in them,
For they are nothing more than men,
In whom no help can be found.

*Verlasst euch doch auf Fürsten nicht,
Setzt nicht auf sie eur Zuversicht,
Denn sie nichts mehr als Menschen sind,
Bei denen man kein Hilfe findt.*

The spirit of man must depart,
He returns to the earth,
For his plans are lost
And all that he chose for himself.

*Des Menschen Geist muss doch davon,
Er wird zur Erde wiederum,
Alsdenn sein Anschläg sind verlorn
Und alles, was er ihm erkorn.*

The Lord makes the blind see,
He loves and protects righteousness,
His mighty hand quickly lifts up
All who are downcast.

*Der Herr macht sehend blinde Leut,
Er liebt und schützt Gerechtigkeit,
Sein starke Hand richt auf geschwind
Alle, die niedergeschlagen sind.*

He protects the orphan and the stranger,
Shows His faithfulness and goodness
On poor widows burdened with hardship,
He turns back the wickedness.

*Waisen und Fremdling er behüt,
Erweiset seine Treu und Güt
An armen Witwen hoch beschwert,
Gottloses Tun zurück er kehrt.*

On this rests our confidence,
The Lord is King forever,
Your God, O Zion, for all time,
Hallelujah we sing with joy.

*Darauf steht unser Zuversicht,
Der Herr ist König ewiglich,
Dein Gott, o Zion, alle Zeit,
Halleluja singn wir mit Freud.*

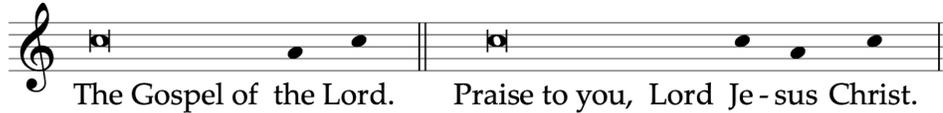
Let us pray. *Silence is kept.* Blessed indeed are they who put their trust in you, O God, our sure rock and refuge. Guard us from giving to any other the allegiance that belongs only to you. Shine upon us with the brightness of your light, that we may love you with a pure heart and praise you forever; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

from
the holy
gospels

Luke 18:31-43

³¹ Then he took the twelve aside and said to them, “Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. ³² For he will be handed over to the gentiles, and he will be mocked and insulted and spat upon. ³³ After they have flogged him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again.” ³⁴ But they understood nothing about all these things; in fact, what he said was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.

³⁵ As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. ³⁶ When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. ³⁷ They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.” ³⁸ Then he shouted, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ³⁹ Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he shouted even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁰ Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him, and when he came near, he asked him, ⁴¹ “What do you want me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, let me see again.” ⁴² Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has saved you.” ⁴³ Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God, and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.



Please extinguish your candle.

