

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2024

Reformation Vespers

BWV 140 - Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme
Awake, calls the voice to us

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)



Luther Memorial Church

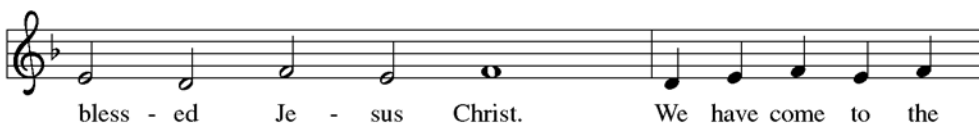
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Reformation Vespers

PRELUDE Partite diverse sopra “Sei gegrüßet, Jesu Gütig” (BWV 768) | Johann Sebastian 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



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.

MOTET Praise to the Lord, the Almighty | Hugo Distler

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, The King of creation! O my soul, praise him, For he is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; Praise him in glad adoration! Praise to the Lord! Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth, Shelters thee under his wings, yea, So gently sustaineth. Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what he ordaineth?

FIRST LESSON 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#246 HYMN Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is near," we
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,
let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,
down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,
wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy
and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all shines you - chil - dren of the day!"
shines up - on the morn - ing
one and all, to be for - skies.
and with words of love draw - giv'n;
while un - end - ing a - ges near.
run!

SECOND LESSON Matthew 25:1-13

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go

to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HOMILY

BWV 140 - WACHET AUF, RUFT UNS DIE STIMME Johann Sebastian Bach

1. Choral

*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme,
der Wächter sehr hoch auf der Zinne,
wach auf, du Stadt Jerusalem.
Mitternacht heißt diese Stunde,
sie rufen uns mit hellem Munde,
wo seid ihr klugen Jungfrauen?
Wohlauf, der Bräut’gam kömmt,
steht auf, die Lampen nehmt,
Alleluia!
Macht euch bereit
zu der Hochzeit,
ihr müsset ihm entgegen gehn.
(" Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme," verse 1)*

2. Rezitativ T

*Er kommt, er kommt,
der Bräut’gam kommt,
ihr Töchter Zions, kommt heraus,
Sein Ausgang eilet aus der Höhe
in euer Mutter Haus.
Der Bräut’gam kommt, der einen Rehe
und jungen Hirschen gleich
auf denen Hügeln springt
und euch das Mahl der Hochzeit bringt.
Wacht auf, ermuntert euch,
den Bräut’gam zu empfangen;
dort, sehet, kommt er hergegangen.*

3. Arie- Duett S B (Dialog - Seele, Jesus)

*Wenn kömst du, mein Heil?
– Ich komme, dein Teil. –
Ich warte mit brennenden Öle.
Eröffne den Saal
– Ich öffne den Saal –
zum himmlischen Mahl.
Komm, Jesu.
– Ich komme, komm, liebliche Seele. –*

1. Chorus

*Awake, calls the voice to us
of the watchmen high up in the tower;
awake, you city of Jerusalem.
Midnight the hour is named;
they call to us with bright voices;
where are you, wise virgins?
Indeed, the Bridegroom comes;
rise up and take your lamps,
Alleluia!
Make yourselves ready
for the wedding,
you must go to meet him.*

2. Recitative T

*He comes, he comes,
the Bridegroom comes,
O daughters of Zion, come out,
his course runs from the heights
into your mother’s house.
The Bridegroom comes, who like a roe
and young stag
leaps upon the hills;
to you he brings the wedding feast.
Rise up, take heart,
to embrace the bridegroom;
there, look, he comes this way.*

3. Aria - Duet S B (Dialogue - Soul, Jesus)

*When will you come, my Savior?
– I come, as your portion. –
I wait with burning oil.
Now open the hall
– I open the hall –
for the heavenly meal.
Come, Jesus!
– I come, come, beloved soul! –*

4. Choral T

*Zion hört die Wächter singen,
das Herz tut ihr vor Freuden springen,
sie wachet und steht eilend auf.
Ihr Freund kommt von Himmel prächtig,
von Gnaden stark, von Wahrheit mächtig,
ihr Licht wird hell, ihr Stern geht auf.
Nun komm, du werte Kron',
Herr Jesu, Gottes Sohn,
Hosianna!
Wir folgen all zum Freudensaal
und halten mit das Abendmahl.
("Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme," verse 2)*

