

YALE INSTITUTE OF SACRED MUSIC

Lutheran Vespers

YALE CONSORT

JAMES O'DONNELL, CONDUCTOR

APRIL 8, 2025

5:30 PM

UNITED CHURCH ON THE GREEN
NEW HAVEN



Yale Consort is a professional vocal ensemble sponsored by the Yale Institute of Sacred Music. It is conducted by Professor James O'Donnell and provides high-quality choral music in partnership with Yale School of Music and Yale Divinity students through weekly term-time evening services in local parishes and chapels.

**For more information and to view all upcoming services,
please visit ism.yale.edu or use this QR code:**



For at least the last eighteen centuries, some formula for prayer at the end of the day has been part of the Christian tradition. We don't know precisely what the earliest Vespers looked like or sounded like, but certain themes have endured, including confession, gratitude, and light. While Vespers never quite became a significant part of Lutheran piety, that it is still kept at all in the Lutheran tradition may be thanks to one church: the Thomaskirche in Leipzig.

For twenty-seven years Johann Sebastian Bach served as the Kantor of the Thomaskirche, where most of his cantatas were composed-and though Bach's cantatas were generally performed at a Sunday morning liturgy, our service this evening imagines what can happen when we juxtapose the ancient tradition of Vespers with the cantatas of the 5principal musician of the city that helped it endure.

*-Timothy Weisman, Pastor
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, NYC*

**Please silence all mobile devices.
The use of photographic, recording, or electronic equipment
during the service is prohibited.**

Your courtesy is appreciated.

ORGAN PRELUDE

Adagio from Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op. 65

Retrospection

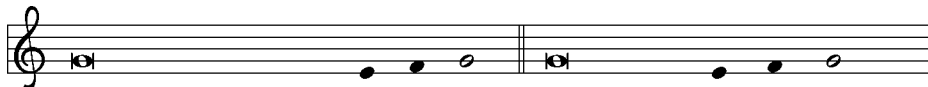
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Florence B. Price (1897-1953)

All stand when invited by the leader

SERVICE OF LIGHT

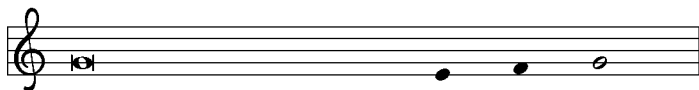
As the procession approaches the altar the following dialogue is sung:



Behold, now is the accept - a - ble time; **now is the day of sal - vation.**



Turn us again, O God of our sal - vation,



that the light of your face may shine on us.



May your justice shine like the sun; **and may the poor be lift - ed up.**

After the candle has been placed in position, all sing **Phos Hilaron**



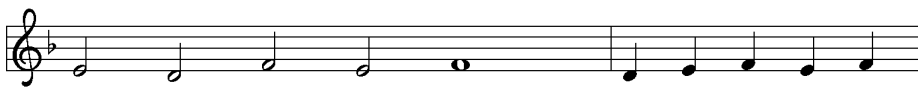
Leader

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.

Words: Greek hymn, 3rd cent.; tr. Roger T. Petrich

Music: Roger. T. Petrich (1938-2022)

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 thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light into 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 people into 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 merciful, and you love your whole creation,
and with all your creatures we give you glory,

Through your Son Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
Now and forever. **Amen.**

All sit

PSALMODY

The Choir sings Psalm 5:2-5

Verba mea auribus percipe, Domine;
intellige clamorem meum.
Intende voci orationis meae,
rex meus et Deus meus.

Quoniam ad te orabo, Domine:
mane exaudies vocem meam.
Mane astabo tibi, et videbo

*Lend ears to my words, Lord;
pay attention to my mourning.
Listen to the voice of my prayer,
my king and my God.*

*Because I will pray to you, Lord:
in the morning heed my voice.
In the morning I will stand before you and see.*

Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672), SWV 61

All stand to sing the Office Hymn

Ah, Holy Jesus



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to
2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
treason, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

All sit

READING

1 John 2:18-28

V Word of God, Word of Life

R Thanks be to God

Brief silence is kept

HOMILY

Professor John Hare

Noah Porter Professor of Philosophical Theology, Yale University, emeritus.

