

Paul Gerhardt Hymn Festival



Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Bethany Lutheran College
Trinity Chapel
Mankato, MN

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Paul Gerhardt - 1607-76

In the Lutheran church at Lübben in Germany there hangs a life-size painting of Paul Gerhardt. Beneath it is the inscription: "*Theologus in cribro Satanae versatus*" (A divine sifted in Satan's sieve). That inscription may be said to epitomize the sad life-story of Germany's great psalmist. Paul Gerhardt was born on March 12, 1607, in Gräfenhaynichen, a village between Halle and Wittenberg. His father died before Paul reached maturity. During his youth Paul experienced much suffering because of the Thirty Years War that was raging. After studies in Grimma and at the University of Wittenberg, he became a family tutor in Berlin. Here in a Christian atmosphere his gift of song began to develop and bear fruit. Many of Gerhardt's hymns were published in 1648 in Johann Crüger's *Praxis Pietatis Melica*. In 1651 Gerhardt was called to Mittenwalde as provost. Four years later he married Anna Maria Berthold. Their first child, a daughter, died in infancy. Income was sparse, and Gerhardt also experienced unpleasantness because of a jealous colleague.

In 1657 Gerhardt accepted a call to be third assistant pastor of the Church of St. Nicholas in Berlin. Here he continued to write hymns. He was recognized as the most popular preacher in the city. Elector Friedrich Wilhelm the Great, a Calvinist, tried to resolve the bitter opposition between the Lutherans and the Calvinists, but in the end issued an edict forbidding ministers to attack each others' doctrine and confession. Later he required all the Lutheran ministers to sign a document compelling them to follow the edict. No Lutheran minister who wished to remain true to his confession could agree to this. Gerhardt believed that signing the document would be to compromise the faith. He was sick at the time, but nevertheless he summoned the Lutheran ministers to his bedside and admonished them to stand firm and not to yield to the demands of the elector.

Gerhardt refused to sign and was then deposed from office and even prohibited from conducting private meetings for worship in his own house. He called this his Berlin martyrdom. Just before this unfortunate occurrence he had lost three of his five children, and now a son died, and his wife was seriously ill. Petitions from citizens, laborers, the town council, and even from the wife of the elector led the elector to reinstate Gerhardt. But the elector had done this with the understanding that Gerhardt would preach in harmony with the aforementioned edict. Under such a condition Gerhardt refused. His wife died at Easter-tide, 1668. Now only a son, aged six, remained. In

May, 1669, Gerhardt was called to the office of arch-deacon of Lübben where he labored successfully until his death. Paul Gerhardt was an excellent pastor and one of the best, if not the best, of the hymn-writers of the Lutheran Church in Germany. He wrote 133 hymns in all. Not even the hymns of Martin Luther are used so generally throughout the Christian world as are those of Gerhardt. More of the beautiful lyrics of this sweet singer have found their way into the English language than the hymns of any other German hymn-writer. He died at Lübben, June 7, 1676.

[adapted from *Handbook to the Lutheran Hymnal*]

Hymns in ELH: 20, 52, 57, 94, 115, 128, 129, 152, 161, 208, 304, 331, 334, 335, 341, 372, 377, 400, 405, 448, 457, 517, 569

Dieterich Buxtehude - c. 1637-1707

Buxtehude was a Danish-German Lutheran composer of the Baroque era, just before Bach. He is most famous for his organ works, but also composed choral works for the Divine Service and for concert music, especially his famous *Abendmusik*. He was organist at Helsingborg and Helsingør, Denmark, and later in Lübeck, Germany. Famous musicians including Handel, Mattheson, and J. S. Bach, all traveled to meet him and hear Buxtehude. Bach stayed three months to hear the *Abendmusik*. Buxtehude's influence is especially notable in Bach's Preludes and Fugues for organ.



Johannes Voorhout—*Häusliche Musikszene*
© Museum für Hamburgische Geschichte
Holstenwall 24, 20355 Hamburg

There is only one known portrait of Dieterich Buxtehude. He appears in the painting by Johannes Voorhout entitled *Allegory on friendship*, which shows Buxtehude with a page of music in his hand, and the Hamburg organist Johann Adam Reincken sitting at a harpsichord. The painting is dated 1674. Buxtehude, then about 37, had already been the organist at Lübeck for six years.

