

WELCOME TO
BACH VESPERS

BACH VESPERS | JUDICA Sunday, March 22nd 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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DIGITAL SACRISTAN

Tim Cage & Robert Crumb
Anne and Marlin Kinzey & Jenn Nelson
Tom Barritt

VIOLINS

Tatiana Daubek, Dongmyung Ahn, Epongue Ekille, Kiyoun Jang
Grace McKenzie, Jessica Park, Anna Parks,
Rafa Prendergast & Rachel Smith

VIOLAS
CELLOS

Jessica Meyer, Annie Garlid & Stephen Goist
Nathan Whittaker, Cullen O'Neil & Arnie Tanimoto

BASS
HARPSICHORD
VOCALISTS

Dara Bloom
Dongsok Shin
Meredith Krinke, Erin Reppenhagen, AJ Rodriguez
& Oliver Holt

BACH VESPERS DIRECTOR
MUSIC DIRECTOR & ORGANIST
PASTOR

Robby Meese
Austin Philemon
The Reverend Timothy Weisman

V E S P E R S

prelude

Aus Holbergs Zeit, Suite im alten Stil, Op. 40
I. Praeludium

Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

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.

1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
 2 You have suf-fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
 3 Then, for all that bought my par-don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,

Christ, your-self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
 e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
 for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;

through your suf-f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
 for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
 thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,

Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
 for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

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 Böses 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.*

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

John 16:16-23

[Jesus said:] “A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me.”¹⁷ Then some of his disciples said to one another, “What does he mean by saying to us, ‘A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me,’ and ‘because I am going to the Father’?”¹⁸ They said, “What does he mean by this ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.”¹⁹ Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Are you discussing among yourselves what I meant when I said, ‘A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’?”²⁰ Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy.²¹ When a woman is in labor, she has pain because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world.²² So you have pain now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.²³ On that day you will ask nothing of me. Very truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.”



Please extinguish your candle.

sermon

The Reverend Timothy Weisman

CONCERTO **Keyboard Concerto in d minor**

BWV 1052

Austin Philemon, organist

- I. Allegro
- II. Adagio
- III. Allegro

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.



offertory

Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D Major, BWV 1068: II. Air

J.S. Bach

The assembly stands when invited by the celebrant.

magnificat

Meine Seele erhebt den Herren

TONUS PEREGRINUS

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;
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of
their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful

*Meine Seele erhebt den Herren, und mein Geist
freuet sich Gottes, meines Heilandes;
denn er hat die Niedrigkeit
seiner Magd angesehen.
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.
Er übet Gewalt mit seinem Arm,
und zerstreuet, die hoffärtig sind in ihres Herzens
Sinn.
Er stößet die Gewaltigen*

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.

*vom Stuhl und erhöht die Niedrigen.
 Die Hungerigen füllet er mit Gütern
 und lässt die Reichen leer.
 Er denket der Barmherzigkeit und hilft seinem
 Diener Israel auf,
 wie er geredt hat unsern Vätern,
 Abraham und seinen Samen ewiglich.
 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.

collect for
 the day
 (Gelasian)

Almighty God, by your great goodness mercifully look upon your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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
 (Philip
 Melanchthon)

Almighty, eternal Son of God, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, with all my heart I give thee thanks, for thou didst take upon thyself the nature of a man and became my deliverer, didst suffer physical pain, didst die and arise again. Look graciously upon me and have mercy, for I am alone and in need. Through thy Holy Spirit increase in me the light of faith, help me to overcome my weakness; guide, protect, and make me pure. In thee do I put my trust, O Lord; and let me never be ashamed. **Amen.**

collect for
 peace
 (Hildegard of
 Bingen)

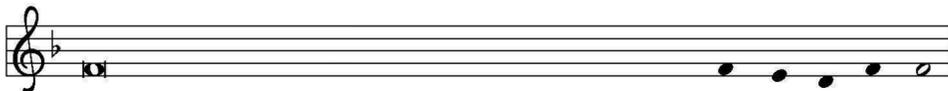
O eternal God, now let it please you to blaze once more in love and reforge us as the limbs you fashioned in that love when you gave birth to your Son before all things created, and look upon this need that over us has fallen for the sake of your Son, and lead us into the bliss of salvation. **Amen.**

benedicamus

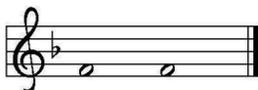


Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

benediction



Almighty God, the Father, † the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre-serve us.



A - men.

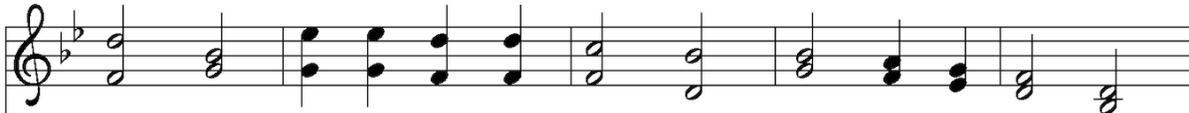
During the hymn, the assembly turns to face the cross as the procession passes by, orienting ourselves towards Central Park West and the world.

sending hymn "Ah, holy Jesus"

HERZLIEBSTER JESU



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to
2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
3 Lo, the Good Shep-herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
5 There-fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
treason, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

The assembly sits for the postlude.

postlude

Aus Holbergs Zeit, Suite im alten Stil, Op. 40
V. Rigaudon

Edvard Grieg

COMPLETING THE TONAL VISION

As Holy Trinity prepares to welcome our new organ, Paul Fritts & Co. Op. 54 (New York City's "Bach Organ"), we'd like to tell you about an exciting way to get involved in supporting the instrument, which includes the opportunity to dedicate specific parts of the organ in memory of a loved one or in celebration of an occasion. Our new instrument is designed to have 63 stops in total, 8 of which are currently preparations.

What is a preparation?

When an organ is designed, the builder develops a list of stops, that is, different types of pipes that have different tonal qualities. All of the stops come together to create the overall tonal concept of the organ. Every organ in the world has its own unique combination of stops, creating a unique character and sound. Sometimes when an organ is installed, it is too expensive to build the complete list of desired stops. In that case, the organ builder prepares for the last few stops by building a place for them inside the organ, leaving empty space so that the pipes can be made and added later once more funds are raised to complete the instrument. Prepared stops are often commissioned by individuals or groups with a common purpose, to dedicate that part of the organ in memory of someone who has passed, or in celebration of an occasion like an anniversary, retirement, or birthday.

How can I give?

In addition to giving electronically, you can also make a gift to the campaign by sending a Zelle to: office@holytrinitynyc.org or by mailing a gift to: 3 W 65th St New York, NY 10023. If you'd like to give through a donor-advised fund (DAF), you can locate Holy Trinity by searching for our EIN: 13-1685538.

Many donors choose to give stock, which can provide tax advantages while supporting this important campaign. For brokerage instructions, write to: campaign@holytrinitynyc.org

**For a detailed description of the price of each stop,
Ask an usher for a brochure or scan this QR code:**



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in honor of Dorothy M. Barritt on her 90th birthday
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To give to Bach Vespers through a Donor-
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BACH VESPERS: The 58th Season

Sundays at 5pm

Friday, April 3rd (7pm)

Heinrich Schütz: St. John Passion

Austin Philemon, conductor

April 5th

BWV 4 “Christ Lag in Todesbanden”

Robby Meese, conductor