CANTATA

Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen, BWV 12

Johann Sebastian Bach

1. **Sinfonia**

2. **Chorus**

Weinen, Klagen,
Sorgen, Zagen,
Angst und Not
Sind der Christen Tränenbrot,
Die das Zeichen Jesu tragen.

*Weeping, lamentation,
worry, despair,
anguish and trouble
are the Christian's bread of tears,
that bear the marks of Jesus.*

3. **Recitative (alto)** Bridget Nixon

Wir müssen durch viel Trübsal
in das Reich Gottes eingehen.

*We must enter the Kingdom of God through
much sorrow.*

4. **Aria (alto)**

Kreuz und Krone sind verbunden,
Kampf und Kleinod sind vereint.
Christen haben alle Stunden
Ihre Qual und ihren Feind,
Doch ihr Trost sind Christi Wunden.

*Cross and crown are bound together,
struggle and reward are united.
Christians have at all times
their suffering and their enemy,
yet their comforts are Christ's wounds.*

5. **Aria (bass)** Harrison Hintzsche

Ich folge Christo nach,
Von ihm will ich nicht lassen
Im Wohl und Ungemach,
Im Leben und Erblassen.
Ich küsse Christi Schmach,
Ich will sein Kreuz umfassen.
Ich folge Christo nach,
Von ihm will ich nicht lassen.

*I follow after Christ,
I will not let go of him
in prosperity and hardship,
in life and mortality.
I kiss Christ's shame,
I will embrace his cross.
I follow after Christ,
I will not let go of him.*

6. **Aria (tenor)** Gene Stenger
(Instrumental Chorale: Jesu, meine Freude)

Sei getreu, alle Pein
Wird doch nur ein Kleines sein.
Nach dem Regen
Blüht der Segen,
Alles Wetter geht vorbei.
Sei getreu, sei getreu!

*Be faithful, all pain
will yet be only a little thing.
After the rain
blessing blossoms,
all storms pass away.
Be faithful, be faithful!*

7. **Chorus**

Was Gott tut, das ist wohlgetan,
Dabei will ich verbleiben.
Es mag mich auf die rauhe Bahn
Not, Tod und Elend treiben.
So wird Got mich
Ganz väterlich
In seinen Armen halten:
Drum laß ich ihn nur walten.

*What God does, is well done,
I will cling to this.
Along the harsh path
trouble, death and misery may drive me.
Yet God will,
just like a father,
hold me in his arms:
therefore I let him alone rule.*

Brief silence is kept

All stand

MAGNIFICAT

Song of Mary, Luke 1:39–56

Magnificat, anima mea, Dominum
et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo, salutari meo.
Quia respexit humilitatem ancillæ suæ:
ecce enim ex hoc beatam
me dicent omnes generationes.

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations
will call me blessed:*

Quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est,
 et sanctum nomen eius,
 et misericordia eius a progenie in progenies
 timentibus eum.
 Fecit potentiam in brachio suo,
 dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.
 Deposuit potentes de sede
 et exaltavit humiles;
 Esurientes implevit bonis
 et divites dimisit inanes.
 Suscepit Israel puerum suum recordatus
 misericordiæ suæ,
 sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,
 Abraham et semini eius in sæcula.

