



Bach Vespers

Music of the Americas in Bach's Time

Sunday, June 6, 2021 • 6:00 PM

Christ the King Lutheran Church



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Bach Vespers: Music of the Americas in Bach's Time

June 6, 2021 • 6:00 p.m.

Christ the King Lutheran Church

*This Vespers is sung to the glory of God and
in thanksgiving for the life of C. Howard Pieper.*

Pealing of the Bells

Prelude

Toccata in C Major, BWV 564

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

stand

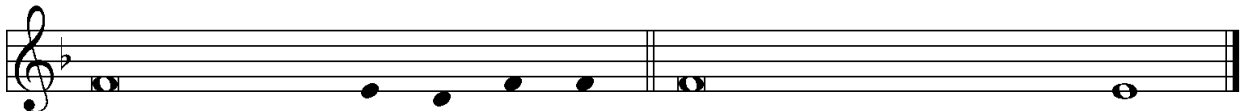
Versicles



☐ Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, ☐ **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.**

Hymn ELW 569

The Day You Gave Us, Lord, Has Ended

St. Clement

1 The day you gave us, Lord, has end - ed;
2 We thank you that your church, un - sleep - ing
3 As to each con - ti - nent and is - land
4 The sun, here hav - ing set, is wak - ing
5 So be it, Lord; your realm shall nev - er,

the dark - ness falls at your be - hest.
while earth rolls on - ward in - to light,
the dawn leads on an - oth - er day,
your chil - dren un - der west - ern skies,
like earth's proud em - pires, pass a - way;

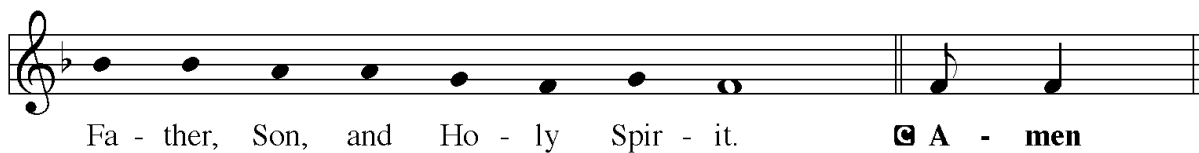
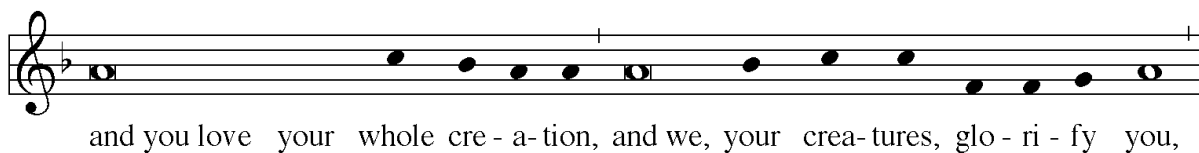
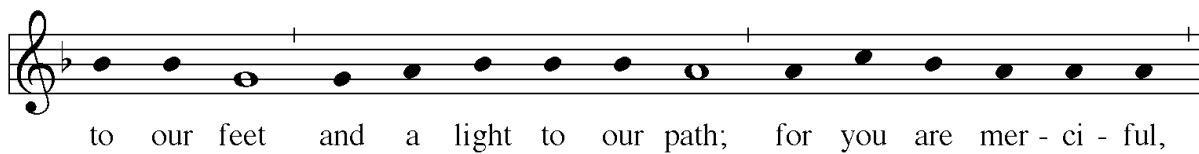
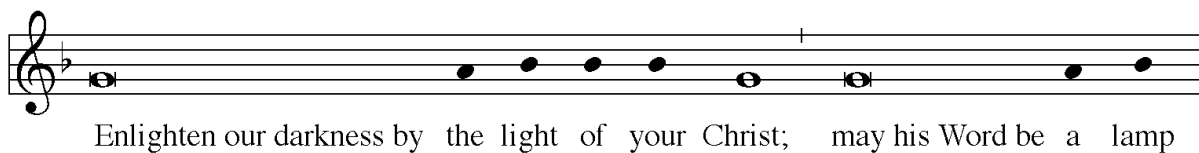
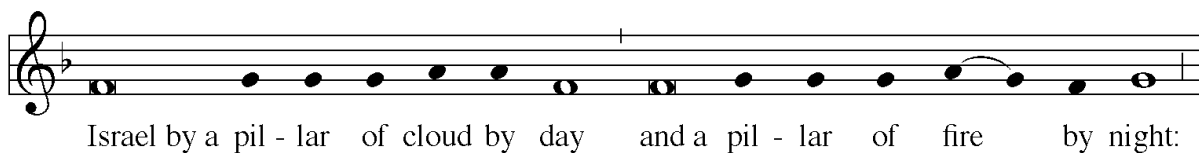
To you our morn - ing hymns as - cend - ed;
through all the world its watch is keep - ing,
the voice of prayer is nev - er si - lent,
and hour by hour, as day is break - ing,
but stand and grow and rule for - ev - er,

