Bach 2019-2020 49th Year Cantata Vespers

www.bachvespers.org

Grace Lutheran Church River Forest, Illinois

Sunday afternoons Lecture at 3:00 p.m. Prelude at 3:45 p.m.



September 29, 2019

Man singet mit Freuden vom Sieg, BWV 149 They sing with joy of victory

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

We are glad that you have joined us for this afternoon's Bach Cantata Vespers.

For those who have trouble hearing, sound enhancement units are available in the back of the church and may be obtained from an usher.

Please silence all cell phones and pagers.

Recording or photography of any kind during the service is strictly forbidden.

We ask that you kindly refrain from applause during this service of worship.

Join us for a reception in Fellowship Hall following today's service. Please exit the sanctuary via the doors at the head of the side aisles. Do not use the center aisle. St. Michael and All Angels September 29, 2019 + 3:45 p.m.

EVENING PRAYER



Prelude

Concerto Grosso, Op. 6, No. 11 in A Major, HWV 329

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

Andante larghetto, e staccato Allegro Largo Andante Allegro

Abide with Me

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide; The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide; When other helpers fail and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour. What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power? Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

O thou who changest not, abide with me. In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me. Amen. Henry F. Lyte, 1847 arr. Moses Hogan (1957–2003)







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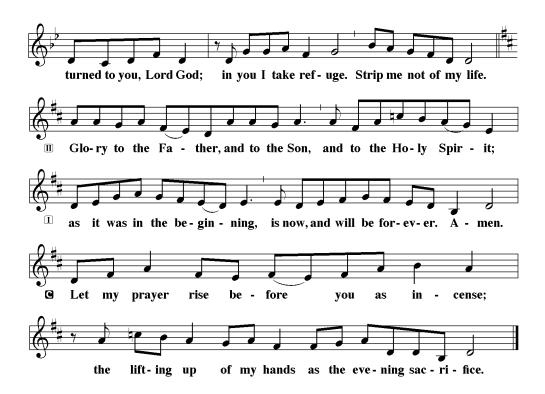
+ PSALMODY +

We sit. PSALM 141

Women sing parts marked I. Men sing parts marked II. All sing parts marked G.



6



Silence for meditation is observed, then:

PSALM PRAYER

- Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before you, O Lord, and let your lovingkindness descend upon us, that with purified minds we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host, and may glorify you forever and ever.
- **G** Amen.





Factum est silentium in coelo

There was silence in heaven dum committeret bellum draco while the dragon began a battle cum Michaele Archangelo; with Michael the Archangel; Audita est vox, A voice was heard, milia milium dicentium, thousands upon thousands, saying, Salus, honor et virtus omnipotenti Deo. Salvation, honor, and power be to almighty God. Alleluia.

Silence for meditation is observed, then: COLLECT

L Everlasting God,

you have ordained and constituted in a wonderful order the ministries of angels and mortals. Mercifully grant that, as your holy angels always serve and worship you in heaven, so by your appointment they may help and defend us here on earth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The offering is gathered. **VOLUNTARY:** Dialogue

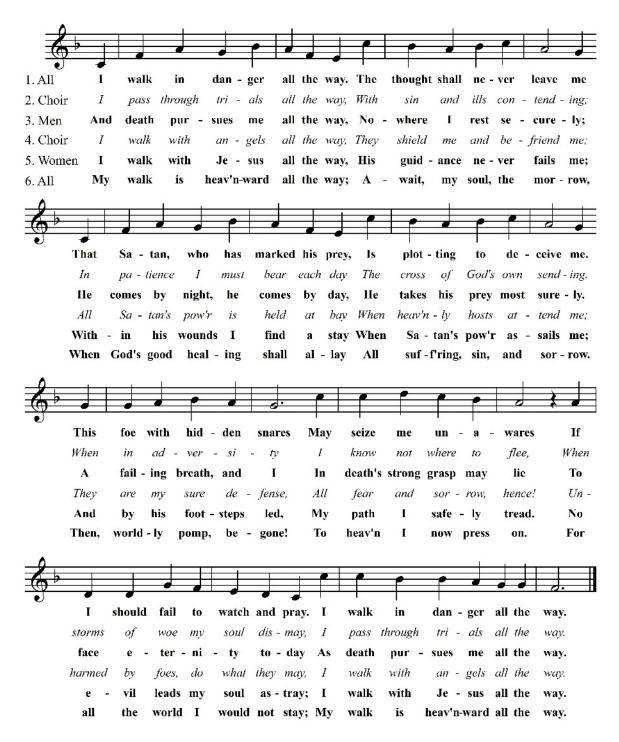
Louis Marchand (1669–1732)

The offering assists in defraying costs of the Bach Cantata Vespers ministry. Please make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church. Your generosity is appreciated.

