



Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys

Lenten & Easter Meditations | 36th Anniversary Season | 2025-2026



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**Mark your calendars now for our season's
concluding program & always invite
friends to join
with you!**



Spring Concluding Concert

Saturday, May 16, 2026 – 7 PM

Sunday, May 17, 2026 - 3 PM

**Basilica of St. Adalbert
No Tickets Required – All Free-Will Offering**

**Our final program of the 36th season marks the final
concert by the choir under the leadership
of Scott & Jane Bosscher.**

**Scott has titled the program:
“With Eyes Lifted Up: Songs of Farewell”**

**Join us for this wonderful celebration of thanksgiving
for these last 25 years in the life of GRCMB.**

The Passing of the Baton

Coming in the fall of 2026

The next exciting era dawns
in our 2026/27 Season!

In **May of 2026**, after 25 years of loving and nurturing the Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys, Scott & Jane Bosscher will be retiring at the end of the 36th anniversary season.



Scott writes: “I heard my father say many times, ‘You can’t believe how fast life happens!’ Well dad, you were right. The fall of 2001 when I stood in front of the Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys for the very first time seems like just yesterday.

Above my desk at home I have lined up the program booklets from all 25 years of our choir’s concert series. I am further blessed that tucked inside each of the programs is a dvd video of that particular concert. Every Evensong, Lessons & Carols, Lenten/Easter Meditation, & Spring Sacred Concert is preserved. Let’s do the math, four programs each year times 25 years (minus the Covid era) – that’s nearly 100 times through so many seasons that we have gathered together to share God’s love in song and in readings. What an awesome privilege and joy it has been being with all of you.

But as Scripture declares, ‘There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.’ The time has come for the next generation of leadership to nurture and lead our GRCMB family.

Jane and I will miss the countless hours we have spent through the years planning, rehearsing & performing with the choir. We will also deeply miss working with our world-class guest conductors: Martin Neary, Andrew Nethsingha, Matthew Owens, & Richard Webster.

God loves a team effort and so do we. We will miss the challenges of diving deeply into and mastering incredible choral masterpieces, and in recent years, joining our talents with visiting guest artists in our Andy Larson Biennial Concert Series: thus far Metropolitan Opera baritone Will Liverman and the Choir of St. John's College, Cambridge.

Most of all we will miss you, our encouraging, supportive audience family. But, this isn't goodbye. We are simply changing seats to now sit beside you, where together we will continue to be uplifted and inspired by the Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys.

Additionally, as we prepare for the next chapter in our choir's life, we will be looking to add new members to our all-volunteer governing Board of Directors. Do let us know if you feel a calling to serve in such a manner. Our choir is only as strong as our behind the scenes support. Please ask us about how you might serve.

For 36 years, your presence and your prayers have nurtured and grown the Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys into its current strong family of faith filled song. May our song ever continue to sing God's praise!"

In deep appreciation, *Scott & Jane Bosscher*



We are thrilled to announce that Dr. Eric Reyes has been named next Music & Artistic Director of the Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys

Starting in July of 2026, Dr. Eric Reyes will begin his tenure inspiring the next era in the life of GRCMB.



Dr. Eric Reyes – GRCMB Music Director Designate



Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities:
Hope College – Holland, MI
2020 - Present

Doctorate of Music Arts in Choral Conducting: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor - May 2025

Masters of Music in Choral Conducting: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor - May 2020

Bachelor of Music in Music and Worship, Piano Performance:
Moody Bible Institute – May 2018

Dr. Reyes writes: “I have had the privilege of attending services presented by GRCMB. The experience left me deeply moved, inspired, and hopeful for the future of singing for men and boys.

My own musical journey began as a boy soprano in the Southern California Children’s Chorus, an experience that profoundly shaped my love for choral singing. I am drawn to the choir’s commitment to serving those who gather for worship and reflection through music. It would be an honor to contribute to the continuation of this choir’s rich and vibrant legacy. I also recognize that leading an organization such as GRCMB requires significant care, vision, and long-term commitment. I welcome the opportunity to contribute to that ministry and to help sustain and strengthen the choir’s presence and impact. I approach this opportunity with both enthusiasm and humility.”

Eric is married to soprano Jennie Judd Reyes. Together they are proud parents of their daughter, Josephine.