sermon

The Reverend Timothy Weisman

CANTATA

Herr Jesu Christ, wahr Mensch und Gott

BWV 127

coro	<p>Lord Jesus Christ, true human and God, You who suffered agony, fear, and mockery, Who ultimately also died for me on the cross And purchased for me your father's favor, I ask through your bitter suffering: May you be gracious to me, a sinner.</p>	<p><i>Herr Jesu Christ, wahr Mensch und Gott, Der du littst Marter, Angst und Spott, Für mich am Kreuz auch endlich starbst Und mir deins Vaters Huld erwarbst, Ich bitt durchs bittre Leiden dein: Du wollst mir Sünder gnädig sein.</i></p>
recitativo tenore	<p>When in the end everything horrifies, And when a cold death-sweat Drenches the limbs already paralyzed, When my tongue speaks through sighs alone And this heart breaks: It is enough that faith then knows That Jesus stands by me, He goes with patience to his suffering, And along this difficult path He also guides me, And prepares for me rest.</p>	<p><i>Wenn alles sich zur letzten Zeit entsetzet, Und wenn ein kalter Todesschweiss Die schon erstarrten Glieder netzet, Wenn meine Zunge nichts als nur durch Seufzer spricht Und dieses Herze bricht: Genug, dass da der Glaube weiss, Dass Jesus bei mir steht, Der mit Geduld zu seinem Leiden geht Und diesen schweren Weg auch mich geleitet Und mir die Ruhe zubereitet.</i></p>
aria soprano	<p>The soul will rest in Jesus' hands, When earth covers this body. Ah, summon me soon, you death bells; I am unafraid of dying, Because my Jesus will resurrect me.</p>	<p><i>Die Seele ruht in Jesu Händen, Wenn Erde diesen Leib bedeckt. Ach ruft mich bald, ihr Sterbeglocken, Ich bin zum Sterben unerschrocken, Weil mich mein Jesus wieder weckt.</i></p>
recitativo e aria basso	<p>When one day the trumpets sound, And when the edifice of the world, Along with those vaults of the skies, Will fall into ruin, dashed to pieces, Then think of me, my God, for the best; When your servant one day appears for the judgment, Where thoughts accuse themselves, Then may it be your will, however, O Jesus, to be my advocate And say consolingly to my soul: In truth, in truth, I say to you: When skies and earth pass away in the fire Then a believer shall abide eternally.</p>	<p><i>Wenn einstens die Posaunen schallen, Und wenn der Bau der Welt Nebst denen Himmelfesten Zerschmettert wird zerfallen, So denke mein, mein Gott, im besten; Wenn sich dein Knecht einst vors Gerichte stellt, Da die Gedanken sich verklagen, So wollest du allein, O Jesu, mein Fürsprecher sein Und meiner Seele tröstlich sagen: Fürwahr, fürwahr, euch sage ich: Wenn Himmel und Erde im Feuer vergehen, So soll doch ein Gläubiger ewig bestehen. Er wird nicht kommen ins Gericht</i></p>

He will not come into the judgment
And he will not eternally taste death.
Just cleave yourself,
My child, to me:
I will break, with mighty
and saving hand,
Death's powerfully tautened bond.

*Und den Tod ewig schmecken nicht.
Nur halte dich,
Mein Kind, an mich:
Ich breche mit starker
und helfender Hand
Des Todes gewaltig geschlossenes Band.*

corale

Ah, Lord, forgive all our transgressions,
Help, that we may wait with patience
Until our hour of death draws near;
And that our faith be ever vigilant,
Trusting your word steadfastly,
Until we blessedly fall asleep.

*Ach, Herr, vergib all unsre Schuld,
Hilf, dass wir warten mit Geduld,
Bis unser Stündlein kömmt herbei,
Auch unser Glaub stets wacker sei,
Dein'm Wort zu trauen festiglich,
Bis wir einschlafen seliglich.*

word of
welcome

Robby Meese

offertory

*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
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Sonata no. 2 in A major, BWV 1015

J.S. Bach

I. [Andante]

II. Allegro

The assembly stands when invited by the celebrant.

magnificat

Meine Seele erhebt den Herren

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

My soul magnifies my Lord,
my spirit leaps for joy
in Him who shall be my Savior!
Mary sings; Me, a wretched maiden, even vanity,
only has seen
a divine power cast within me;
all races forfeit their praise for me.

His name alone is ready, and delights all the world
who place themselves in His mercy
with fear for all time; for His power divides
them when He moves His arm;
what pride strives, no power can withstand,
from the throne He moves it.

Whoever has humility, patience, and hunger
He will wholly feed them;
He will raise them high and satiate them
So that he may prove his power.
He will leave the rich empty-handed
He will place them in mourning
But what is poor, what lacks here,
he will delight with joy.

The Lord also took in his servant
Israel with great mercy

As he had promised
to the fathers
A long time ago
Also Abraham and all who came
After from his seed forever

Glory be to the Father and the Son
Also to God the Holy Spirit
As He was in the beginning and now
Who grants us His grace
That we may walk and always act
To the glory of the divine name
Whoever desires this, to him it is granted
To this we joyfully say Amen.