your praise shall hal - low now our rest.
and nev - er rests by day or night.
nor dies the strain of praise a - way.
fresh hymns of thank - ful praise a - rise.
till all your crea - tures own your sway.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826–1893, alt.

Music: ST. CLEMENT, Clement C. Scholefield, 1839–1904

Thanksgiving



sit

Psalm

Psalm 147 Lauda Jerusalem

attr. Manuel de Sumaya (1678–1755)

12 Lauda Jerusalem Dominum: lauda Deum tuum Sion.

12 Praise the Lord, Jerusalem; praise your God, Zion.

13 Quoniam confortavit seras portarum tuarum: benedixit filiis tuis in te.

13 Since He has strengthened the bars of your gates, He has blessed your children in you.

14 Qui posuit fines tuos pacem: et adipe frumenti satiat te.

14 Who has made your land peace and with the fat of the grain He satisfies you.

15 Qui emittit eloquium suum terrae: velociter currit sermo ejus.

15 Who sends forth His utterance to the earth, swiftly runs His speech.

16 Qui dat nivem sicut lanam: nebulam sicut cinerem spargit.

16 Who gives snow like wool, fog like ashes He scatters.

17 Mittit crystallum suam sicut buccellas: ante faciem frigoris ejus quis sustinebit?

17 He sends His ice like little morsels: before the appearance of His cold who will hold out?

18 Emittet verbum suum, et liquefaciet ea: flabit spiritalis ejus et fluent aquae.

18 He sends forth His word, and He melts them; His breath will blow, and the waters will flow.

19 Qui annuntiat verbum suum Jacob: justitias et judicia sua Israel.

19 Who makes known His word to Jacob, His justice and judgements to Israel.

20 Non fecit taliter omni nationi: et judicia sua non manifestavit eis.

20 He has not done so to every nation, and His judgements He has not disclosed to them.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. 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.

Prayer

Motet

Through ev'ry age, eternal God

STRATFIELD (Ezra Goff, 1786)

Through ev'ry age, eternal God,
Thou art our rest, our safe abode;
High was thy throne ere heav'n was made,
Or earth thy humble footstool laid.

Lesson

Job 38:1-11

¹Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:
²"Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?
³Gird up your loins like a man,
I will question you, and you shall declare to me.
⁴"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell me, if you have understanding.
⁵Who determined its measurements — surely you know!
Or who stretched the line upon it?
⁶On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone
⁷when the morning stars sang together
and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?
⁸"Or who shut in the sea with doors
when it burst out from the womb? —
⁹when I made the clouds its garment,
and thick darkness its swaddling band,
¹⁰and prescribed bounds for it,
and set bars and doors,
¹¹and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stopped'?

Motet

Give Me Your Hand

Traditional American Spiritual
Arr. Joseph Joubert (2002)

Refrain

Oh, give me your hand, give me your
hand, all I want is the love of God;
give me your hand, give me your
hand.

You must be loving at God's
command.

Verse 1

You say you're aiming for the skies,
*(You must be loving at God's
command)*
why don't you quit you're telling
lies?

You must be loving at God's
command.

