

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2024

Reformation Vespers

BWV 79 - Gott der Herr ist Sonn und Schild
God the Lord Is Sun and Shield

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)



Luther Memorial Church

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Reformation Vespers

PRELUDE

Concerto in C Major *after Johann Ernst* (BWV 595) | Johann Sebastian Bach

Von Gott will ich nicht lassen (BWV 658) | J.S. Bach

Sinfonia from *Cantata 196* | J.S. Bach

After the prelude there will be a period of silence. When the bell begins to ring, please stand and face the rear of the nave.

SERVICE OF LIGHT



☐ Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, ☑ **and the light no darkness can over- come.**



☐ Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve-ning, ☑ **and the day is almost o- ver.**



☐ Let your light scat- ter the dark-ness, ☑ **and illumine your Church.**

Leader

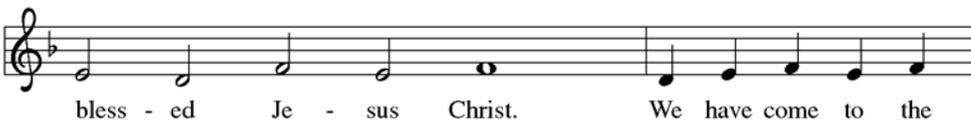


Joy-ous light of glo- ry:

All



of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



bles - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the



set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.

We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:
 You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -
 ev - er. O Son of God, O giv - er of life:
 The u - ni - verse pro - claims your glo - ry.

Text: Greek hymn, 3rd cent.; tr. Roger T. Petrich, b. 1938
 Music: Roger T. Petrich
 Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.
 We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light in - to being,
 and you set lights in the sky to govern night and day.
 In a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night
 you led your peo - ple in - to freedom.

Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ; may your Word be
a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are mer-ci - ful,
and you love your whole cre-a-tion, and with all your crea-tures we give you glory,
through your Son Je - sus Christ, in the unity of the Ho - ly Spirit,
now and for - ev - er. **A - men.**

Please sit.

THE PSALMODY Psalm 141

Group one: pulpit (west) side; Group two: lectern (east) side

^{All}
Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;
the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac - ri - fice.
^{Group One or All}
O Lord, I call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when
^{All}
I cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;
the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac - ri - fice.

Group Two or All

Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.

Group One or All

Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing;

let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil -

Group Two or All

do - ers. But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God;

in you I take ref - uge. Strip me not of my life.

All

Glo-ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir - it;

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;

the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

PSALM PRAYER

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

Amen.

ANTHEM Cantate Domino | Giovanni Francesco Anerio

*Cantate Domino canticum novum;
laus ejus in ecclesia sanctorum.
Laetetur Israel in eo qui fecit eum,*

Sing to the Lord a new song
of praise in the assembly of the faithful.
Let Israel be glad in their maker,

*et filii Sion exsultent in rege suo.
 Laudent nomen ejus in choro;
 in tympano et psalterio psallant ei.
 Exsultabunt sancti in gloria;
 laetabuntur in cubilibus suis.
 Exaltationes Dei in facibus eorum.*

let the children of Zion rejoice in their king.
 Let them praise his name in the festive dance,
 let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.
 Let the faithful exult in glory;
 let them sing for joy upon their couches;
 let the high praises of God be in their throats.

FIRST LESSON Job 38:1-7

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind: “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements — surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

#828 HYMN Alleluia! Voices Raise

Stanzas 1 & 2 sung by choir, stanzas 3-5 sung by all.



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Voic - es raise, sound - ing God Al -
 2 Now come all be - fore God's face, in this cho - rus
 3 Let, in praise of Christ, the sound run a nev - er -
 4 So this huge wide orb we see shall one choir, one
 5 Thus our song shall o - ver - climb all the bounds of



might - y's praise. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 take your place. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 end - ing round, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 tem - ple be. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 space and time. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Hith - er bring in one con - sent heart and voice and in - stru -
 And a - mid the mor - tal throng, be you mas - ters of the
 that our songs of praise may be ev - er - last - ing, as is
 In the Ho - ly Spir - it one, we will sing what God has
 Al - le - lu - ia! Voic - es raise, sound - ing God Al - might - y's



ment. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 song. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 he. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 done. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 praise. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: George Wither, 1588-1667, alt., based on Psalms 148 and 150
 Music: PRINCETON, Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
 Music © 1990, 1991 Oxford University Press, Inc.