We stand for the hymn, printed on the following page. HYMN: I Walk in Danger All the Way

Concertato by Kenneth T. Kosche (b. 1947)





Text: Hans Adolf Brorson, 1694-1764; tr. Ditlef G. Ristad, 1863-1938, alt.

Tune: Geistreiches Gesangbuch, 4th ed., Halle, 1708, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen

DER LIEBEN SONNE LICHT UND PRACHT



+WORD +

We sit.

READING: Matthew 18:1–11

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of stumbling blocks! Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to the one by whom the stumbling block comes!

If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life maimed or lame than to have two hands or two feet and to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into the hell of fire.

Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven."

- **L** The Word of the Lord.
- **G** Thanks be to God.

READING: Revelation 12:7–12

And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming,

"Now have come the salvation and the power

and the kingdom of our God

and the authority of his Messiah,

for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down,

who accuses them day and night before our God.

But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not cling to life even in the face of death.

Rejoice then, you heavens and those who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you with great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"

- **L** The Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

HOMILY

Dr. Mark Allan Powell

CANTATA: Man singet mit Freuden vom Sieg, BWV 149

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Translation of the German text and notes corresponding to each movement are below. Background notes for the cantata are found on pages 30 and 31 in this worship folder.

1. Chorus

Man singet mit Freuden vom Sieg **They sing with joy of victory** in den Hütten der Gerechten:

in the shelters of the righteous:

Die Rechte des Herrn behält den Sieg,

The Lord's right hand achieves victory,

die Rechte des Herrn ist erhöhet,

the Lord's right hand is exalted,

die Rechte des Herrn behält den Sieg!

the Lord's right hand achieves victory!

The cantata begins as the titanic battle with Satan noted in the reading from Revelation has just ended. After an arresting triple-meter opening fanfare by the wind instruments, echoed by the strings, the cry of victory pronounced in Psalm 118:15–16 is taken up by the chorus in celebration of the defeat of the devil. The voices enter successively (bass, tenor, soprano, alto) in a little *fugue* on a busy, pulsing theme that reappears in fragments for voices and instruments throughout. The movement concludes brilliantly with an exact *da capo* repetition of the opening fanfare and choral sections.

Scholars have determined that this opening chorus is drawn from music written for Bach's "Hunt" cantata (BWV 208) of 1716. However, this partial parody of the composer's own music is accomplished so skillfully that, were the other cantata not in existence, few could guess that the present work is not entirely original.

2. Aria (bass)

Kraft und Stärke sei gesungen **Power and strength are sung** Gott, dem Lamme, das bezwungen **To God, to the Lamb, who conquered** Und den Satanas verjagt,

And chased Satan away,

Der uns Tag und Nacht verklagt.

Who accused us day and night.

Ehr und Sieg ist auf die Frommen

Honor and victory have come to the devout

Durch des Lammes Blut gekommen.

Through the blood of the Lamb.

Kraft und Stärke (Power and strength), the key words of the aria text, receive special attention as the bass relates the victory of the Lamb (meaning Christ) over Satan. Although the accompaniment of the wide-ranging vocal line is limited to the *continuo* instruments, the vigor—even violence—of the combat is clearly articulated in the music. The opening lines of the singer and the bass instruments share a rugged melodic line appropriate to the text which is based on the Revelation reading for the day.

3. Recitative (alto)

Ich fürchte mich vor tausend Feinden nicht,

I am not afraid of a thousand enemies,

Denn Gottes Engel lagern sich um meine Seiten her;

For God's angels are encamped around me on all sides;

Wenn alles fällt, wenn alles bricht,

When everything falls, when everything breaks,

So bin ich doch in Ruhe.

Yet I am still at peace.

Wie wär es möglich zu verzagen?

How would it be possible to despair?

Gott schickt mir ferner Roß und Wagen

God sends me also horses and chariots

Und ganze Herden Engel zu.

