



BACH
VESPERS

Summer
CONCERT SERIES

AUGUST 24, 2016
SIX THIRTY IN THE EVENING



WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

OPENING PRAYER

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Almighty God, we give You thanks for surrounding us,
as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light;
and as we implore of Your great mercy,
that as You enfold us with the radiance of this light,
so You would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SONATA NO. 2 IN D MAJOR FOR VIOLA DA GAMBA AND HARPSICHORD, BWV 1028

Adagio
Allegro
Andante

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Galatians 5:25-6:10

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

JAUCHZET GOTT IN ALLEN LANDEN!, BWV 51

Cantata for the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

1. Arie (soprano)

*Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen!
Was der Himmel und die Welt
An Geschöpfen in sich hält,
Müssen dessen Ruhm erhöhen,
Und wir wollen unserm Gott
Gleichfalls itzt ein Opfer bringen,
Daß er uns in Kreuz und Not
Allezeit hat beigestanden.*

2. Rezitativ

*Wir beten zu dem Tempel an,
Da Gottes Ehre wohnt,
Da dessen Treu, so täglich neu,
Mit lauter Segen lobnet.
Wir preisen, was er an uns hat getan.
Muß gleich der schwache Mund von seinen Wundern lallen,
So kann ein schlechtes Lob ihm dennoch wohlgefallen.*

1. Aria (soprano)

Exult in God in every land!
Whatever creatures are contained
By heaven and earth
Must raise up this praise,
And now we shall likewise
Bring an offering to our God,
Since He has stood with us
At all times during suffering and necessity.

2. Recitative

We pray at your temple,
Where God's honor dwells,
Where this faithfulness, daily renewed,
Is rewarded with pure blessing.
We praise what He has done for us.
Even though our weak mouth must gape before His wonders,
Our meager praise is still pleasing to Him.

3. Arie

*Höchster, mache deine Güte
Ferner alle Morgen neu.
So soll vor die Vätertreu
Auch ein dankbares Gemüte
Durch ein frommes Leben weisen,
Daß wir deine Kinder heißen.*

4. Choral

*Sei Lob und Preis mit Ehren
Gott Vater, Sohn, Heiligem Geist!
Der woll in uns vermehren,
Was er uns aus Gnaden verheißt,
Daß wir ihm fest vertrauen,
Gänzlich uns lass'n auf ihn,
Von Herzen auf ihn bauen,
Daß uns'r Herz, Mut und Sinn
Ihm festiglich anhangen;
Drauf singen wir zur Stund:
Amen, wir werd'n's erlangen,
Glaub'n wir aus Herzensgrund.*

5. Arie

Alleluja!

3. Aria

Highest, renew Your goodness
Every morning from now on.
Thus, before this fatherly love,
A thankful conscience shall display,
Though a virtuous life,
That we are called Your children.

4. Chorale

Glory, and praise with honor
Be to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!
He will increase in us
What He has promised us out of grace,
So that we trust fast in Him,
Abandon ourselves completely to Him,
Rely on Him within our hearts,
So that our heart, will, and mind
Depend strongly on Him;
Therefore we sing at this time:
Amen, we shall succeed,
If we believe from the depths of our hearts.

5. Aria

Alleluia!

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 6:25-34

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANDANTE FROM CONCERTO IN D MINOR, BWV 1059

An offering will be taken at this time to benefit the Bach Vespers Concert Series.

VOR DEINEN THRON TRET ICH, BWV 668

*Before Thy throne I now appear, O Lord, bow down Thy gracious ear,
Reject not from Thy loving face, a sinful wretch, who sues for grace.
Thou Father of eternity! Thine image hath impressed on me:
In Thee I am, and live, and move, nor can I breathe without Thy love.*

SILENT MEDITATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

CLOSING LITANY

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: World without end. Amen.

Why Bach?

by Gabriel Statom, Director of Music

Not only have I been asked by people over the last 20 years why I like the music of Bach so much, but I have continued to ask myself what draws me to this music. Although I'm not sure I truly know, some of the reasons I think are:

1. I do not fully understand the music of Bach.

Bach's music transports me out of this earthly existence into a heavenly realm of focus that I do not get through any other type of music. I am intrigued by its unexplainable complexity and awed by its ability to minister to souls.

2. I am forced to be still and listen.

This is a hard thing for me to do! I can't think of many other mediums that cause us to be still like that of beautiful music. Further, the music communicates in a way that words cannot — music can convey a sentiment even if the listener doesn't know the meaning of the words! As hard as it is to be still, I know I need this in my life, and I cannot fathom a better way than by meditating on God's grace and goodness.

3. To God Alone be the Glory - the irony of Bach's fame.

Bach is now being celebrated as the greatest composer of all time by both secular and sacred critics. His vast output of music is almost unfathomable! Although it seems he must have had a great publisher with awesome commissions, the truth is that he was a church musician in small German villages. He was hardly known by the world, only published one piece of music in his lifetime, and made his reason for writing clear by including "to God alone be the glory" at the end of every piece of music. This music is clearly a gift from God that still draws men closer to Him.

The opportunity to proclaim God's love and salvation through the music of J.S. Bach is a unique opportunity we have through the Bach Vespers series. I trust you will be rejuvenated in your zeal by allowing yourself to spend time in quiet and meditation with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.