5. Rezitativ B

*So geh herein zu mir,
du mir erwählte Braut!
Ich habe mich mit dir
von Ewigkeit vertraut.
Dich will ich auf mein Herz,
auf meinen Arm gleich wie ein Sigel setzen,
und dein betrübtes Aug' ergötzen.
Vergiß, o Seele, nun
die Angst, den Schmerz,
den du erdulden müssen;
auf meiner Linken sollst du ruhn,
und meine Rechte soll dich küssen.*

6. Arie - Duett S B (Dialog - Seele, Jesus)

*Mein Freund ist mein,
– und ich bin dein, –
die Liebe soll nichts scheiden.
Ich will mit dir
– du sollst mit mir –
im Himmels Rosen weiden,
da Freude die Fülle, da Wonne wird sein.*

7. Choral

*Gloria sei dir gesungen,
mit Menschen- und englischen Zungen,
mit Harfen und mit Zimbeln schon.
Von zwölf Perlen sind die Pforten,
an deiner Stadt sind wir Konsorten
der Engel hoch um deine Thron.
Kein Aug' hat je gespürt,
kein Ohr hat je gehört
solche Freude, des sind wir froh,
io, io, ewig in dulci jubilo.
("Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme," verse 3)*

4. Chorale T

*Zion hears the watchmen sing,
her heart leaps for joy within her,
she wakens and hastily arises.
Her glorious beloved comes from heaven,
strong in mercy, powerful in truth,
her light becomes bright, her star rises.
Now come, precious crown,
Lord Jesus, the Son of God!
Hosannah!
We all follow to the hall of joy
and hold the evening meal together.*

5. Recitative B

*So come in to me,
you my chosen bride!
I have to you
eternally betrothed myself.
I will set you upon my heart,
upon my arm as a seal,
and delight your troubled eye.
Forget, O soul, now
the fear, the pain
which you have had to suffer;
upon my left hand you shall rest,
and my right hand shall kiss you.*

6. Aria - Duet S B (Dialogue - Soul, Jesus)

*My friend is mine,
– and I am yours, –
love will never part us.
I will with you
– you will with me –
graze among heaven's roses,
where complete pleasure and delight will be.*

7. Chorale

*Let Gloria be sung to you
with mortal and angelic tongues,
with harps and even with cymbals.
Of twelve pearls the portals are made,
In your city we are companions
Of the angels high around your throne.
No eye has ever perceived,
no ear has ever heard
such joy as our happiness,
io, io, eternally in dulci jubilo!*

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- might- 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.

