



FESTIVE CHORAL VESPERS

*As it may have been celebrated in Leipzig on the Festival
of the Epiphany of Our Lord in January 1724*

The National Conference on Worship, Music, & the Arts

Carthage College, Siebert Chapel ~ July 24, 2014 ~ 8:00 p.m.

Pre-service music at 7:45 p.m.

ABOUT THE SERVICE

This service gives us a glimpse of Lutheran worship in Germany 200 years after the Reformation. In the city of Leipzig—40 miles from Wittenberg—a strong liturgical heritage and a rich artistic culture brought together a group of committed musicians who blended their faith and skill to provide a worship experience rarely seen before or since. At the heart of liturgical life in Leipzig was the cantor of St. Thomas Church and School, Johann Sebastian Bach.

Bach was unparalleled in his output as a church musician. He was expected to serve four churches simultaneously and direct the musical ensembles of the largest two, St. Thomas and St. Nicholas. Bach was not only responsible for Sunday morning services, but would oversee the music for the Sunday afternoon Vespers services as well. The regular Sunday services along with the festival services at Christmas, Epiphany, etc., filled the church calendar with music. During the twelve days of Christmas in 1723 to 1724, Bach directed eleven services and composed six cantatas, a Sanctus, and a stunning Magnificat.

In 1724 the Epiphany Vespers fell on a Thursday and brought the Christmas season to a close. The service tonight is an adaptation of that service. The pre-service selections this evening give us a taste of the organ music Bach learned and mastered. Earlier in life, he had made his now famous journey to the north German city of Lübeck to meet and learn from the renowned Dieterich Buxtehude. BuxWV 152 is characteristic of the old master's work: a richly ornamented, fantasia-like prelude followed by a fugal movement that concludes with yet another fantasia-like section. Bach mastered this style and took it to new levels, as his own "Fantasia in G Major" demonstrates.

Vespers in Leipzig would have started promptly at 1:30 in the afternoon. The organ began the service with a prelude, and the choir continued with a motet on a hymn suited to the festival's theme. Bach frequently borrowed from the compositional styles of his predecessors at Leipzig, including Johann Hermann Schein. Tonight's motet, "Puer natus in Bethlehem," was composed by Schein's contemporary Samuel Scheidt. While Bach most often chose his own compositions for use in worship, he often made use of the extensive St. Thomas choral library available to him.

Following the motet was the cantata, a musical commentary on the Gospel's theme and a standard feature in many Lutheran churches in this era. *Sie werden aus Saba alle kommen* (They Will All Come from Sheba) was one of the first cantatas Bach wrote in Leipzig. Bach knew how to balance the rehearsal limitations of busy singers while still featuring the exceptional talents of the virtuosi. At tonight's service, we invite the congregation to join in the cantata chorales, although Bach would have given these complex harmonizations to the choir. Whenever Bach invited the congregation to sing, he would introduce the hymn with an expansive organ prelude. The sermon would have comprised the bulk of the pastor's work for the afternoon service and likely would have lasted an hour. Our preacher has chosen to compromise the tradition!

An elaborate setting of the Magnificat followed the sermon. The vespers for a festival such as Epiphany would call for such a setting, performed by the choir in Latin. If a choral setting was not included, the congregation would sing the metrical German text of the Magnificat to a common tune.

Tonight we present somewhat of a hybrid. “All My Spirit Exalts” is an excerpt of a 30-minute work by Bach’s friend and colleague Georg Philipp Telemann. Following the elaborate choral music of the first movement, Telemann concludes with an interesting and rhythmic setting of the ancient hymn. Telemann’s work, together with the Musical Offering’s “Fuga supra il Magnificat” (attributed by some scholars to Johann Ludwig Krebs, a student whom Bach regarded highly), reminds us that Bach was not expected to compose all the music for the Leipzig churches, although he was certainly expected to select it and perform it.