And whole hosts of angels.

The thought turns to the protection afforded us by angels as recorded in images from Psalms 27, 34, 91, 4, and 3, as well as 2 Kings 6. Accompaniment is provided by the *continuo* alone in the form of a *secco* (dry) recitative.

4. Aria (soprano)

Gottes Engel weichen nie, God's angels will never yield, Sie sind bei mir allerenden. They are with me everywhere. Wenn ich schlafe, wachen sie, When I sleep, they watch over me, Wenn ich gehe, When I go out, Wenn ich stehe, When I stand still Tragen sie mich auf den Händen. They carry me in their hands.

An undulating accompaniment of upper strings and *continuo* in triple meter perhaps suggests the hovering of angels in this calm, reflective aria which expresses the believer's trust in the perpetual guidance and protection of angels. Certain words receive special treatment, such as *wachen* (to watch) and *Händen* (the hands of angels). The text is drawn largely from Psalm 91:1–12.

5. Recitative (tenor)

Ich danke dir, mein lieber Gott, dafür;
I thank you, my dear God, for this;
Dabei verleihe mir,
Therefore grant me as well
Daß ich mein sündlich Tun bereue,
That I repent my sinful deeds,
Daß sich mein Engel drüber freue,
That my angel may rejoice in it,
Damit er mich an meinem Sterbetage
So that he on my dying day
In deinen Schoß zum Himmel trage.
Bears me to your bosom in heaven.

The solo is a brief *recitativo secco* in which the believer begs forgiveness of sins and asks for angelic guidance to heaven. The text refers, perhaps, to the parable of the rich man and poor Lazarus in Luke 16:19–25, but cites God's bosom, not Abraham's, as our heavenly goal. 6. Aria (alto, tenor)

Seid wachsam, ihr heiligen Wächter,

Be watchful, you holy watchmen,

Die Nacht ist schier dahin.

The night is almost over. Ich sehne mich und ruhe nicht,

I am filled with longing and will not rest

Bis ich vor dem Angesicht

Till I am before the face

Meines lieben Vaters bin.

Of my dear father.

The town watchmen (guardian angels) are invoked to be alert as in Isaiah 21:11. In this imitative (*fugue*-like) duet with bassoon *obbligato* and *continuo* accompaniment the singers present melodic lines that are almost exactly parallel—with one beginning first and other following. At times the bassoon anticipates the vocal lines; elsewhere it follows them. At other times the voices alone move in parallel motion above the contrasting bassoon line. Because of the proximate ranges of the two voices, Bach gives us a duet of special grace and beauty in which the lines intertwine and parallel each other often in sweet intervals of the third and sixth. Because the composer wants the listener to pay particular attention to certain words he "illustrates" them in the music: the key word *wachsam* (watchful) is sung to matching extended broken chord passages. Later, long notes in both voices give emphasis to *sehne* (longing).

7. Chorale

Ach Herr, laß dein lieb Engelein Ah Lord, let your dear angels Am letzten End die Seele mein At my final end carry my soul In Abrahams Schoß tragen, To Abraham's bosom; Den Leib in seim Schlafkämmerlein Let my body in its small sleep chamber, Gar sanft ohn einge Qual und Pein Gently without any torment and pain Ruhn bis am jüngsten Tage! Rest until the judgment day! Alsdenn vom Tod erwecke mich, And then from death awaken me, Daß meine Augen sehen dich So that my eyes may see you In aller Freud, o Gottes Sohn, In all joy, oh Son of God, Mein Heiland und Genadenthron! My Savior and my throne of grace! Herr Jesu Christ, erhöre mich, erhöre mich, Lord Jesus Christ, answer me, answer me, Ich will dich preisen ewiglich!

I will praise you eternally!

In an inspired selection by Bach or his librettist, the cantata concludes with the third stanza of a 1567 chorale by Martin Schalling that was set to the present tune by Mathias Gastritz and modified and published by Bernhard Schmid in 1577. Undoubtedly it was chosen because of its familiarity to the congregation and its relevance to the theme of angels. The author refers again to Luke 16:19–25 and Abraham's bosom as synonymous with heaven. The chorale forms one of the most beloved of Reformation era hymns as it recounts the certain hope of the resurrection. Silence is observed, then:

L In many and various ways God spoke to his people of old by the prophets.

G But now in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.



