

YALE INSTITUTE OF SACRED MUSIC

Cantata Vespers

YALE CONSORT

JAMES O'DONNELL, CONDUCTOR

OCTOBER 14, 2025
5:30 PM
MARQUAND CHAPEL
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

Prelude in C minor BWV 546

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

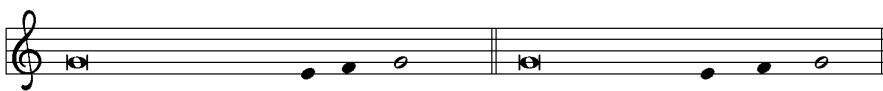
All stand when invited by the leader

SERVICE OF LIGHT

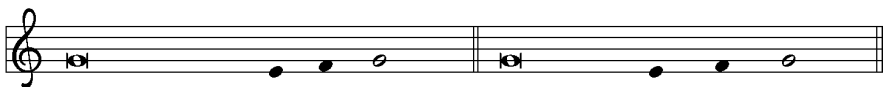
As the procession approaches the altar the following dialogue is sung:



Jesus Christ is the light of the world, **the light no darkness can o - ver - come.**



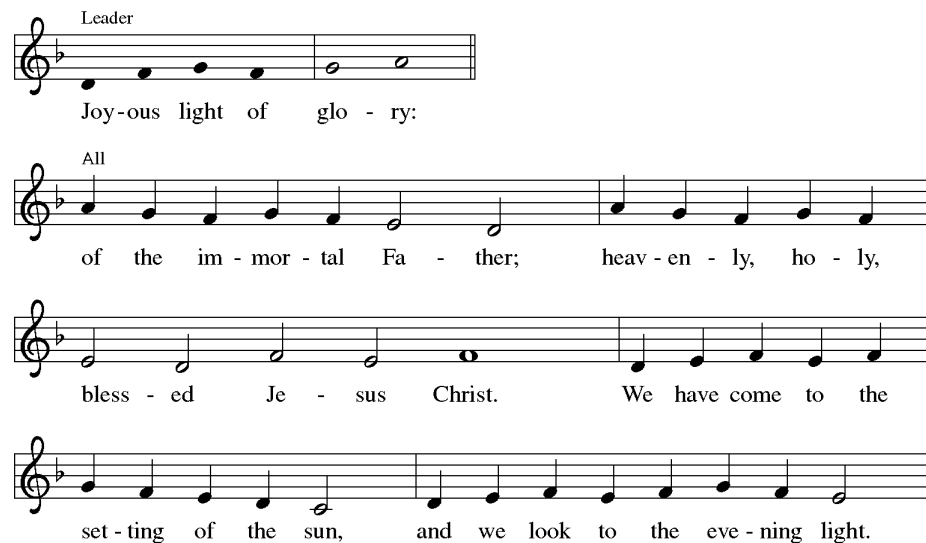
Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening, **and the day is al - most over.**



Let your light scat - ter the darkness **and illu - mine your church.**

The candle is 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,
bless - 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 61**

Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672)

Gott, mein Geschrei erhö-re,
und merk auf mein Ge-bet,
In meiner Angst so schwe-re,
wenn mich Trübsal angeht,
Hienieden auf der Erden mein Herz,
Sinn und Geberden hab ich zu dir gericht.

*Hear my cry, O God;
and attend unto my prayer.
In my sore anguish,
When affliction befalls me
Here on earth my heart,
I have directed my mind and gestures to you.*

Herr, tu bei mir das Beste,
auf einen Fels mich stell,
Sei du mein Burg und Feste,
daß mich der Feind nicht fällt,
In deinem Haus will ich bleiben, dein Lob
ewiglich treiben, trauen den Flügeln dein.

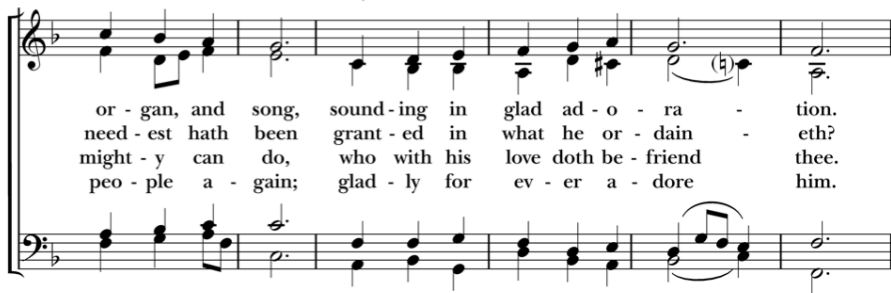
*Lord, do what is best for me,
place me on a rock,
Be my fortress and stronghold,
so that the enemy may not overthrow me,
I will dwell in your house, I will
forever sing your praises, and trust in your wings.*

All stand to sing the Office Hymn **Praise to the Lord the Almighty (Lobe den Herrn)**

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise to the Lord; o - ver all things he glo - rious - ly
 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de -
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion; O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - eth: borne as on ea - gle - wings, safe - ly his
 fend thee; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall
 dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with

health and sal - va - tion: join the great throng, psal - ter - y,
 saints he sus - tain - eth. Hast thou not seen how all thou
 ev - er at - tend thee; pon - der a - new what the Al -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his



All sit

READING

2 KINGS 5:19B-27

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

Wer sich selbst erhöhet, der soll erniedriget werden, BWV 47

Johann Sebastian Bach

1. Chorus

Wer sich selbst erhöhet, der soll erniedriget
werden, und wer sich selbst erniedriget,
der soll erhöht werden.