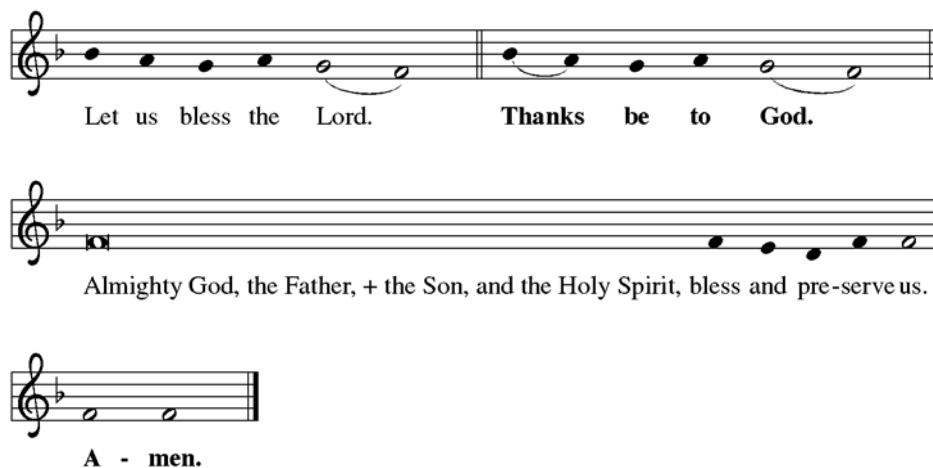
LORD'S PRAYER





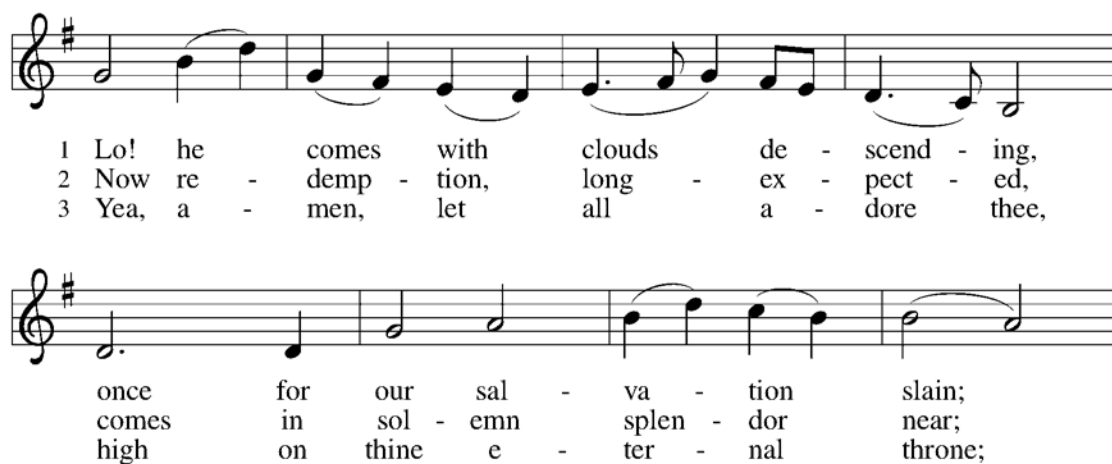
as we for-give those who tres-pass a- gainst us; and lead us
not in- to temp-ta- tion, but de- liv- er us from e- vil.
For thine is the king-dom, and the pow- er, and the
glo- ry, for- ev- er and ev- er. A- men.

BENEDICAMUS DOMINO & BENEDICTION



Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.
Almighty God, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre-serve us.
A - men.

#435 CLOSING HYMN Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,
3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,
once comes for our sal - va - tion slain;
comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;
high on thine e - ter - nal throne;

thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
all the saints this world re - ject - ed
Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

join to sing the glad re - frain:
thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:
claim the king - dom as thine own.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!
lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

POSTLUDE Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying | Emma Lou Diemer

MUSICIANS

Violin I

Rolf Wulfsberg

Violin II

Bethany Olson

Paul Ahlquist

Viola

Elling Lottridge

Lynn Washington

Cello

Anton TenWolde

Double Bass

Colette Mounton

Horn

Rebecca Sawyer

Oboe

Kristen Diederichs

Margret Bradley

English Horn

Marc Fink

Organ

Mark Brampton Smith

Soprano Soloist

Eleanor Meyerfeld

Tenor Soloist

Jacob Azehr

Bass Soloist

Ryne Cherry

THANK YOU

Tonight's cantata was underwritten in loving memory of Walter H. Miner & Ruth Miner by their daughter, Margaret Miner.

YOU'RE INVITED

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

SUPPORT MUSIC AT LUTHER MEMORIAL

Luther Memorial is able to present this cantata and other extraordinary musical programs to the glory of God, thanks to the support of many generous individuals. Please consider making a gift of any size at luthermem.org/give or by sending a check to Luther Memorial Church (with music ministry in the memo line). Thank you.

CANTATA 140

PROGRAM NOTES

Our thanks to all of today's singers and instrumentalists for "recreating" Cantata 140, **Wachet Auf**, by J.S. Bach (1685–1750) just for us. Unlike "finished" works of visual art which in our time can only be studied or contemplated passively, today we experience this masterwork live "with our own ears."

Through a career of more than 40 years—30 of them at St. Thomas and St. Nicholas Lutheran Churches in Leipzig—Johann Sebastian was the foremost of a large family of church musicians named "Bach" in Germany in the 1700's. Beyond his renown as an organist and music director, it is Bach's **300 cantatas that form the largest single category of all his works for chorus and orchestra**. Of the 200 that are preserved (we have the *Noten*, as the Germans say), 50 are *chorale* cantatas (like Cantata 140), so-called because they are based not only on the scripture readings for the day but also on the appointed hymn or chorale.