16



17 👹

The litany continues:

L For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us give thanks to the Lord.



The litany concludes:

L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence is kept, then:

L Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.



- O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever.
- **G** Amen.
- God of majesty, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: We give you thanks for the life and ministry of Carl Schalk as he celebrates his ninetieth birthday, for his compositions that enrich the church's song, and for his vision as a co-founder of the Bach Cantata Vespers ministry. Continue to be with Carl and all your servants who make art and music to your glory, that with joy we may glimpse your beauty. Finally, bring us all to the fulfillment of that hope of perfection which will be ours as we stand before your unveiled glory. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.

Carl F. Schalk (b. 1929)

I thank you, heavenly Father, Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. You kept me safely through the day, Now keep me safe this night, I pray.

Forgive my sins where I have erred In wrongful deed or thought or word. Be with me through the dark night hours Lest I succumb to Satan's powers.

Into your hands, O Father, I offer all I am and have. Your holy angel in the night Keep watch o'er me till morning light.

O Christ, my Savior, be my song Each morning, evening, all day long, Who with the Father we give praise, And Holy Spirit, all our days. Amen.

Martin Luther, adapted by Carl F. Schalk

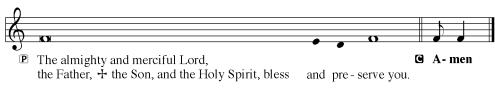
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

G Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen. **BENEDICAMUS DOMINO**



BENEDICTION







HYMN: Christ, the Lord of Hosts, Unshaken

Carl F. Schalk

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DISMISSAL

- **L** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- **G** Thanks be to God!

Leading Worship Today

The Rev. David R. Lyle, leader Dr. Mark Allan Powell, homilist

Choir of Grace Lutheran Church The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor

Timothy Spelbring, organist

Kapelle of Concordia University Chicago Charles P. Brown, conductor

Maura Janton Cock, soprano Amanda Koopman, mezzo-soprano Hoss Brock, tenor Douglas Anderson, baritone

Orchestra

Greg Fudala, Christian Anderson, Candace Horton, trumpets Jon Johnson, timpani Christine Janzow Phillips, Nancy Hagen, Laura Perkett, oboes Dianne Ryan, bassoon Betty Lewis, Paul Zafer Eleanor Bartsch, Mark Agnor, violins I François Henkins, Carol Yampolsky, Lou Torick, violins II Naomi Hildner, Becky Coffman, violas Jean Hatmaker, cello Jerry Fuller, double bass Michael D. Costello, continuo organ

Choir of Grace Lutheran Church

Soprano Ann Anderson Sarah Beatty Katrina Beck Judy Berghaus Maura Janton Cock Janel Dennen Donna Dumpys Mary Jane Endicott Gwen Gotsch Sarah Gruendler-Ladner Julie Hinz Kate Hogenson Ellen Pullin Eleanor Schneider Ngaire Whiteside-Bull

Alto

Lois Cornils Eunice Eifert Margaret Garmatz Lois Guebert Catherine Hegarty Cynthia Hill Martha Houston Johanna Johnson Amanda Koopman Christa Krout Marilyn Moehlenkamp Linda Crabtree Powell Karen Rohde Liene Sorenson Liz Thompson

Tonor

Bass

Douglas Anderson Len Berghaus John Bouman Mark Bouman Kim Brunssen Jeff Cribbs Emmanuel Mackenzie Peter Modrich Bob Prischman Bill Pullin Greg Rohlfing Pat Scala Bob Sideman

Kapelle of Concordia University Chicago

Nathaniel Andersen Emma Brauckman Veronika Chaplii Abigail Deddens Noah Dunsmore Miranda Flanagan Michelle Frerking Hannah Gallup Cindy Gomez Natalie Grady Joy Greco David Hein Caitlin Johnson Crystal Martillo Sarah May Charlie McLain Jesse Muehler Gillian Norris Cecily Peterson Matthew Phemster Christina Ray Dominic Reyes Alexander Richard Abigail Schaffer Jesse Schultz Josiah Schultz Benjamin Simmons Hannah Sivia Joshua Teggatz Nuala Walsh Maggie Warner



The Kapelle is Concordia University Chicago's premier choral ensemble, performing repertoire ranging from Renaissance to contemporary music. Known for delivering beautifully sung, thematic programs, the students spread the Gospel message to audiences throughout the US and abroad. Since 2003, the Kapelle has traveled to Argentina, Canada, Chile, Estonia, Finland, France, Latvia, Poland, Russia, and most recently to Scotland and England.