(Luke 14:11)

*Whoever elevates himself will be
abased, and whoever abases himself
will be elevated.*

2. Aria (soprano)

Sherezade Panthaki

Wer ein wahrer Christ will heißen,
Muß der Demut sich befleißigen;
Demut stammt aus Jesu Reich.
Hoffart ist dem Teufel gleich;
Gott pflegt alle die zu hassen,
So den Stolz nicht fahrenlassen.

*Whoever wishes to be called a true Christian
Must strive for humility;
Humility comes from Jesus's kingdom.
Haughtiness is exactly like the devil;
God is wont to hate all those
Who do not abandon pride.*

3. Recitative (bass)

Will Doreza

Der Mensch ist Kot, Stank, Asch und Erde;
Ist's möglich, daß vom Übermut,

*Humankind is dung, dust, ash, and earth;
Is it possible that by presumption,*

Als einer Teufelsbrut,
 Er noch bezaubert werde?
 Ach Jesus, Gottes Sohn,
 Der Schöpfer aller Dinge,
 Ward unsretwegen niedrig und geringe,
 Er duldte Schmach und Hohn;
 Und du, du armer Wurm,
 suchst dich zu brüsten?
 Gehört sich das vor einen Christen?
 Geh, schäme dich, du stolze Kreatur,
 Tu Buß und folge Christi Spur;
 Wirf dich vor Gott im Geiste gläubig nieder!
 Zu seiner Zeit erhöht er dich auch wieder.

*It may yet be bewitched
 As by a brood of devils?
 Ah, Jesus, God's son,
 The creator of all things,
 Became base and small for our sake;
 He endured dishonor and mockery;
 And you, you paltry worm,
 seek to puff yourself up?
 Is that proper for a Christian?
 Go, for shame, you proud creature,
 Do penitence and follow Christ's tracks;
 Cast yourself down in spirit, believing, before God.
 In his time he will also elevate you again.*

4. Aria (bass)

Jesu, beuge doch mein Herze
 Unter deine starke Hand,
 Daß ich nicht mein Heil verscherze
 Wie der erste Höllenbrand.
 Laß mich deine Demut suchen
 Und den Hochmut ganz verfluchen;
 Gib mir einen niedern Sinn,
 Daß ich dir gefällig bin!

*Jesus, do bend my heart
 Under your strong hand,
 So that I do not trifle with my salvation
 Like the chief one who burns in hell [Satan].
 Let me seek your humility
 And entirely curse arrogance;
 Give me a lowly disposition,
 So that I am pleasing to you.*

6. Chorus

Der zeitlichen Ehrn will ich gern entbehrn,
 Du wollst mir nur das Ewge gewährn,
 Das du erworben hast
 Durch deinen herben, bittern Tod.
 Das bitt ich dich, mein Herr und Gott.

*I will gladly dispense with temporal honors,
 If only you would guarantee me that which is eternal,
 That which you have purchased
 Through your harsh, bitter death.
 I beg that of you, my Lord and God.*

- Johann Friedrich Helbig (transl. Michael Marissen and Daniel R. Melamed)

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,

*the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.*

et misericordia eius a progenie in progenies
timentibus eum.

*He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.*

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo,
dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.

*He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.*

Deposuit potentes de sede
et exaltavit humiles;

*He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.*

Esurientes implevit bonis
et divites dimisit inanes.

*He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.*

Suscepit Israel puerum suum recordatus
misericordiæ suæ,
sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,
Abraham et semini eius in sæcula.

*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.*

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

*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 octavi toni
Orlando de Lassus (1532-1594)*

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 - gainst 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 Now thank we all our God (*Nun danket*)



1 Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voic - es,
2 O 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 hath done, in whom his world re - joic - es;
with ev - er - joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us;
the Son, and him who reigns with them in high - est hea - ven,



who from our mo - ther's arms hath blessed us on our way
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
e - ter - nal, Tri - une God, whom earth and heaven a - dore;



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be, ev - er - more.

All remain standing as the Choir and ministers depart

MUSIC AFTER THE SERVICE

Praeludium in D BuxWV 139

Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

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

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Yale Consort

James O'Donnell, conductor

Katrina Liao, M.M. '26, organ

Elizabeth Bates
Sherezade Panthaki
Maura Tuffy

Bridget Nixon
Victoria Roan
Megan Roth

Matthew Newhouse
Corey Shotwell
Gene Stenger

Will Doreza
Matthew Cramer
Paul An

Violin

Daniel Lee
Rebecca Nelson

Viola

Alissa Smith

Cello

Ezra Seltzer

Bass

Will Robbins

Oboe

Priscilla Herreid
Pablo O'Connell

Organ continuo

Stephen Gamboa-Diaz

The Reverend Timothy Keyl
Professor John Hare
Jordan Baker, M.Div. '26

Leader
Preacher
Server

Please join us for upcoming services with Yale Consort. All services at 5:30pm:

Oct 21 Evensong – Christ Church
Oct 28 Festal Evensong – Christ Church
Nov 4 Requiem Mass – Christ Church
Nov 11 Evensong – Trinity on the Green

Music of Rachmaninoff, Harris, and Sumson
Music of Handl, Leighton, and Bruckner
Featuring the Duruflé Requiem
Music of Bairstow, French, Burk

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

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