**We are equally thrilled to announce that
Mr. Jordan Malone has been named Associate
Music Director of the Grand Rapids Choir
of Men & Boys starting July, 2026**



Choir Teacher: Catholic Central High School: 2025 – Present

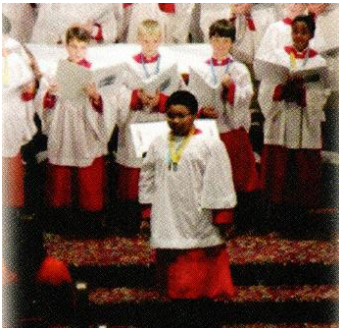
Director of Sacred Music: St. Paul the Apostle Church & School 2022 - Present

Associates Degree in Music
(Voice)
Grand Rapids Community College
May 2019

Bachelor of Music in Liturgical Music Studies (Organ)
Aquinas College - May 2023

Michigan Teachers of Tomorrow Certificate - 2025

Jordan Malone writes: “My journey with the Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys began in 2008 when I joined as a young chorister. As a lifelong musician, educator, and person of faith, I bring not only experience in choral direction and vocal pedagogy, but also a deep sense of gratitude and devotion to the very choir that shaped who I am musically, professionally, and spiritually. GRCMB’s mission to form boys and men in both faith and musicianship has always resonated with me at the deepest level, and I am profoundly honored to continue that mission now in a leadership role with the choir.



I’ve come to appreciate the careful balance of discipline and joy, tradition and innovation which allows this choir to thrive. It is a place where excellence is pursued not for its own sake, but as an act of faith, an offering of beauty that points hearts toward God.”

Pictured: Jordan at age 10, directing the Grand Rapids Choir Of Men & Boys and congregation in “Hark! The Herald Angels Sings” at our 2009 Lessons & Carols at the Cathedral of St. Andrew.



An Invitation to Our GRCMB Chorister Summer Camp 2026

Do you know a boy who loves to sing? Please connect us with him.



Most of the choristers singing before you this evening found their way into the choir by attending our GRCMB Summer Camp for Choristers. Now in its 25th year!

The choristers enjoy growing and learning how to become top flight professional choral singers by attending camp every Tuesday morning throughout the summer months of July & August. Mornings of singing and study are followed by afternoons of summer fun. New choristers start between 3rd through 6th grades. Call or email the choir at grcmb.org or phone 616.460.0598 For more information visit: <https://www.grcmb.org/summer-camp>

Welcome to the second half of the 36th Season of the Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys



WELCOME to this special service. We are grateful to you for coming to share this experience with us: while this will of course be an evening of musicians' music making, at our music's heart lies an act of holy worship.

We appreciate that people attend our concerts for many reasons, and that we are all at very different stages on our spiritual journeys. We try to create our programs to benefit people of all faiths and backgrounds, while at the same time offering up genuine expressions of Christian worship with deep integrity and truth.

We are delighted to return once again to the Basilica of St. Adalbert. this magnificent house of worship of our city's Catholic Diocese being opened for all of us to come together to find, to explore and to express our faith in what we pray will be an occasion to treasure.

The service will proceed as normal, but, as it is being filmed and recorded for later broadcast, we ask, please, that you do not make any unnecessary noises or movements, nor allow your phone to chime. Also, poetic readings in this year's Lenten program which are not referenced as either coming from Holy Scripture or credited to a known poet have been created through inputting portions of texts from this evening's anthems into Copilot AI.

Some Thoughts on Tonight's Journey from the Cradle...to the Cross...to Resurrection

Malcolm Guite (b. 1957)

There is difficulty in turning from the Passion to write about the resurrection. We understand Good Friday only too well: the suffering and compassion it reveals, and the human capacity for cruelty and evil to which it also bears witness.

But the resurrection is another thing altogether. We read the accounts of those who witnessed it, we glimpse its forerunners and emblems in every dawn, in every spring, in every plant that grows from the buried seed. But these latter are all analogies; resurrection itself — the mystery at once of the empty tomb and the spiritual body, transfigured and yet still a body — this is a reality that breaks down all our usual categories and always eludes the net of words with which we try to catch it.

The most daunting sonnet for me concerned the earthquake. What are we to make of the dramatic double-event of the earthquake and the angel? It seemed to me that in this cataclysmic meeting of heaven and earth we find the chance to wrestle with the problem: to write about the earthly things that we know only too well — the hurts and griefs, the shadow of death — but not to end there, to allow the turn or *volta* of the sonnet to open it all up to that lightning bolt of heaven: the descending angel.

The Earthquake and the Angel

Malcolm Guite

Each human life hangs taut between the powers
Of heaven and of earth. Our soaring hearts
Yearn heavenward, even as the weighted hours
Of gravity and time, heavy with hurts
And griefs too great to number, pull us down
And seal us at the last in one black tomb
Against whose entrance rolls the heavy stone.

But from this day that tomb becomes a womb
The earth is shaking with her labour pain.
Our Life-Light quickens with the coming dawn.
To help us now the powers of heaven come down,
Time's tyrant prison guards have watched in vain
An angel-midwife rolls away the stone
And from the tomb the Kingdom is reborn.