(Refrain)

Verse 2

You say the Lord has set you free,
(You must be loving at God's command)
why don't you let your neighbor be?
You must be loving at God's command.
(Refrain)

Verse 3

Some seek God's face but don't seek
right,
(You must be loving at God's command)
pray in the day but none at night.
You must be loving at God's command.
(Refrain)

Homily

Motet

Jauchzet dem Herrn, alle Welt, BWV Anh. 160

Johann Sebastian Bach

CHORALE

*Sei Lob und Preis mit Ehren,
Gott Vater Sohn und Heil'gem Geist,
der woll in uns vermehren
was er aus Gnaden uns verheißt,
daß wir ihm fest vertrauen,
gänzlich verlass'n auf ihn,
von Herzen auf ihn bauen,
daß uns'r Herz, Mut und Sinn
ihm tröstlich soll'n anhangen,
drauf singen wir zur Stund'
Amen, wir werd'n's erlangen,
glaub'n wir aus Herzensgrund.*

Laud and praise with honor be
to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
who will increase in us
what he promises us out of grace,
that we firmly trust him
completely relying upon him
building upon him from the heart,
that our heart, valor and mind
might cling to him for comfort,
to this we sing this hour
Amen, we will overcome,
we believe this in our heart's foundation.

CHOR

*Amen.
Lob und Ehre und Weisheit und Dank
und Preis und Kraft und Stärke,
sei unserm Gott von Ewigkeit zu
Ewigkeit.
Amen.*

Amen.
Laud and honor and wisdom and thanks
and praise and power and might,
be to our God from everlasting to
everlasting.
Amen.

COMPOSED: ?December 30, 1725, possibly for the 1st Day of Christmas or New Year's Day

LIBRETTO: Mvt. 1. Psalm 100:1-2 (Telemann Motet TVWV 8:10); Mvt 2. Johann Gramann (Poliander), stanza 5 of *Nun lob, mein Seel, den Herren* (1550); Mvt. 3. Revelation 7:12 (from Telemann cantata TVWV 1:1066/4: *Lobt Gott, ihr Christen allzugleich*)

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Organ Offering

Adagio, BWV 564

Johann Sebastian Bach

Your generous giving makes this Vespers possible. Thank you!

Magnificat

Cesare de Zacharia, 16th c.

arr. Larry J. Long (2009)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for you, Lord, have looked with favor
on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you
from generation to generation.
You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,
the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham, to Sarah, and to their children forever.

kneel or stand

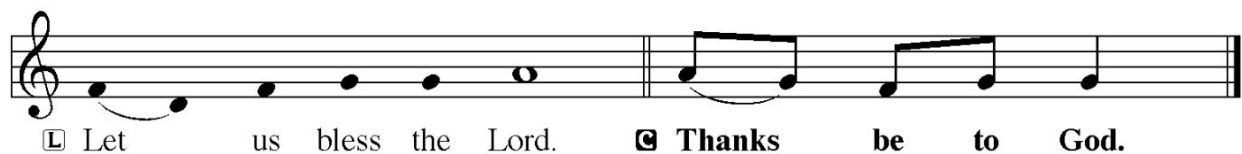
Prayers

Lord's Prayer (All chant on a single pitch)

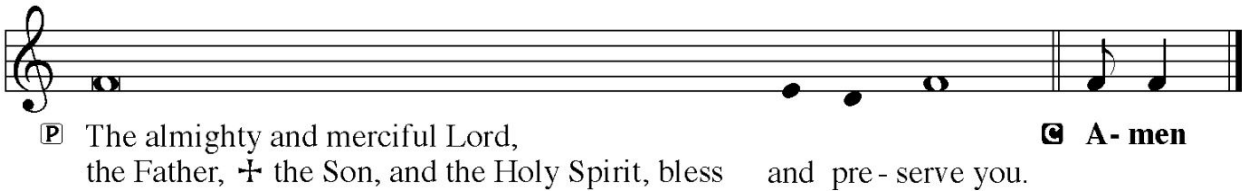
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