Beyond touring, the Kapelle actively performs in the Chicagoland area. They have collaborated with Chicago-area choirs and orchestras over the years, having performed with the Chicago Arts Orchestra, South Suburban Orchestra, and the Symphony of Oak Park and River Forest. In addition to presenting Cantata 149 at Grace Lutheran Church's Bach Cantata Series this year, they will once again join forces with the Symphony of Oak Park and River Forest and Chicago-area choirs in the performance of the Berlioz *Te Deum* at Symphony Center in downtown Chicago next April.

The Kapelle has also received the honor of performing headline programs at conferences for the Illinois chapters of the American Choral Directors Association and the National Association for Music Education, and the Lutheran Education Association's national convocation. Committed to serving the Church, the Kapelle visits congregations and schools throughout the country by leading workshops, performing assemblies, and serving in worship.

Follow Kapelle on Instagram @pbkapelle.



BIOGRAPHIES



Charles P. Brown, director, is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Concordia University Chicago where he conducts the Kapelle and Männerchor (men's choir). He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in conducting, choral literature, singer's diction, vocal techniques, and choral music education. Charles earned his bachelor and master degrees from Westminster Choir College and his Doctorate of Musical Arts in choral conducting and voice performance at the University of Arizona. He currently serves on the board of directors with Anima—Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus, and is also serving on the committee for the seventh triennial Institute on Liturgy, Preaching and Church Music.



Michael D. Costello, director, has served as Cantor at Grace since 2008. He has served as a church musician in several parishes and as a pastor at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Columbia, South Carolina. A native of Pennsylvania, he graduated from Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, North Carolina, and from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina. He has published choral and organ works with several publishers, is Artistic Director of Chicago Choral Artists, and serves on the Board of Directors for Lutheran Music Program, home of the Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival.



Douglas Anderson, baritone, is a long-standing member of Grace Lutheran Church and its choir. He has been a soloist in Grace's Bach Cantata Vespers since 1978 and has also been a frequent soloist with Chicago's Music of the Baroque. Dr. Anderson has appeared with many Chicago area ensembles and has performed several times in Evanston's Bach Week Festival. Dr. Anderson is a neurosurgeon and professor at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood. He is married to Ann, who often performs as flutist at Grace. They are the parents of four adult children, all of whom have studied music.



Hoss Brock, tenor, has performed with many organizations, including several appearances as soloist with the Grant Park Music Festival, Bach Week Evanston, and Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Mr. Brock appears regularly as a guest artist with chamber ensembles, including the Chicago Chamber Musicians and Newberry Consort. He has performed with the Peninsula Music Festival, Music of the Baroque, Grand Rapids Symphony, and made his Carnegie Hall debut in Handel's *Messiah*. A member of the Lyric Opera chorus, Hoss made his Lyric Opera solo debut as Ike Skidmore in *Oklahoma!* and has appeared as the Spanish Ambassador in the world premiere of Lopez's *Bel Canto*, broadcast on PBS Great Performances. Mr. Brock sang the role of Evangelist in Grace's performances of Bach's *St. John Passion* in 2017 and will do the same for the *St. Matthew Passion* at Grace in 2020.



Maura Janton Cock, soprano, is Lecturer in Music at Valparaiso University, where she teaches voice and conducts the Women's Choir. She earned degrees from the University of Arizona (Tucson) and Minnesota State University-Moorhead. She has appeared as soloist with the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony, the Tucson Symphony, the Southwest Michigan Symphony, and the Northwest Indiana Symphony. She has worked extensively with Robert Shaw and Helmuth Rilling. Recent engagements include performances with the Michigan Bach Collegium, Bach Chamber Choir and Orchestra of Rockford (Ill.), Miami Bach Society, Dayton (Ohio) Bach Society and the Cuesta Master Chorale and Orchestra (Calif.). She gave the Midwest premiere of Bach's lost aria, "*Alles mit Gott und nichts ohn' ihn,*" and has frequently been a soloist for the Bach Cantata Vespers Series at Grace Lutheran Church.



