

Lenten Midweek Vespers

Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 6:00PM

Prelude

*Fantasy and Fugue in C minor, BWV 537*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Spoken Versicles:

O Lord, open thou my lips.

**And my mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

**Make haste to help me, O Lord.**

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.**

Psalm 107:1-15

Psalm Prayer

Lesson

Numbers 20:2-11, 13

Organ Response

*O man, bewail thy grievous sins, BWV 622*

Johann Sebastian Bach

Reflection

Magnificat (Tonus peregrinus chant)

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Blessing

Organ Postlude

*Prelude in E minor, BWV 555*

Johann Sebastian Bach

## Psalm 107:1-15

<sup>1</sup>O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,  
those he redeemed from trouble**

<sup>3</sup>and gathered in from the lands,  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.

<sup>4</sup>**Some wandered in desert wastes,  
finding no way to an inhabited town;**

<sup>5</sup>hungry and thirsty,  
their soul fainted within them.

<sup>6</sup>**Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,  
and he delivered them from their distress;**

<sup>7</sup>he led them by a straight way,  
until they reached an inhabited town.

<sup>8</sup>**Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,  
for his wonderful works to humankind.**

<sup>9</sup>For he satisfies the thirsty,  
and the hungry he fills with good things.

<sup>10</sup>**Some sat in darkness and in gloom,  
prisoners in misery and in irons,**

<sup>11</sup>for they had rebelled against the words of God,  
and spurned the counsel of the Most High.

<sup>12</sup>**Their hearts were bowed down with hard labor;  
they fell down, with no one to help.**

<sup>13</sup>Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,  
and he saved them from their distress;

<sup>14</sup>**he brought them out of darkness and gloom,  
and broke their bonds asunder.**

<sup>15</sup>Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,  
for his wonderful works to humankind.

## Psalm Prayer

O God, you are bread to the hungry, deliverance to the captive, healing to the sick, and harbor to every soul in peril. Gather the wanderers from every corner of the world into the community of your mercy and grace, that we may eternally praise you for our salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Numbers 20:2-11, 13

<sup>2</sup>Now there was no water for the congregation...<sup>3</sup>The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Would that we had died when our kindred died before the LORD! <sup>4</sup>Why have you brought the assembly of the LORD into this wilderness for us and our livestock to die here? <sup>5</sup>Why have you brought us up out of Egypt, to bring us to this wretched place? It is no place for grain, or figs, or vines, or pomegranates; and there is no water to drink." <sup>6</sup>Then Moses and Aaron went away from the assembly to the entrance of the tent of meeting; they fell on their faces, and the glory of the LORD appeared to them. <sup>7</sup>The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: <sup>8</sup>Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and your brother Aaron, and command the rock before their eyes to yield its water. Thus you shall bring water out of the rock for them...<sup>9</sup>So Moses took the staff from before the LORD, as he had commanded him. <sup>10</sup>Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, "Listen, you rebels, shall we bring water for you out of this rock?" <sup>11</sup>Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his staff; water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their livestock drank. <sup>13</sup>These are the waters of Meribah, where the people of Israel quarreled with the LORD, and by which he showed his holiness.

**Today's Reflection: From *Were you there? Lenten Reflections on the Spirituals by Luke A. Powery***

See that band all dressed in red  
God's a-gonna trouble the water.  
It looks like the band that Moses led.  
God's a-gonna trouble the water.

The image of water is prominent in many Spirituals. Waters, the like Jordan River, had to be crossed to reach freedom. In the Middle Passage from Africa to the Western world, the enslaved were carried on ships on the oceans, the waters, to a destination not of their choosing. On the trip, some chose to jump into the waters and drown because death was better than life. Waters can be viewed as a death but also life. We see what water can do through a hurricane's impact. We see what watery fluids can do in a mother's womb as a baby is born. The waters of baptism are a dying and rising for the new believer. There are many meanings of water....

-God's a-gonna trouble the water...it is the statement of faith. The water may represent trouble but God is going to trouble their trouble! God is going to trouble your trouble...Wade in the water. Take the risk to move forward even without full knowledge of what is to come or how it is to be come God's a-gonna trouble your water.

## **Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)**

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 their children  
forever.

## **Prayer**

**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.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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, for ever and ever. Amen.