stand

Benedicamus



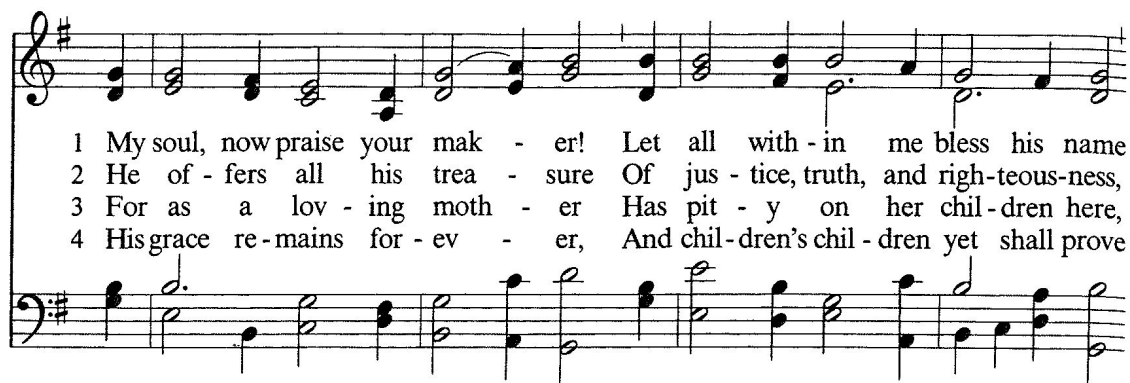
Blessing



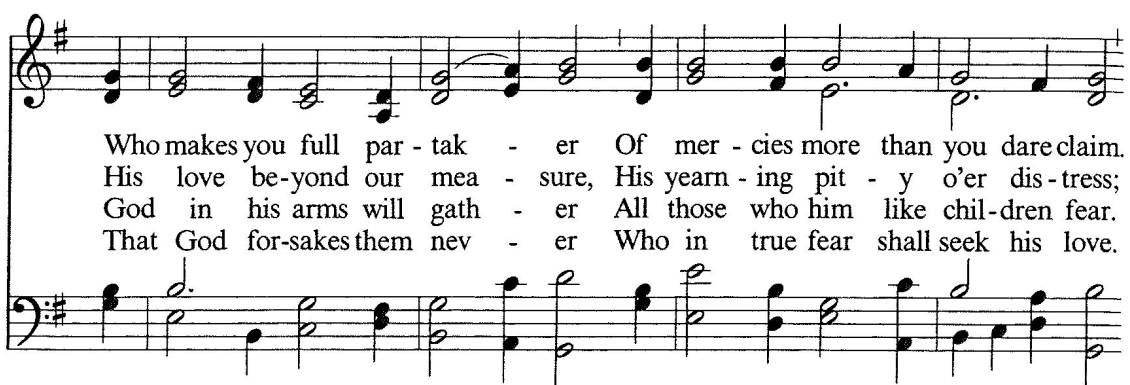
Hymn LBW 519

My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker!