Tonight’s Vesper service concludes with prayers, the benediction, and a setting of the hymn “Now Thank We All Our God.” This is consistent with Bach’s weekly vespers, which always would have closed with settings of the chorales “Gott sei uns gnädig” and “Nun danket alle Gott.” Although well known, Bach presented the old tunes with rich variety, making use of improvisation from the organ loft, as the organist does this evening. The postlude is a setting by Christian Gotthilf Tag, whose teacher, Gottfried August Homilius, was a student of Bach’s at St. Thomas. Both Tag and Homilius were among the first of many musicians across many generations to learn from the patterns of church music, artistry, and worship offered in Lutheran Leipzig.



PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Praeludium in e minor (BuxWV 152)

Dieterich Buxtehude
New Edition of the Complete Works, Vol. 3
Bärenreiter - BA 8223

Fantasia in G Major (BWV 572)

Johann Sebastian Bach
Bach Organ Works, Vol. 7
Bärenreiter Urtext - BA 5177

ORDER OF SERVICE

ORGAN PRELUDE

Puer natus in Bethlehem (BuxWV 217)
Dieterich Buxtehude
New Edition of the Complete Organ Works, Vol. 5
Bärenreiter - BA 8405

MOTET

Puer natus in Bethlehem
Samuel Scheidt, *Cantiones Sacrae* nr. 18, 1620
Carus-Verlag - 1.160

Puer natus in Bethlehem, Alleluia!
Unde gaudet Hierusalem, Alleluia!

A Child is born in Bethlehem, Alleluia!
Therefore rejoice, Jerusalem, Alleluia!

CANTATA

Sie werden aus Saba alle kommen (BWV 65)
Johann Sebastian Bach
Carus-Verlag - 31.065

No. 1 - Chorus: Choir

They all shall that day come out from Sheba, bringing gold and incense
and proclaiming God's praise and excellence.

No. 2 - Chorale: Choir and Congregation

The kings who from She - ba came to him, Came to

him, Brought gold and myrrh and in - cense with them.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - - lu - ia!

No. 3 - Recitative: Bass

What then blest Isaiah had once foretold
 is now in Bethlehem fulfilled.
 The wise men come and cluster
 at Jesus' cradle here
 and hail him as their Ruler and Master.
 Gold, incense and myrrh's scent are their treasures rich and costly
 with which the newborn Lord himself
 in Bethlehem's poor shed they honor.
 My Jesu, if I think to do my duty justly,
 I too must come to see thee in thy manger
 and give thee thanks the more
 that this great day for me brings jubilation,
 for thou, O Prince of life, to ev'ry nation
 bring'st light and grace itself.
 But what can I now bring, O King almighty?
 If my poor heart is too paltry, then take this humble thing:
 I have no better gift to bring.

No. 4 - Aria: Bass

Gold from Ophir is too mean,
now away with earth's vain treasure
which from earth's abyss you mine,
for your heart is Jesus' pleasure!
Give him this, O Christians dear,
for his own in this new year!

No. 5 - Recitative: Tenor

Distain thou not,
O Light that lights my soul,
my heart, which in humility I offer;
for in this humble coffer
are gifts of blessedness
which are the fruits of thine own grace.
The gold of faith, the incense of my prayers,
the myrrh of steadfast patience are the portion,
that thou, O Jesu, evermore shalt have
as my poor gift and thy possession.
Give me thyself, O my Desire,
And thou shalt make me richest of all creatures;
For, having thee, I know that all thy kingdom can bestow
shall be my own with heaven's pleasures.

No. 6 - Aria: Tenor

Take me, take me for thine own.
Take my heart for thy possession
All the longings that are mine:
All my speech, my thought, my action,
O my Savior, now shall be dedicated but to thee.

No. 7 - Chorale: Choir and Congregation

So now, my God, I take from thee The com-fort thou hast

grant - ed. Take me, do as thou wilt with me, Un - til my

life is end - ed. Thou know - est well, my

heart and soul By thee were once cre - a - ted; The love of

thee e - ter - nal - ly In them shall be ex - alt - ed.
be ex - alt - ed.

PRAYERS

M Almighty and eternal God and Father, by your Holy Spirit you sanctify and keep the holy Christian Church. Hear our prayer, and by your grace grant us, together with all its members, to serve you in true faith; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C Amen.