SECOND LESSON *Revelation 14:6-8*

Then I saw another angel flying in midheaven, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth to every nation and tribe and language and people. He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, for the hour of his judgment has come; and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

Then another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HOMILY

BWV 79 - GOTT DER HERR IST SONN UND SCHILD Johann Sebastian Bach

1. Chor

Gott der Herr ist Sonn und Schild. Der Herr gibt Gnade und Ehre, er wird kein Gutes mangeln lassen den Frommen.

(Psalm 84:12)

2. Arie A

*Gott ist unsre Sonn und Schild!
Darum rühmet dessen Güte
Unser dankbares Gemüte,
Die er für sein Häuflein hegt.
Denn er will uns ferner schützen,
Ob die Feinde Pfeile schnitzen
Und ein Lästehund gleich billt.*

3. Choral

*Nun danket alle Gott
Mit Herzen, Mund und Händen,
Der große Dinge tut
An uns und allen Enden,
Der uns von Mutterleib
Und Kindesbeinen an
Unzählig viel zugut
Und noch itzund getan.
("Nun danket alle Gott," verse 1)*

4. Rezitativ B

*Gottlob, wir wissen
Den rechten Weg zur Seligkeit;
Denn, Jesu, du hast ihn uns durch dein Wort
gewiesen,
Drum bleibt dein Name jederzeit gepriesen.
Weil aber viele noch
Zu dieser Zeit
An fremdem Joch
Aus Blindheit ziehen müssen,*

1. Chorus

God the Lord is sun and shield. The Lord gives grace and honor, He will allow no good to be lacking from the righteous.

2. Aria A

God is our sun and shield!
Therefore this goodness
shall be praised by our grateful hearts,
which he protects as his little flock.
For he will protect us from now on,
although the enemy sharpens his arrows
and a vicious hound already barks.

3. Chorale

Now let everyone thank God
with hearts, mouths, and hands,
Who does great things
for us and to all ends,
Who has done for us from our mother's wombs
and childhood on
many uncountable good things
and does so still today.

4. Recitative B

Praise God, we know
the right way to blessedness;
for, Jesus, you have revealed it to us through your
word,
therefore your name shall be praised for all time.
Since, however, many yet
at this time
must labor under a foreign yoke
out of blindness,

*Ach! so erbarme dich auch ihrer gnädiglich,
Daß sie den rechten Weg erkennen
Und dich bloß ihren Mittler nennen.*

5. Arie (Duett) S B

*Gott, ach Gott, verlaß die Deinen Nimmermehr!
Laß dein Wort uns helle scheinen;
Obgleich sehr wider uns die Feinde toben,
So soll unser Mund dich loben.*

6. Choral

*Erhalt uns in der Wahrheit,
Gib ewigliche Freiheit,
Zu preisen deinen Namen
Durch Jesum Christum. Amen.
("Nun laßt uns Gott, dem Herren," verse 8)*

ah! then have mercy also on them graciously,
so that they recognize the right way
and simply call you their Intercessor.

5. Aria (Duet) S B

God, ah God, abandon your own ones never again!
Let your word shine brightly for us;
although harshly against us the enemy rages,
yet our mouths shall praise you.

6. Chorale

Uphold us in the truth,
grant eternal freedom,
to praise your name
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Psalm 84:12 (mov't. 1); "Nun danket alle Gott," verse 1; Martin Rinckart 1636 (mov't. 3); "Nun laßt uns Gott,
dem Herren," verse 8; Ludwig Helmbold 1575 (mov't. 6)*

Translation © Pamela Dellal, courtesy of Emmanuel Music Inc. www.emmanuelmusic.org.

Please stand.