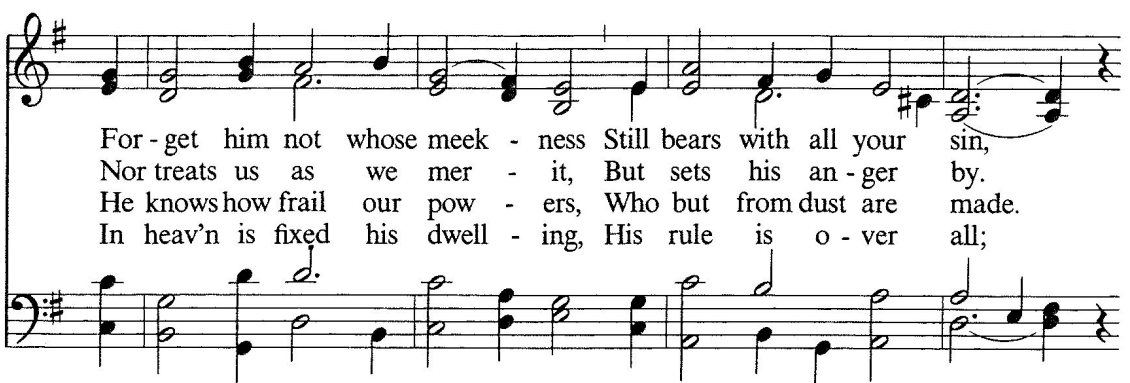
Nun Lob, Mein Seel



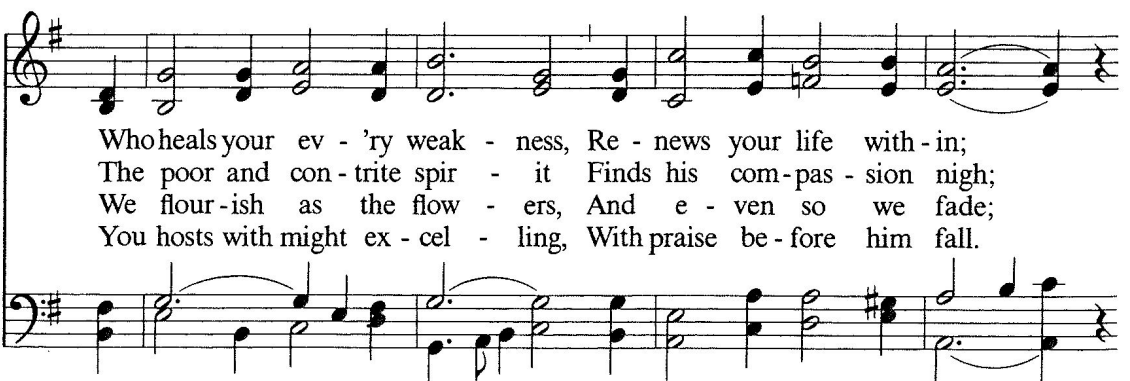
1 My soul, now praise your mak - er! Let all with - in me bless his name
2 He of - fers all his trea - sure Of jus - tice, truth, and righ - teous - ness,
3 For as a lov - ing moth - er Has pit - y on her chil - dren here,
4 His grace re - mains for - ev - er, And chil - dren's chil - dren yet shall prove



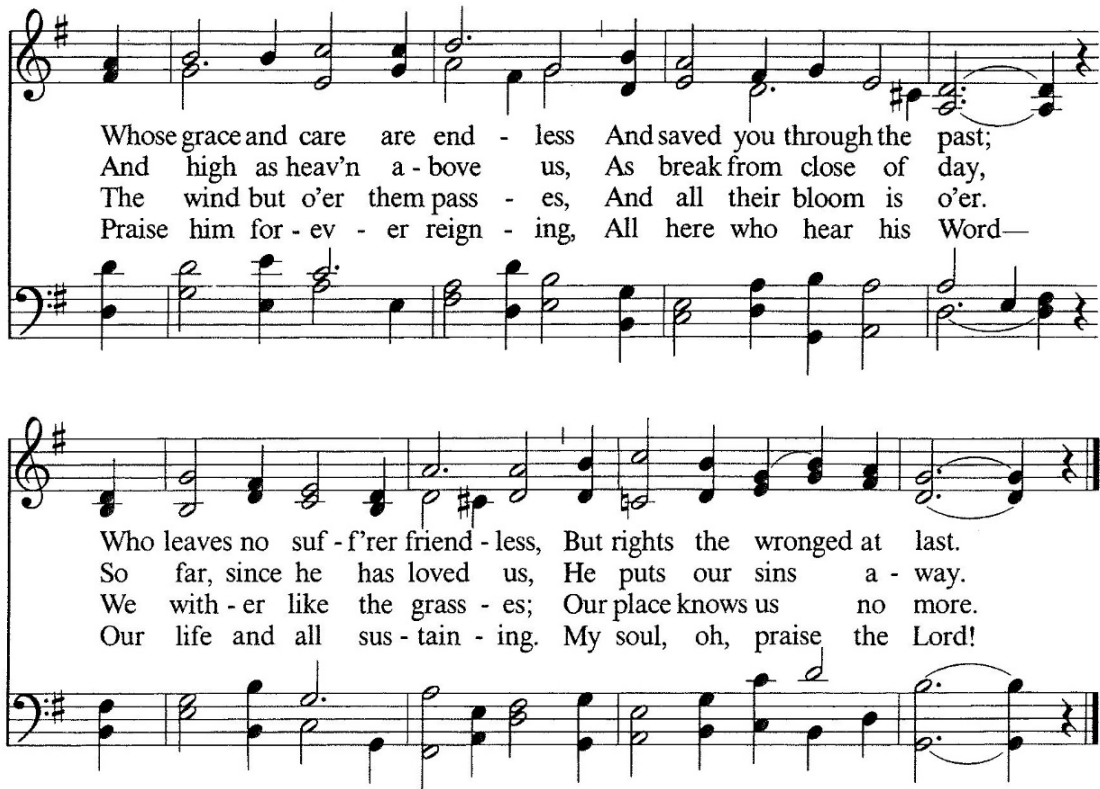
Who makes you full par - tak - er Of mer - cies more than you dare claim.
His love be - yond our mea - sure, His yearn - ing pit - y o'er dis - tress;
God in his arms will gath - er All those who him like chil - dren fear.
That God for - sakes them nev - er Who in true fear shall seek his love.



