

54<sup>th</sup> Year  
2024–2025

# BACH

## Cantata Vespers

**Grace Lutheran Church  
River Forest, Illinois**

BACH

Cantata Vespers



54<sup>th</sup> Year  
2024–2025

# BACH

## Cantata Vespers

Welcome to the 54<sup>th</sup> season of Bach Cantata Vespers at Grace Lutheran Church.

This season's Bach Cantata Vespers celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bach's second yearlong cycle of cantatas, the Chorale Cycle. During his second year in Leipzig, 1724–25, Bach wrote a cantata for each Sunday and festival of the church year. Most of them were completely original works; a few were revivals of earlier compositions. Each cantata was based on a chorale familiar to his congregation, with original choruses and expressive arias describing doubt and sorrow, joy and faith.

It is no small thing that Bach's music continues to speak to people today, proclaiming the never-ending story of God's grace and mercy poured out for us in Jesus Christ.

This season includes two very special events in addition to our monthly cantatas: a concert by the Thomanerchor from Bach's church in Leipzig, Germany, and two performances of Bach's magnificent *Mass in B Minor*. Read more about these events in the pages ahead.

It is your gifts and financial support that make this ministry possible. If you wish to make a financial gift to Bach Cantata Vespers please use the enclosed envelope, or give online at [bachvespers.org](http://bachvespers.org). All gifts are tax-deductible.

Should distance or illness keep you away from in-person worship at Grace, you can still join us on our livestream at the Bach Cantata Vespers YouTube channel. Links to upcoming services are at [www.bachvespers.org](http://www.bachvespers.org).

Thank you for your ongoing support and attendance at Bach Cantata Vespers. We look forward to seeing you soon for another season of worship and music.

Soli Deo Gloria!

The Rev. Michael D. Costello, Grace Cantor

# Year at a glance...

**September 29 BWV 130**

**Herr Gott, dich loben alle wir**

Peter W. Marty, homilist; Terry Everson, trumpeter  
MacMillan: *Seraph*; Hillert: Prelude to Evening Prayer

**October 27 BWV 80**

**Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott**

Troy E. Medlin, homilist; Bruce Bengtson, organist

**November 24 BWV 116**

**Du Friedefürst, Herr Jesu Christ**

James R. Nieman, homilist; Alloy Horn Quartet  
Kapelle of Concordia University Chicago, guest choir  
Charles P. Brown, conductor

**December 15 BWV 91**

**Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ**

Performed as part of Grace's Advent/Christmas concert  
at 4:00 p.m. Admission is free; free-will offering

**January 26 BWV 111**

**Was mein Gott will, das g'scheh allzeit**

Erin Bouman, homilist; Kontras Quartet

**February 23 BWV 126**

**Erhalt uns, Herr, bei deinem Wort**

Kathy Nolte, homilist; Steven Wente, organist

**March 14**

**Leipzig Thomanerchor**

In concert at Grace on Friday, March 14, 7:30 p.m.  
Visit [www.bachvespers.org](http://www.bachvespers.org) for tickets.

**March 29, 30 BWV 232**

**Mass in B Minor**

Saturday, March 29, 7:00 p.m. (Preview lecture at 6:00 p.m.)  
Sunday, March 30, 4:00 p.m. (Preview lecture at 3:00 p.m.)  
Admission is free; free-will offering

**April 27 BWV 42**

**Am Abend aber desselbigen Sabbats**

Ian A. McFarland, homilist  
J. S. Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 3, BWV 1048  
Hennig Kraggerud: *Victimae paschali*

**May 18 BWV 128**

**Auf Christi Himmelfahrt allein**

Paul D. Weber, homilist; Florence Jowers, organist

## September 29 BWV 130

### Herr Gott, dich loben alle wir

*Lord God, we all praise you*

Bach composed this festive cantata for the Feast of St. Michael during his second year in Leipzig. Based on a chorale text by Paul Eber, the cantata praises God for the creation of angels in a festive setting of the tune best known as “Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.” The orchestra includes strings, three oboes, three trumpets, and timpani. It is a fitting, festive start to a new season of Bach Cantata Vespers.