Every cantata was *tailor-made* for the regular Sunday Holy Communion service, or a saints day celebration during the week—even for celebrating the sovereign's birthday. For the *Last Sunday after Trinity* in November 1731, Bach wrote **Wake Awake**; it features not only that day's gospel parable of the end time (Matthew 25.1-13), but also all of the **appointed** "Hymn of the Day" from which it gets its name. Like all cantatas it had but one purpose: to prepare the congregation to hear the (one hour-long) *sermon* that came next!

The themes that pervade Cantata 140: of joy at Christ's coming and not just foreboding; of God's gracious love and gift of faith; of the life-giving power of God's Word and Sacraments: all make it a perfect choice also for our Reformation Sunday observance this afternoon.

WHAT YOU WILL HEAR

1. CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA Like a stately processional for a royal wedding, a grand orchestral introduction leads directly into **Stanza One of "Wake Awake"**—sung in high notes of length by the sopranos, punctuated by the lower voices. "Sandwiched" among the hymn phrases, the orchestra sustains the joy by quoting from the processional music. When an **"ALLELUIA"** (a favorite word for believers) pops up right in the middle of the hymn, Bach gives it extra pages of imitative special attention by the Chorus—whereupon Stanza 1 concludes urging us *"ALL to go out to meet the Bridegroom!"*
2. RECITATIV The narrator now tells of Jesus, loving Bridegroom who draws near to share his heavenly banquet with his Bride the church (see *Song of Songs* - Song of Solomon – 2.8). This is the same Lord Jesus who comes among us also here and now in our earthly Holy Communion feasts. *"Get ready—here he comes!"*
3. DUET A supremely beautiful love duet follows, in which the Bride (soprano—the believer) and groom (bass—Jesus) sing of their longing for each other: *"When will you come, O my Savior?"* asks the believer; Jesus responds, **"I am coming, your very own!"** As she sings ***"With oil lamps lighted we are waiting,"*** we can almost *"see" tiny shimmering flames of faith in the high violin part.* Finally Jesus announces, "I open the hall **zum himmlischen Mahl**" (to the heavenly banquet).
4. CHORALE –STANZA TWO The orchestra takes up a plodding sort of "walking" melody, and the choir tenors (night watchmen) chime in—but with another, totally different melody! Happily this turns out to be **Stanza Two of Wake, Awake:** *"Zion hears the watchmen singing."* Rather than stop and start over, all proceed together without pause—because it turns out that the two contrasting melodies complement each other perfectly! *"Her dear Friend comes down all glorious, the strong in grace in truth victorious!"* To this all respond, **"HOSANNA"**—(just as we do in every regular communion liturgy), and joyfully follow Jesus into the wedding hall, *"und halten mit das Abendmahl"*—to share the holy supper.
5. RECITATIV The gracious marriage of our Lord Jesus and his people now takes place, reassuring believers that God's sure promise is there for us always. Once again we are led into yet another...
6. DUET, cheerful and lilting, by soprano and bass soloists. The believer exults, "My Friend is mine!" and the Lord Jesus keeps answering "I am yours!" (*Song of Songs* 2.16, 6.3). Now "Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord!" (*Romans* 8:35—also *Song of Songs* 8.6)
7. CHORALE In closing, ALL proclaim **Stanza Three of "Wake Awake."** Angels too join human choruses and orchestras to exclaim **"GLORIA!"**—another beloved worship word binding the great heavenly feast with every Holy Communion feast on earth. Is there tribulation *here and now?* *Then and there* will be gladness only. *"Des sind wir froh, EE OH, EE OH"*—the German equivalent of "HURRAY!"—and finally all earth and heaven unite **IN DULCI JUBILO**, that greatest of Christmas hymns.

The Rev. David J. Susan

SERVING TODAY

LITURGISTS	Pastor Brad Pohlman, Pastor John Worzala Dumke
PREACHER	The Rev. Craig McMahon
ORGANIST & CONDUCTOR	Andrew Schaeffer
CANTOR	Caitlin Xavier
LECTOR	Rhiannon Talbot
AUDIO & VIDEO	Lee Powell
USHERS	Robert & Marsha Steffen, Jeff Van Fleet

Save the date!

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, Dec. 14 | 4 pm

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