RESPONSE

In many and various ways, God spoke to his people of old by the prophets.
But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

MAGNIFICAT

My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir- it re- joic- es in
God my Sav-ior, for he has looked with fa- vor on his low- ly ser- vant.
From this day all gen- er - a - tions will call me bless- ed.
The Al- migh- y has done great things for me, and ho- ly is his name.
He has mer- cy on those who fear him in ev- 'ry gen- er - a - tion.
He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat- tered the

proud in their con- ceit. He has cast down the might- y from their thrones,
 and has lift - ed up the low - ly. He has filled the
 hun- gry with good things, and the rich he has sent a - way emp - ty.
 He has come to the help of his ser - vant Is - ra - el,
 for he has re - mem - bered his prom - ise of mer - cy, the prom - ise he
 made to our fa - thers, to A - bra - ham and his chil - dren for - ev - er.
 Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men

THE LITANY

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
 Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the health of the creation, for abundant harvests that all may share, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For public servants, the government, and those who protect us; for those who work to bring peace, justice, healing, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who travel, for those who are sick and suffering, and for those who are in captivity, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

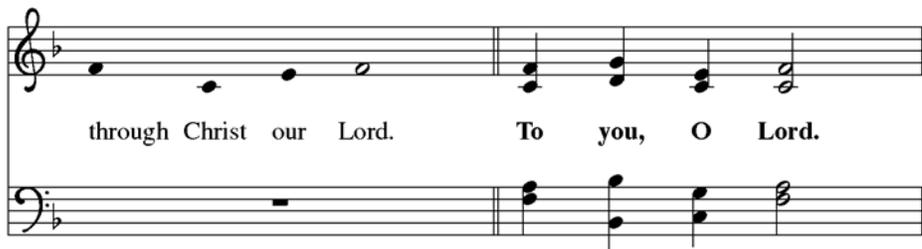
For our bishops, Elizabeth and Joy and our pastors, Brad, John, Rebecca and Juan Carlos, and all servants of the church, for this assembly, and for all people who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Silence for meditation.

Giving thanks for all who have gone before us and are at rest, rejoicing in the communion of all the saints, we commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to you,



PRAYER FOR PEACE

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.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER



Our Fa-ther, who art in heav- en, hal- low- ed be



thy name, thy king-dom come, thy will be done,



on earth as it is in heav- en. Give us this day our



dai- ly bread; and for- give us our tres- pass- es,



as we for- give those who tres- pass a- gainst us; and lead us



not in- to temp- ta- tion, but de- liv- er us from e- vil.

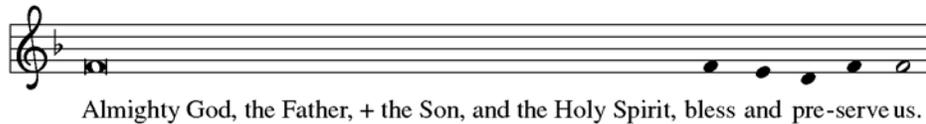


For thine is the king- dom, and the pow- er, and the



glo- ry, for- ev- er and ev- er. A- men.

BENEDICAMUS DOMINO & BENEDICTION



#839 CLOSING HYMN Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - 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 this world re - joic - es;
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en,



who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in 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 harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

POSTLUDE Improvisation on Now Thank We All Our God

YOU'RE INVITED

All are invited to a festive reception immediately following the liturgy in the lower level Great Room.

SUPPORT JUST BACH

Luther Memorial Church and Just Bach have enjoyed a fruitful partnership for the past six years. We are proud to support their mission of offering high-quality performances of the music of J.S. Bach to the community. Fittingly, tonight's offering will benefit Just Bach and allow them to not only add to the depth of their performances, but also to reach a wider audience. Should you wish to write a check, please make it payable to Just Bach. You may also donate online at justbach.org. Thank you for your generosity!

NOTES ON THE CANTATA

On the First Sunday after Trinity, May 30, 1723 Bach conducted his first cantata in Leipzig (BWV 75). This marked the beginning of a frenzy of compositional activity in which he completed five annual cycles of weekly cantatas for the church year, consisting of sixty each, resulting in a repertory of roughly 300 sacred cantatas. Of this massive collection nearly a third was lost.

Bach composed Cantata 79 “Gott der Herr ist Sonn und Schild” [“God the Lord is Sun and Shield”] for Reformation Day in 1725 as part of his third cycle of cantatas. Reformation Day at St. Thomas Church in Leipzig was a particularly festive affair consisting of an extended service of Holy Communion. In addition to a setting of the *Te Deum*, the ordinary of the Mass (*Kyrie*, *Gloria in excelsis*, *Sanctus*, and *Agnus Dei*) were performed in “concerted style” with choir and instrumentalists.

Unlike some of his other cantatas, the libretto—the author of which is unknown—is not closely connected with any of the particular readings for the day, which would have included 2 Thessalonians 2:3-8 and Revelation 14:6-8, the latter of which we will hear this evening.