#### 3:00 p.m. Cantata Preview Lecture

**Mark Peters**, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights

#### 3:45 p.m. Orchestral/Organ Prelude

**MacMillan**: *Seraph* for trumpet and strings

**Terry Everson**, Boston University, trumpeter

**Hillert**: *Prelude to Evening Prayer*



Terry Everson

#### 4:00 p.m. Bach Cantata Vespers

**Peter W. Marty**, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Davenport, Iowa, homilist

**Heinrich Schütz**: *Herzlich lieb hab ich dich, o Herr*, SWV 387

**Bach Cantata Vespers Chorus and Orchestra**  
**Grace Cantor Michael D. Costello**, conducting

**Carolyn DalMonte**, soprano

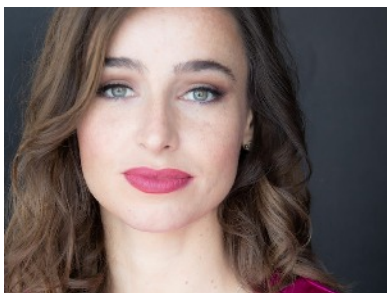
**Amanda Koopman**, mezzo-soprano

**Ryan Townsend Strand**, tenor

**Douglas Anderson**, baritone



Peter W. Marty



Carolyn DalMonte



Amanda Koopman



Douglas Anderson



Ryan Townsend Strand

**5:30 p.m. Post-Service Reception**

All are invited to attend a wine and cheese reception in the Grace gymnasium to celebrate the start of a new season of Bach Cantata Vespers. No admission fees; free-will offering will be received.

**6:00 p.m. Dinner Celebration for Pastor F. Dean Lueking**

Grace's Pastor Emeritus, F. Dean Lueking, celebrates the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his ordination. A dinner in honor of Pastor Lueking and his ministry will take place in Grace's Fellowship Hall following the Bach Cantata Vespers and reception.

**Tickets are required** and may be purchased until September 15 at [www.graceriverforest.org](http://www.graceriverforest.org) or by calling Grace at 708-366-6900.

Ticket cost is \$50 per person or a table of ten may be reserved for \$450.



F. Dean Lueking

Photo by David Pierini/Wednesday Journal

**October 27 BWV 80**

## **Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott**

*A mighty fortress is our God*

The music of Bach's magnificent cantata on "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" first took shape in Weimar in 1715 as a Lenten cantata. He revised and expanded it in Leipzig, adding the splendid opening chorus at some point in the 1730s — a chorus that has been called "the high-point of Bach's chorale-based choral music." The cantata was not part of the second cycle that we are commemorating this season, but it has always been a favorite of worshipers at Bach Cantata Vespers!

**3:00 p.m. Cantata Preview Lecture**

**Mark Peters**, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights

**3:45 p.m. Organ Prelude**

**Bruce Bengtson**, Madison, Wisconsin, organist

**4:00 p.m. Bach Cantata Vespers**

**Troy E. Medlin**, Grace Lutheran Church and School, River Forest, Illinois, homilist

**Benedictus Ducis:** Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

**Bach Cantata Vespers Chorus and Orchestra**  
**Grace Cantor Michael D. Costello**, conducting

**Maura Janton Cock**, soprano

**Amanda Koopman**, mezzo-soprano

**Ace Gangoso**, tenor

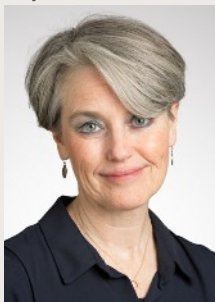
David Govertsen, bass-baritone



Troy E. Medlin



Bruce Bengtson



Maura Janton Cock



Ace Gangoso

## November 24 *BWV 116*

### **Du Friedefürst, Herr Jesu Christ**

*You Prince of Peace, Lord Jesus Christ*

Bach performed this cantata for the first time on the last Sunday of the church year, November 26, 1724, almost 300 years ago to the day when we will hear it at Grace. The cantata is based on a hymn by Jakob Ebert by the same name that speaks of the peace that only Christ can bring amidst the trials and tribulations of a believer's lifetime. This prayer for Christ's intervention holds meaning for us today, even as it brought comfort to 18<sup>th</sup> century Lutherans.

#### **3:00 p.m. Cantata Preview Lecture**

**Mark Peters**, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights

#### **3:45 p.m. Instrumental Prelude**

**Alloy Horn Quartet**, Chicago, Illinois



Alloy Horn Quartet

#### **4:00 p.m. Bach Cantata Vespers**

**James R. Nieman**, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, homilist

**Michael D. Costello**: I Am the Alpha and the Omega

**Kapelle, Concordia University Chicago**, guest choir  
**Charles P. Brown**, conductor

**Susan Nelson**, soprano

**Thomas Aláan**, countertenor

**Matthew Dean**, tenor

**Peter Wesoloski**, baritone



James R. Nieman



Concordia University Chicago's Kapelle





## Mark Peters on Bach

*Join us at 3:00 for pre-service lectures.*

Dr. Mark Peters is professor of music and director of the Center for Teaching and the Good Life at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Illinois. He teaches courses on music and the arts in relation to individuals, societies, and cultures, seeking to instill in students the perspective that practices of creating and of engaging human creativity are fundamental aspects of our shared humanity.

Peters offers insights into the cantatas being performed at each month's Bach Cantata Vespers service. Join us at 3:00 in the lower-level Seminar Room each month to learn more about the cantata you are about to hear in worship.