For - get him not whose meek - ness Still bears with all your sin,
Nor treats us as we mer - it, But sets his an - ger by.
He knows how frail our pow - ers, Who but from dust are made.
In heav'n is fixed his dwell - ing, His rule is o - ver all;



Who heals your ev - 'ry weak - ness, Re - news your life with - in;
The poor and con - trite spir - it Finds his com - pas - sion nigh;
We flour - ish as the flow - ers, And e - ven so we fade;
You hosts with might ex - cel - ling, With praise be - fore him fall.



Whose grace and care are end - less And saved you through the past;
 And high as heav'n a - bove us, As break from close of day,
 The wind but o'er them pass - es, And all their bloom is o'er.
 Praise him for - ev - er reign - ing, All here who hear his Word—

Who leaves no suf - f'rer friend - less, But rights the wronged at last.
 So far, since he has loved us, He puts our sins a - way.
 We with - er like the grass - es; Our place knows us no more.
 Our life and all sus - tain - ing. My soul, oh, praise the Lord!

Text: Johann Gramann, 1487–1541; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt.
 Music: NUN LOB, MEIN SEEL, Kugelman, *Concentus Novi*, 1540

sit

Postlude

Fugue in C Major, BWV 564

Johann Sebastian Bach

Pealing of the Bells

Please refrain from applauding.

Join us for a festive reception following Vespers outside in the courtyard.

Soli Deo Gloria

Thank you for joining us for this Vespers.

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Your generous donation makes this Vespers and other BSH events possible.

Look forward to our future events of the next season, 2021–2022!

Artists

Rick Erickson, *Director*

Mary Joy Silmaro, *Organ*

Bach Choir

Choir 1

Virginia Hesse, *Soprano*

Joshua Chavira, *Alto*

Ryan Rogers, *Tenor*

Gabriel Walker, *Bass*

Choir 2

Kaci Timmons, Erin McDaniels, *Soprano*

Aubrey Nelson, Vicki Gorman, *Alto*

Cody Arthur, *Tenor*

Joel Williams, *Bass*

About today's music...

Today's Vespers features music by Johann Sebastian, plus music that originated in the Americas roughly during the time of Bach's life. The fact that music was present in the Americas is, of course, no surprise. Music is universal. What seems more of note is imagining the routes and ways in which unique American expression came to be and grew.

Unfortunately, given the devastation of original populations, most of what we can examine comes through other lines. Today, we hear music from the Spiritual, Sacred Harp, and Mexican colonial sources, as well, of course, as a motet by Bach that was probably also based, in the last movement, on an earlier work by Telemann.

The Spiritual has its source in the horror and evil of slavery. The depth of emotion is clear, as is also the structure of call and response. This would allow leads to whom another group responds.

Sacred Harp probably has sources in England, brought to New England, also flowering in the South of north America. This style is also known as *shape note*, as the notes are in a unique style of notation, which also informs interpretation. This, along with the Spiritual, is sung by unaccompanied voices. Both styles are deeply spiritual.

Finally, we hear a setting of Psalm 147 for double choir from Mexican composer Manuel de Sumaya. Influenced by European style, this work is an amazing glimpse in what may have been heard in the Mexico City Cathedral in his time.

It is unlikely that either Bach or the music makers on this continent knew of each other in their own time. But the lines meet and cross in amazing ways today! The Spiritual tradition has led to Gospel, Blues and more – highly improvisatory in nature. Imagine Bach, the most noted improviser of his time, meeting up with this tradition! The Sacred Harp practice has encouraged hymn singing in powerful ways, much like the great German chorale tradition that so informed Bach's music. And, obviously, both the Sumaya and Bach motets we hear today are influenced by the double choir tradition coming out of Italy.

We plan to continue this exploration in the coming year, so please, join us on this adventure!

— Rick Erickson, June 6, 2021

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