Amanda Koopman, mezzo soprano, has recently performed as soloist in Vivaldi *Gloria* and Bach's *Mass in F* with Music of the Baroque, performed several recitals in cities in China, and Bach's *Mass in B Minor* with Bella Voce. She has participated as soloist for the Northwest Symphony Orchestra and is a regular soloist with the Bach Cantata Vespers series at Grace. She has performed with the Chicago Arts Orchestra, Grant Park Music Festival, Music of the Baroque, Elgin Master Chorale, and University of Illinois at Chicago. She graduated from Northwestern with her Masters in vocal performance in 2011.



Betty Lewis, principal violinist, received her bachelor's degree from Chicago Musical College at Roosevelt University as a student of Elaine Skorodin. She is an active violinist and violist in the Chicago area performing with groups as diverse as Broadway in Chicago shows and as an extra with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. In the summer, she is on the faculty of the Birch Creek Music Performance Center and is a member of the Peninsula Music Festival, both in Door County, Wisconsin. She maintains a full teaching schedule as well as conducting the orchestras at Francis Parker School in Chicago.



Mark Allan Powell, homilist, recently retired as Professor of New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, where he taught for 32 years. An internationally known biblical scholar, Powell is editor of the *Harper Collins Bible Dictionary* (the world's best-selling dictionary of the Bible) and author of *Introducing the New Testament* (the world's best-selling New Testament textbook). In all he has published more than 40 books on religious subjects, including one of the 21st century's most popular books on stewardship, *Giving to God: The Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life*. Powell has also worked for 50 years as a professional music critic, with over 1900 published reviews in *Rolling Stone, Seventeen, Christianity Today*, and many other popular magazines. An ecumenical, global scholar, Powell has taught at universities in Chicago, Berkeley, Buenos Aires, Estonia, Russia, and Tanzania.

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Special thanks are extended to Leonard Berghaus for tuning the portativ organ and to Dr. Karen P. Danford for her translation of the cantata text from German to English.

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry, for your attendance at the services, and for your prayers. *Soli Deo Gloria!*

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IN MEMORIAM + PAUL BOUMAN

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Grace Lutheran Church River Forest, Illinois Sunday afternoons Lecture at 3:00 p.m. Prelude at 3:45 p.m. September 29 Man singet mit Freuden vom Sieg They sing with joy of victory BWV 149 Mark Allan Powell, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, homilist Handel: Concerto Grosso, Op. 6, No. 11 in A Major, HWV 329 Kapelle, Concordia University Chicago, guest choir; Charles P. Brown, director Reception following the service in Fellowship Hall October 27 Höchsterwünschtes Freudenfest Most highly desired festival of joy **BWV 194** Erin Bouman, Irving Park Lutheran Church, Chicago, homilist Bruce Bengtson, Madison, Wisconsin, organist November 24 O Ewigkeit, du Donnerwort O eternity, you word of thunder BWV 20 Mark P. Bangert, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, homilist Thomas Schmidt, Chicago, organist January 26 Was mein Gott will, das g'scheh allzeit What my God wills, that is always done **BWV 111** Amy L. Peeler, Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois, homilist Kontras Quartet: Eleanor Bartsch, François Henkins, Ben Weber, and Jean Hatmaker February 23 Sehet! Wir gehn hinauf gen Jerusalem Behold! We go up to Jerusalem BWV 159 David R. Lyle, Grace Lutheran Church and School, River Forest, Illinois, homilist Steven Wente, Concordia University Chicago, organist March 28, 29 Matthäus-Passion St. Matthew Passion **BWV 244** Admission is free; a free-will offering will be received Saturday, March 28, 6:00 p.m. (Preview lecture at 5:00 p.m.) Sunday, March 29, 4:00 p.m. (Preview lecture at 3:00 p.m.) Bach Cantata Vespers Chorus and Orchestra in collaboration with Chicago Choral Artists Grace Cantor Michael D. Costello, conducting Karen Brunssen, mezzo-soprano Hoss Brock, tenor (Evangelist) Sarah Ponder, mezzo-soprano Keven Keys, baritone (Jesus) Ryan Townsend Strand, tenor Maura Janton Cock, soprano Douglas Anderson, baritone April 26 Wir müssen durch viel Trübsal in das Reich Gottes eingehen **BWV 146** We must enter the kingdom of God through much sorrow L. George Detweiler, Norristown, Pennsylvania, homilist Kenneth Miller, Atlanta, Georgia, organist May 17 Wo Gott der Herr nicht bei uns hält Where God the Lord does not dwell with us BWV 178 Jill Peláez Baumgaertner, Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois, homilist Vivaldi: Concerto for 4 violins in B minor, RV 580