M Almighty and righteous God, you are the giver of all good things. You bless us with morning light and evening rest. You shower the land with good weather, you bestow wealth upon the nations, you endow our bodies with health and our minds with knowledge. Beyond all these graces, you have demonstrated your own mercy in your Son Jesus Christ. Open our hearts to offer you fitting praise and to return our thanks to you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C Amen.

M Almighty and most merciful Lord, you do not despise the petitions of the weak, but you look to the prayers which we offer, even in our distress. Graciously hear us that everything set against us by both the devil and humanity might be brought to nothing. Help us to follow the counsel of your mercy, that we might not only offer you our thanks now, but also offer you our praise forever; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C Amen.

M Lord God, heavenly Father, accept our heartfelt thanks for the gift of your holy gospel. In it, you have made known to us your fatherly heart. Now, by your great mercy, graciously hold forth the blessed light of your Word, that by your Holy Spirit you would lead and direct our hearts. Let us never wander from your Word but, by holding fast to it, attain its eternal blessings; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C Amen.

M Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.

C Amen.

LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

PRELUDE

Nun ruhen alle Wälder (BWV 756)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Bach Organ Works, Vol. 10

Bärenreiter Urtext - BA 5251



Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Arise and Shine in Splendor (BWV 244.10)

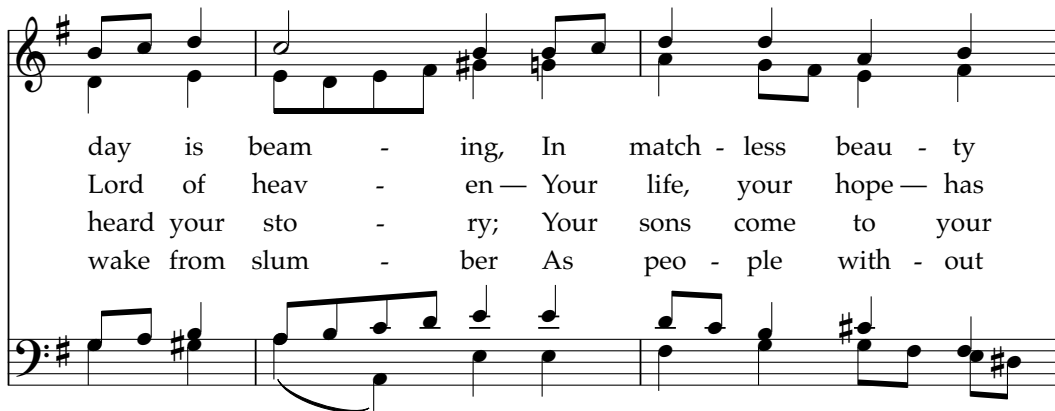
Setting by Johann Sebastian Bach



1 A - rise and shine in splen - dor; Let night to day sur -
2 See earth in dark - ness ly - ing, The hea - then na - tions
3 Lift up your eyes in won - der—See, na - tions gath - er
4 Your heart will leap for glad - ness When from the realms of



ren - der. Your light is draw - ing near. A - bove, the
dy - ing In hope-less gloom and night. To you the
yon - der From sin to be set free. The world has
sad - ness They come from near and far. Your eyes will



day is beam - ing, In match - less beau - ty
Lord of heav - en— Your life, your hope— has
heard your sto - ry; Your sons come to your
wake from slum - ber As peo - ple with - out

gleam - ing; The glo - ry of the Lord is here.
 giv - en Great glo - ry, hon - or, and de - light.
 glo - ry, And daugh - ters haste your light to see.
 num - ber Re - joice to see the Morn - ing Star.

Be seated

SERMON

Isaiah 60:1-6

MAGNIFICAT

Meine Seele erhebt den Herren (TVWV 9.18)
Georg Philipp Telemann (excerpt)
Carus-Verlag - 39.122

All my spirit exalts the Lord
 And I sing joyously
 to my God, my own Savior.