Peters holds a Ph.D. in historical musicology from the University of Pittsburgh. He is author of *A Woman's Voice in Baroque Music: Mariane von Ziegler and J. S. Bach* (Ashgate, 2008) and co-editor with Reginald L. Sanders of *Compositional Choices and Meaning in the Vocal Music of J. S. Bach* (Lexington, 2018).

Mark Peters







**December 15 BWV 91**

## **Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ**

*All praise be to you, Jesus Christ*

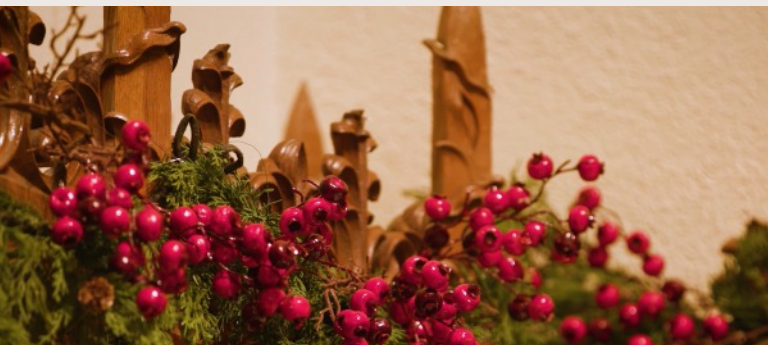
Martin Luther's hymn for Christmas morning inspired this cantata for Christmas Day in 1724. Scored for soloists, choir, horns, oboes, timpani and strings, it proclaims the joyful news that Christ came to our world in order to bring us the treasures of heaven. The music is such a perfect celebration of the good news of Christmas that Bach presented it four more times during his tenure as Thomaskantor in Leipzig.

*Performed as part of Grace's Advent/Christmas Concert  
at 4:00 p.m. Admission is free; free-will offering*

*Please note that there is not a lecture at 3:00 for this event.*

**Bach Cantata Vespers Chorus and Orchestra**  
**Grace Cantor Michael D. Costello**, conducting

**Carolynne DalMonte**, soprano  
**Emlynn Shoemaker**, mezzo-soprano  
**Ace Gangoso**, tenor  
**Peter Wesoloski**, baritone



## January 26 *BWV 111*

### **Was mein Gott will, das g'scheh allzeit**

*What my God wills, may that always happen*

Bach's cantata for the third Sunday after Epiphany is based on a Reformation-era chorale text by Albert, Duke of Prussia, published in 1554. The scoring for this cantata is consistent with a Sunday less festive in nature, using only strings, oboes, and continuo. The spirited music expresses complete trust in God, in life's trials and in the face of death.

#### **3:00 p.m. Cantata Preview Lecture**

**Mark Peters**, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights

#### **3:45 p.m. Instrumental Prelude**

**Kontras Quartet**, Chicago, Illinois

#### **4:00 p.m. Bach Cantata Vespers**

**Erin Bouman**, Irving Park Lutheran Church,  
Chicago, Illinois, homilist

**Paul Tschesnokoff**: O Lord God

**Bach Cantata Vespers Chorus and Orchestra**  
**Grace Cantor Michael D. Costello**, conducting

**Carolyn DalMonte**, soprano

**Amanda Koopman**, mezzo-soprano

**Ryan Townsend Strand**, tenor

**Douglas Anderson**, baritone



## February 23 BWV 126

### Erhalt uns, Herr, bei deinem Wort

*Lord, keep us steadfast in your word*

Martin Luther wrote *Erhalt uns, Herr, bei deinem Wort* as a hymn for children, a *Kinderlied*. Nearly 200 years later Bach used this chorale as the centerpiece of his cantata for Sexagesima, the second Sunday before Lent, when the appointed Gospel reading was Jesus' Parable of the Sower. We join in Luther's prayer: "Uphold us, Lord, by your word" as well as the cantata's final prayer for peace.

#### 3:00 p.m. Cantata Preview Lecture

**Mark Peters**, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights

#### 3:45 p.m. Organ Prelude

**Steven Wentz**, Concordia University Chicago



Steven Wentz

#### 4:00 p.m. Bach Cantata Vespers

**Kathy Nolte**, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, homilist

**Johann Walter**: Allein auf Gottes Wort will ich

**Bach Cantata Vespers Chorus and Orchestra**  
**Grace Cantor Michael D. Costello**, conducting

**Amanda Koopman**, mezzo-soprano

**Ryan Townsend Strand**, tenor

**David Govertsen**, bass-baritone



Kathy Nolte



# THOMANERCHOR

L E I P Z I G



Photo © Philipp Kirschner, Leipzig Travel Used by permission

**March 14, 7:30 p.m.**

## **Leipzig Thomanerchor**

*The St. Thomas Boys Choir of Leipzig, Germany  
Thomaskantor Andreas Reize, conducting*

The Thomanerchor was founded in the year 1212 and is best known for its connection to Johann Sebastian Bach, who led the choir as Thomaskantor from 1723 until his death in 1750. The choir is made up of boys age 9 to 18 and sings every week in services at the St. Thomas Church in Leipzig. It also gives concerts across Germany and tours internationally. The choir's repertoire includes music, from the Renaissance to contemporary choral works, with a special emphasis on the music of J. S. Bach.