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BACKGROUND OF THE CANTATA

When Johann Sebastian Bach came to Leipzig as Cantor, the Town Council had remarkable expectations of him. Like most modern church music directors, he was expected to provide music for worship for Sunday and special services. This included directing "pieces" (cantatas) that would illustrate and comment on the Gospel or the Epistle for the day, leading the instrumentalists and, at times, playing the organ. In Bach's case, however, the expectations were much greater. He also had to teach music and Latin in the St. Thomas' Christian day school and supervise school dormitory life; in addition he administered the music for three other town churches. Of course he had some student and occasional part-time help in various aspects of the duties, but his contracted responsibilities included all of these duties. And the Council had engaged Bach because they expected music of a particularly high quality—impressive music that would be worthy of their view of Leipzig as one of the leading cities of the land.

Bach accepted the challenge but with some reservations. He would perform his duties on his own terms, which meant that he would need help in the supervision of the boys and the teaching of Latin and that he could engage copyists and assistants (and some performers). An ambitious man whose goal was to maintain "well ordered music in worship," he insisted, for the most part, on writing his own cantatas and Passion settings, which were in difficulty, length, and musical demands often beyond the scope of anything the town had heard before. *Man singet mit Freuden vom Sieg* is an excellent example of Bach's extraordinary approach to his work and of his unique ability to preach the word through music.

The cantata, one of Bach's most festive, was written for the day in the church year set aside to honor God's holy angels. It was probably first performed on the Festival of Saint Michael and All Angels on September 29, 1729, or possibly already on the Festival in 1728.

In our age of mechanical and electronic marvels of immense complexity, speed, and power that govern, inform, and assist our every waking hour, it is difficult to imagine the importance of angels in human life in the eighteenth century. In that devout time the angels of the Bible were considered to be real figures, honored and loved as messengers and agents of Almighty God throughout history. Jesus referred to angels in Matthew 18 and Luke 15, and mention of Michael the Archangel is made in Daniel, Jude, and Revelation. In Bach's day angels were seen as spirits who offered protection for travelers, guarded little ones from harm in the dark hours of the night, and comforted the sick and troubled, especially at the time of death.

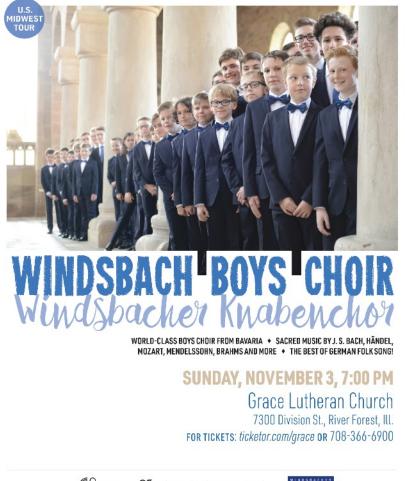
Even today Lutherans consider angels to be important partners in human activity. The ancient Prayer of the Day (Collect) for St. Michael, still found in *Lutheran Book of Worship*, gives further insight into that theology of angels:

Everlasting God, you have ordered and constituted in a wonderful order the ministries of angels and mortals. Mercifully grant that, as your holy angels always serve and worship you in heaven, so by your appointment, they may help and defend us here on earth. Amen.

The Festival at one time was a major division marker of the latter part of the season of Sundays after Trinity Sunday (now called Sundays after Pentecost). The Epistle for the Day is Revelation 12:7–12, which speaks of war in heaven between St. Michael and Satan, and the victory over the latter effected by "the blood of the Lamb." The Gospel is St. Matthew 18:1–11, which includes the judgment, "Whoever humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

The cantata libretto was likely written by Christian Friedrich Henrici (1700–1764, known as Picander). It was part of Bach's fourth annual cantata cycle, sometimes called the Picander Cycle because of the number of texts in it that were authored by Henrici. It is scored for three oboes, bassoon, three trumpets, strings (2 violins, viola, cello), and *basso continuo* (keyboard and bass), soprano, alto, tenor, and bass solos, and four-part choir.

Carlos Messerli



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