RESPONSORY

Meine Seele erhebt den Herren (TVWV 9.18)
Georg Philipp Telemann (conclusion)

Glory be to God the Father and the Son
 And to the Holy Spirit,
 As it was in the beginning, and is now
 And shall be forever. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Meine Seele erhebt den Herren (BWV 733)
(*Fuga sopra il Magnificat*)

Johann Sebastian Bach
(also attributed to Johann Ludwig Krebs)

Transcribed for trumpet and organ by Michael Rondeau
[http://imslp.org/wiki/Meine_Seele_erhebt_den_Herren_\(Krebs,_Johann_Ludwig\)](http://imslp.org/wiki/Meine_Seele_erhebt_den_Herren_(Krebs,_Johann_Ludwig))

Stand

PRAYER

- M** We thank you, Lord God, that you have called us from the darkness of unbelief into the fellowship of your Son. Lead and guide us by your Holy Spirit that we may walk in the light of Christ day after day and never wander from his love. May we at all times find him in the gospel and willingly serve him who is the Savior of all and lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

- M** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.



- 1 May God grant his bless-ing now up - on us,
2 May he let his face now shine up - on us,
3 May this God, our God, be gra - cious to us.



- And be - stow on us his mer - cy and fa - vor.
So all those on earth may know of his might - y deeds.
May God bless us and give peace to us. A - men.

CLOSING HYMN

*Now Thank We All Our God (BWV 252)
Setting by Johann Sebastian Bach*

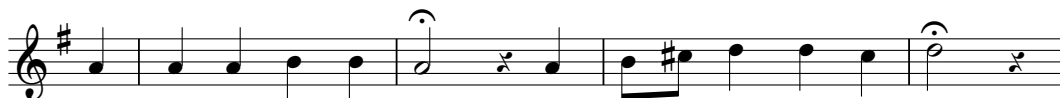
The organist adds improvisations at each musical cadence.



1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voice - es,
2 Oh, may this boun-teous God Through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God The Fa - ther now be giv - en,



Who won-drous things has done, In whom his world re - joic - es,
With ev - er - joy - ful hearts And bless - ed peace to cheer us
The Son, and him who reigns With them in high-est heav - en,



Who from our moth-er's arms Has blessed us on our way
And keep us in his grace And guide us when per-plexed
The one e - ter - nal God, Whom earth and heav'n a - dore!



With count-less gifts of love And still is ours to - day.
And free us from all ills In this world and the next.
For thus it was, is now, And shall be ev - er - more.

Be seated

Remain silent during the postlude.

POSTLUDE

*Now Thank We All Our God
Christian Gotthilf Tag
Three Chorale Preludes
Carus-Verlag - 13.022*

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Presiding Minister

Mark Tiefel

*Pastor, Abiding Word
Houston, Texas*

Preacher

Mark Braun

*Professor, Wisconsin Lutheran College
Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

Organist

Jacob Behnken

*Pastor, Good Shepherd
Midland, Michigan*

Choirs

**Conference Choir
Canticum Novum**

Choir Director

Jon Laabs

*Trinity
Waukesha, Wisconsin*

Soloists

Michael Marquardt, Bass

*Peace
Hartford, Wisconsin*

Jon Hermanson, Tenor

*Illinois Lutheran High School
Crete, Illinois*

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Violin 1

Jack Boatman, Milwaukee, WI
Hannah Braun, Wauwatosa, WI

Violin 2

Kaila Banaszak, Jackson, WI
Megan Buschkopf, West Allis, WI

Viola

Abigail Peterson, Milwaukee, WI
Lori Guse, Mequon, WI

Cello

Seth Banaszak, Jackson, WI

Flute

Jeannine Dennis, Modesto, CA
Judy Kriewall, Issaquah, WA

English Horn

Alana Henkel, Duluth, MN
Suzanne Swenson, Wauwatosa, WI

Horn

David Kriewall, Issaquah, WA
Mike Swenson, Wauwatosa, WI

Trumpet

David Tiefel, Las Vegas, NV

Continuo

James Naumann, New York, NY

NOTES