The first movement features a forty-five bar instrumental *sinfonia*, before giving way to an equally grand chorus in three parts. The first section alternates between chordal and freely polyphonic passages. A choral fugue comprises the second section, highlighting the text “he will not withhold any good thing from the devout.” The third section harkens back to the first, reintroducing the opening text in a homophonic texture. The third movement is setting of the redoubtable Lutheran hymn “Now Thank We All Our God,” one of the hymns that would have been typically sung on Reformation Day in Leipzig. For this relatively straightforward setting, Bach reused and adapted the horn theme from the first movement to create episodes between the presentation of the chorale by the choir. The fifth movement, a duet between soprano and bass features Bach’s “tumult motive” as if he desired to suggest the hoof-beats of horses and rumbling of marching columns. The final chorale is a prayer for continued protection.

Bach was known to recycle motives or even entire movements in other pieces, and BWV 79 is no exception. He reused the music of the opening chorus and the soprano and bass duet to form the second movement of the *Gloria* in his Mass in G Major.

Though there is no shortage of wonderful performances of Bach’s music around Dane County, it is particularly riveting to experience this grand music both in its original Lutheran context and on the festival it was first heard 299 years ago!

Notes by Andrew Schaeffer

ORCHESTRA

Violin I

Rolf Wulfsberg
Peter Miliczky

Violin II

Leanne Kelso
Holly Wagner

Viola

Micah Behr
Lynn Washington

Cello

Charlie Rasmussen

Oboe

Margret Bradley

Flute

Casey Oelkers

Horn

Rebecca Sawyer
Andrea Burdick

Tympani

Laura Guse

Organ

Jared Stellmacher

Soloists

Julia Rottmayer, soprano
Jessica Schwefel, alto
Ryne Cherry, bass

A special thanks to Gary Lewis for his assistance in the preparation of this cantata.

MUSIC AT LUTHER MEMORIAL

*“Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to us that we should proclaim the Word of God through Music.”
Martin Luther*

Integral to the worship and mission of the congregation, Luther Memorial’s music program is rooted in the rich Lutheran musical tradition and ancient liturgy of the church. Chant, cantatas, chorales, anthems, motets, and hymns of various times and places are sung by the the congregation with the leadership of several outstanding choral groups. We believe that music exists to aid God’s people in worship and thus the music at Luther Memorial is offered at the highest standard, ennobling the liturgy through sacred song.

THANK YOU

The presentation of Reformation Vespers is made possible by the contributions of many Luther Memorial members and community friends. Thank you for your continued support of the music ministry at Luther Memorial Church.

SERVING TODAY

PRESIDERS	Pastor Brad Pohlman, Pastor John Worzala Dumke
PREACHER	Alex Linn
ORGANIST & CONDUCTOR	Andrew Schaeffer
CANTOR	Laura Conger
LECTOR	Heidi Notbohm
AUDIO & VIDEO	Lee Powell
USHERS	Robert & Marsha Steffen, Paul Twardy

Save the dates!

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, Dec. 15 | 4 pm

The Luther Memorial Adult Choir and instrumentalists weave scripture, poetry, hymns and choral anthems together in a stirring service to prepare our hearts for Christmas.

ST. OLAF CHOIR

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025 | 8 pm

The St. Olaf Choir conducted by Anton Armstrong will perform at Luther Memorial Church in January during their 2025 National Tour. For more than a century, the St. Olaf Choir has set the gold standard for choral singing, performing for millions around the world. Composed of 75 mixed voices, the St. Olaf Choir is hailed as one of the nation's premier a cappella ensembles, renowned for its artistry and beauty of sound. Tickets (\$35/\$10 students) available at stolaf.edu/tickets/choir or (800) 363-5487.

ST. THOMAS BOYS CHOIR OF LEIPZIG

Thursday, Mar. 13, 2025 | 7 pm

Luther Memorial Church is honored to host the St. Thomas Boys Choir (Thomanerchor) of Leipzig, Germany. The program will present music of [composers]. The St. Thomas Boys Choir (Thomanerchor) of Leipzig, Germany, was founded in 1212. Johann Sebastian Bach served as Thomaskantor, director of the choir, from 1723 to 1750. Learn more about the choir at www.thomaskirche.org. More info and tickets available soon at www.luthermem.org.