**Purchase tickets (\$25–\$55) at [www.bachvespers.org](http://www.bachvespers.org)  
or call the Grace Music Office at 708-366-6900.**

We strongly urge concert-goers to purchase tickets in advance.  
We expect this concert to be sold out.



**Saturday, March 29, 6:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, March 30, 4:00 p.m.**

## **Mass in B Minor**

The Mass in B Minor is Bach's last great masterwork, completed in 1749, the year before his death. Much of the music was composed earlier in Bach's lifetime, but here he assembles it into a unified and deeply moving statement of faith, a summation of a life's work dedicated to the glory of God. The Bach Cantata Vespers Chorus and Orchestra will be joined by singers from Chicago Choral Artists to present this magnificent music in two complete performances.

*Presented in concert with intermission.*

*Admission is free; a free-will offering will be received.*

### **Bach Cantata Vespers Chorus and Orchestra**

in collaboration with **Chicago Choral Artists**

**Grace Cantor Michael D. Costello**, conducting

**Katelyn Lee**, soprano

**Alexandra Kassouf**, soprano

**Sarah Ponder**, mezzo-soprano

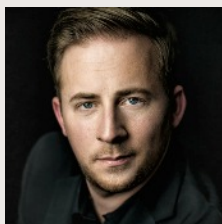
**Brian Skoog**, tenor

**Sam Handley**, bass-baritone

*Pre-concert lecture by Carl Grapentine in the Sanctuary one hour prior to each performance.*



Katelyn Lee



Brian Skoog



Alexandra Kassouf



Sam Handley



Sarah Ponder



Michael D. Costello



**April 27 BWV 42**

## **Am Abend aber desselbigen Sabbats**

*On the evening of the same Sabbath*

Bach's project of writing weekly cantatas based on chorales began on Trinity Sunday in 1724 and ended on Palm Sunday in 1725 — not quite a full year. Instead of a chorale-based chorus, this cantata, composed for the First Sunday after Easter in 1725, opens with a cheery sinfonia. A recitative follows, quoting from the day's Gospel about Jesus bringing peace and comfort as he appears to his disciples gathered in a locked room on Easter evening.

**3:00 p.m. Cantata Preview Lecture**

**Mark Peters**, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights

**3:45 p.m. Orchestral Prelude**

**Johann Sebastian Bach**: Brandenburg Concerto No. 3, BWV 1048

**Hennig Kraggerud**: *Victimae paschali*

**4:00 p.m. Bach Cantata Vespers**

**Ian A. McFarland**, Candler School of Theology, Atlanta, Georgia, homilist

**William Byrd**: Haec dies

**Bach Cantata Vespers Chorus and Orchestra**

**Grace Cantor Michael D. Costello**, conducting

**Maura Janton Cock**, soprano

**Amanda Koopman**, mezzo-soprano

**Ryan Townsend Strand**, tenor

**Peter Wesoloski**, baritone



Ian A. McFarland

**May 18 BWV 128**

## **Auf Christi Himmelfahrt allein**

*On Christ's Ascension into heaven alone*

Jesus' Ascension into heaven forty days after Easter is an integral part of the Easter story and an important festival on the church's calendar. Bach's 1725 cantata for the day is a festive one, opening with a chorale fantasia scored for choir, horns, oboes, strings, and continuo. The choir and orchestra will also perform a new work based on a sermon by John Donne from 1628 called *A Future Waking*, by Paul D. Weber, written in memory of beloved professor, pastor, and church musician Mark P. Bangert.

**3:00 p.m. Cantata Preview Lecture**

**Mark Peters**, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights

**3:45 p.m. Organ Prelude**

**Florence Jowers**, Staunton, Virginia, organist



Florence Jowers

**4:00 p.m. Bach Cantata Vespers**

**Paul D. Weber**, Staunton, Virginia, homilist

**Paul D. Weber: A Future Waking**

**Bach Cantata Vespers Chorus and Orchestra**

**Grace Cantor Michael D. Costello**, conducting

**Sarah Ponder**, mezzo-soprano

**Ace Gangoso**, tenor

**David Govertsen**, bass-baritone



Paul D. Weber



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## Cantata Vespers

Grace Lutheran Church  
7300 Division Street  
River Forest, Illinois 60305



GRACE  
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& SCHOOL

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