(www.carus-verlag.com)

A CATECHISM OF GERHARDT HYMNS

Prelude: Magnificat.....Dieterich Buxtehude

**** Evening and Morning..... **ELH 57**

**** MORNING PRAYER (prayed in unison)**

**In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray You to protect me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

You are invited to read the Catechism silently during the hymn introductions.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS



You shall have no other gods.
You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
You shall keep the day of rest holy.

Organ Prelude: setting by Jan Bender

All Ye Who On The Earth Do Dwell..... ELH 52

Honor your father and your mother, that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.
You shall not kill.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maid-servant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is his.

Organ Prelude: setting by Johann Pachelbel

Blessed Is The Man That Never (based on Psalm 1) ELH 457

THE CREED



The Mystery Hidden From The Eyes..... ELH 405: 1-3

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still preserves them; that He richly and daily provides me with food and clothing, home and family, property and goods, and all that I need to support this body and life; that He protects me from all danger, guards and keeps me from all evil; and all this purely out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all which I am in duty bound to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

Introduction and Interludes: setting by Daniel Neubauer

I Will Sing My Maker's Praises.....ELH 448: 1, 4, 6

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

Organ Prelude: setting by Helmut Walcha

Come, your hearts and voices raising ELH 128

1. All

4. Men

5. Women

7. All

O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is.....ELH 161: 1, 2, 5, 6

I believe that Jesus Christ is true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary; and that He is my Lord, Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood, and with His innocent suffering and death; in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness; even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth..... ELH 331
1. All
4. Lectern side
7. Pulpit side
10. All

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith; just as He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives me and all believers all our sins; and at the last day He will raise up me and all the dead, and will grant me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

**** Holy Ghost, Dispel Our Sadness..... **ELH 20**

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.

Organ Prelude: setting by Mark DeGarmeaux

Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me?ELH 377: 1, 3, 4, 8

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.

Thy Way and All Thy Sorrows.....ELH 208: 1, 5, 8

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

If God Himself Be For Me.....ELH 517: 1, 5, 7

HOLY BAPTISM



Jesus says: “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatever I have commanded you.”

“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

Organ Prelude: setting by Mark DeGarmeaux

Ye Baptized People, One And All..... from *American Lutheran Hymnal* (1930)

**Ye baptized people, one and all,
Who know your God in heaven,
Ye have received a holy call,
To you Christ’s name is given.
Forget ye not, but ponder well,
The precious gifts no tongue can tell,
The blessing of Baptism.**

**Here we with Jesus Christ are clad,
His righteousness receiving,
Which covers what in us is bad,
Our innocence achieving;
His holy blood, for sinners spilt,
Releases us from sin and guilt,
And we with God find favor.**

“According to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior; that having been justified by His grace, we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying.”

“We are buried with Christ by baptism into death, that just as He was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

Organ Prelude: setting by Wilbur Held

Awake, My Heart, With Gladness.....ELH 341: 1, 4, 8

THE OFFICE OF THE KEYS AND CONFESSION



“Jesus breathed on His disciples and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; and if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’”

O How Shall I Receive Thee..... ELH 94

- 1. All**
- 4. Men**
- 7. All**
- 8. All**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR




“Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, ‘Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.’ In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks and gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.’”

All My Heart Sings And Rejoices ELH 115

- 1. All**
- 6. Women**
- 9. All**
- 11. All**

**** AN EVENING PRAYER (prayed in unison)**

In the name of the Father, and of the  Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray You to forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

**** Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadow **ELH 569**

- 1. Women**
- 2. Instruments alone**
- 3. Men**
- 4. All**
- 5. All**
- 6. All, a cappella**

Postlude: Praeludium in A Minor.....Dieterich Buxtehude

Brass Choir: Daniel Neubauer, Andrew Burmeister, John Baumann, Steve Jaeger

Organist: Mark DeGarmeaux

Artwork by Walter E. Gast