*Mein Seel erhebt den Herren mein,
mein Geist thut sich erspringen
in dem, der soll mein Heiland sein!
Maria so thut singen; Mich schlechte Maid, auch
Nichtigkeit allein hat angesehen
in mir verbracht ein göttlich Macht;
all Gschlecht mir Lob verjehen*

*Sein Nam der ist allein bereit, und tut all Welt
ergötzen die sich in sein Barmherzigkeit
mit Furcht allzeit tun setzen; denn sein Gewalt
voneinander spalt so er sein Arm tut regen;
was Hoffart treibt, kein Gwalt auch bleibt,
vom Stuhl tut ers bewegen.*

*Was Demut Geduld und Hunger hat
Die will er gänzlich speisen
Hoch setzen sie und machen satt
Damit sein Gewalt beweisen.
Die Reichen schon läßt leer hingahn
Tut sie in Trauern setzen
Doch was arm ist dem hie gebricht
Will er mit Freud ergötzen*

*Der Herr nahm auch an seinem Knecht
Den Israel viel frommen
Barmherzigkeit die macht das schlecht
Daß er ihn an hat genommen
Wie er denn vor den Vätern zwar
Vor langen hat zugesagt
Auch Abraham und was je kam
Vom Samen sein in Ewigkeit*

*Ehr sei dem Vater und dem Sohn
Auch Gott den heiligen Geiste
Als er im Anfang war und nun
Der uns sein Gnade leiste
Daß wir wandeln und stets handeln
Zu Ehr göttlichem Namen
Wer das begehrt dem wir gewährt
Drauf sprechen wir fröhlich Amen.*

Let us pray.

collect
for the day
(Veit Dietrich)

Lord God, with your voice you directed us to your Son who would bear our sins that we might receive grace and the forgiveness of sins. Keep us in the true faith, strengthen us by your Holy Spirit, and lead us to eternal life and salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. **Amen.**

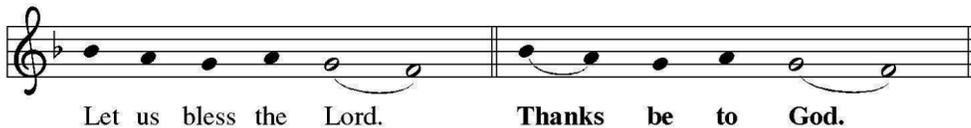
collect
for guidance
(Olive Wyon)

O Lord Jesus Christ, who in the days of thy flesh didst steadfastly set thy face to go to Jerusalem; didst suffer the Agony in the Garden, and dereliction on the cross; who yet, for the joy that was set before thee, didst endure the cross, despising the shame, and art set down at the right hand of God: strength us: when we shrink from unknown ways. Hold us firmly when we are afraid, help us to follow thee without swerving, to the end; out of weakness, make us strong, lighten our darkness, and beat down Satan under our feet; and bring us unto everlasting life. **Amen.**

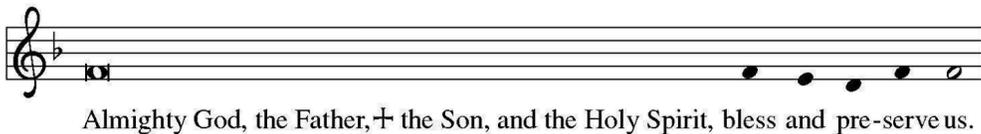
collect
for peace
(Julian of Norwich)

In you, God almighty, we have our preservation and our bliss. In you, Christ, we have our restoring and our saving. In you, our Lord the Holy Spirit, is marvelous and plenteous grace. You are our maker, our lover, our keeper. Teach us to believe that by your grace all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well. **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.

1. Lord Je - sus Christ, true man and God, who bor - est an - guish, scorn, the rod, and
 2. When comes the hour of fail - ing breath and I must wre - stle, Lord, with death; when
 3. “In truth I tell you, who re - ceives my Word, and keeps it, and be - lieves. Shall
 4. Dear Lord, for - give us all our guilt, help us to wait un - til Thou wilt that

died at_ last u - pon the tree to gain Thy Fa - ther's grace for me: I
 from my_ sight all fades a - way, and when my tongue no more can say, and
 ne - ver_ fall God's wrath be - neath, shall ne - ver taste e - ter - nal death; though
 we de - part; and let our faith be brave and con - quer e - ven death, firm

pray Thee, through that bit - ter woe, let me, a sin - ner, mer - cy know
 when mine ears no more can hear, and when my heart is racked with fear;
 here he must re - turn to dust, he still is no - ways there - fore lost;
 res - ting in Thy sa - cred Word un - til we sleep in Thee, our Lord.

The assembly sits for the postlude.

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