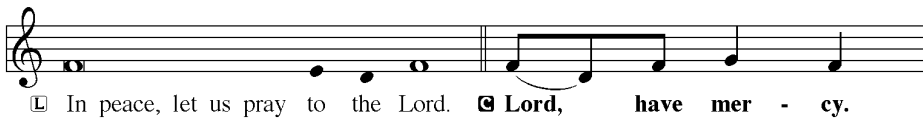
Gloria Patri, et Filio,
 et Spiritui Sancto:
 Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,
 et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

*the Almighty has done great things for me,
 and holy is his Name.
 He has mercy on those who fear him
 in every generation.
 He has shown the strength of his arm,
 he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
 and has lifted up the lowly.
 He has filled the hungry with good things,
 and the rich he has sent away empty.
 He has come to the help of his servant Israel
 for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
 the promise he made to our fathers,
 to Abraham and his children forever.*

*Glory to the Father and to the Son
 and to the Holy Spirit,
 as it was in the beginning, is now,
 and will be forever. Amen.*

*Magnificat primi toni
 Francesco Soriano (1548-1621)*

PRAYERS



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 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.

A time of silence follows

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, through Christ our Lord.



O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We give thanks to you, heavenly father, through Jesus Christ your dear son, that you have graciously protected us today. We ask you to forgive us all our sins, where we have done wrong, and graciously to protect us tonight. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us. Amen.

Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-lowed be your name,
 your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav-en.
 Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as we
 for-give those who sin a-against us. Save us from the time of tri-al
 and de-liv-er us from e-vil. For the king-dom, the pow'r,
 and the glo-ry are yours, now and for-ev-er. A-men.

BLESSING

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.

All sing the Hymn

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now on your ho - ly pas - sion;
2 Make me see your great dis - tress, an - guish, and af - flic - tion,
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone make me see your pas - sion,
4 Let me view your pain and loss with re - pen - tant griev - ing,



let your Spir - it now en - dow me for med - i - ta - tion.
bonds and blows and wretch - ed - ness and your cru - ci - fix - ion;
but its cause to me make known and its ter - mi - na - tion.
nor pre - pare a - gain your cross by un - ho - ly liv - ing.



Grant that I in love and faith may the im - age cher - ish
make me see how scourge and rod, spear and nails, did wound you,
For I al - so and my sin wrought your deep af - flic - tion;
May I give you love for love! Hear me, O my Sav - ior,



of your suf - f'ring, pain, and death, that I may not per - ish.
how you died for those, O God, who with thorns had crowned you.
this the shame - ful cause has been of your cru - ci - fix - ion.
that I may in heav'n a - bove sing your praise for - ev - er.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–1681; tr. August Cruhl, 1846–1923, alt.
Music: JESU KREUZ, LEIDEN UND PEIN, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615

All remain standing as the Choir and ministers depart

MUSIC AFTER THE SERVICE

Fugue in F, BWV 540/ii

J. S. Bach (1685–1750)

All are invited to remain seated until the conclusion of the organ voluntary

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Yale Consort

James O'Donnell, conductor

Nathaniel Gumbs, organist

Elizabeth Bates
Maggie Lieberman
Juliet Papadopoulos

Bridget Nixon
Wendy Gilles
Tuesday Rupp

Gene Stenger
Gregório Taniguchi
Stephen Sands

Will Doreza
Matthew Cramer
Harrison Hintzsche

Violin
Jimmy Drancsak
Lydia Becker

Viola
Ryan Cheng
Dan McCarthy

Cello
Nathan Whittaker

Bass
Nicholas Kleinman

Oboe
Pablo O'Connell

Bassoon
Ben Matus

Trumpet
Maximilian Morel


Chamber Organ
Ethan Haman

Caspar Wein, M.M.A. '26
Professor John Hare
Jordan Baker, M.Div. '26
Rev. Timothy Keyl

Leader
Preacher
Server
Reader

The Yale Institute of Sacred Music is grateful to Senior Minister the Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr., Caesar Storlazzi, organist, and the parish of United Church on the Green for their hospitality. We also thank the Rev. Timothy Keyl, Director of Lutheran Studies at Yale Divinity School, for his advice.

For more information please visit the websites below,
or contact Clifton Massey, Program Manager at Clifton.Massey@Yale.edu

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