Journey to the Cross Lenten & Easter Meditations



The Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys

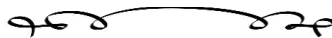
Scott Bosscher – Director

Dr. Julia Brown – Organ

Jody Knol – Narrator

Amy Netz – Rehearsal Pianist

Jordan Malone – Rehearsal Assistant



Basilica of St Adalbert, Grand Rapids

Saturday, March 28, 2026 – 7 PM

Sunday, March 29, 2026 – 3 PM

The Life, Passion and Resurrection of Christ as Told by the Apostle Luke & Reflected Upon by Others

Prelude

Nimrod from Enigma Variations

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Three Reflections on the ‘*Kyrie*’ in Light of the Passion of Christ

Kyrie eleison — “Lord, have mercy” — takes on a profound depth when contemplated through the lens of Good Friday. On this day, mercy is not an abstract plea but a cry that meets its answer in the suffering Christ. We begin with three poetic reflections which weave the ancient prayer with the solemnity of the cross:



I. The Weight of Silence

Beneath the darkened sky,
the earth holds its breath.
We whisper *Kyrie*,
but the wind carries it to a hill
where mercy hangs between thieves,
where forgiveness waits with open wounds,
where love will conquer death.

II. A Threefold Cry

Kyrie eleison...

for the hands that drove the nails,
for the lips that mocked the King,
for the hearts that turned away.

Christe eleison...

for the friends who fled,
for the mother who stayed,
for the thief who dared to hope.

Kyrie eleison...

for us,
still learning
the cost of mercy.

III. Mercy in the Shadow

The cross is not a question mark,
but an answer carved in wood.
Every splinter speaks:
“I have heard your cry.”

And so we kneel,
our *Kyrie*
mingling with His last breath,
until mercy, forgiveness and love
are all that remain.



Kyrie from ‘Missa Ad Praesepe’

George Malcolm (1917-1997)

Kyrie eleison,
Christe eleison,
Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy.

Our Journey Begins

Who is Jesus of Nazareth? This question lies at the heart of tonight's journey, and yet more deeply asked, it's the question of our entire lives. To answer, we need to walk through His life, especially his final week on earth. It was a week that began with adoration, but soon turned to abandonment, betrayal and death. Jesus will enter the darkness of the tomb and by so doing give us a surprise ending. May tonight's journey strengthen our own walk through the wilderness of faith...the good days, the bad days, the everyday. Guiding our journey will be one of Jesus' closest friends, the Apostle Luke. As one who walked along side Jesus, hear now Luke's account as he shares with us that Jesus makes himself known to us as both Lamb and Shepherd.



Lamb & Shepherd

Softly he moves, the Lamb who bears the world's weight,
yet in the same breath he stands as Shepherd,
calling each wandering heart back to himself.
In his gentleness there is a strength
that gathers the lost without force or fear.

He walks before us, yet also beside us,
knowing the path because he has taken it,
shaping the way because he is the way.
In his surrender, a fierce compassion rises;
in his guidance, a humility that bends low.

He is the offered life and the guarding presence,
the quiet sacrifice and the vigilant watch.
In him, tenderness and authority meet,
and in him, every soul finds its home.

The Lamb

William Blake (1757-1827)

John Tavener (1944-2013)

Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed
By the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing, woolly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice?
Little Lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb, I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb, I'll tell thee:
He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb.

He is meek, and he is mild,
He became a little child.
I, a child, and thou a lamb,
We are called by his name.
Little Lamb, God bless thee!
Little Lamb, God bless thee!

Luke's Prologue **Luke 1:1-4 (The Message)**

“So many others have tried their hand at putting together a story of the wonderful harvest of Scripture and history that took place among us, using reports handed down by the original eyewitnesses who served this Word with their very lives. Since I have investigated all the reports in close detail, starting from the story’s beginning, I decided to write it all out for you, so you can know beyond the shadow of a doubt the reliability of what you will hear.”

Our Journey Begins with a Bethlehem Stable-Birth **Luke 2:6-7 (The Message)**

“While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”



The Cross Casts a Shadow: A Sonnet of Manger & Cross

The child rests in the hush of straw and lantern-light,
a small warmth in a world still learning His name.
Around Him, the air holds the quiet of beginnings,
fragile as breath drawn for the first time.

The travelers kneel, offering gold that names Him king,
frankincense that rises like unanswered prayers,
and myrrh that carries the scent of endings
into a night meant for beginnings.

In the stillness, cradle and cross stand close,
not in sorrow, but in the truth of His coming.
Even here, in the gentleness of birth,
a path is traced toward a love that will not turn away.

Bethlehem Down

Bruce Blunt (1899-1957)

Peter Warlock (1894-1930)

Arr. David Hill (b. 1957)

“When He is King we will give him the Kings' gifts,
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,
Beautiful robes,” said the young girl to Joseph,
Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

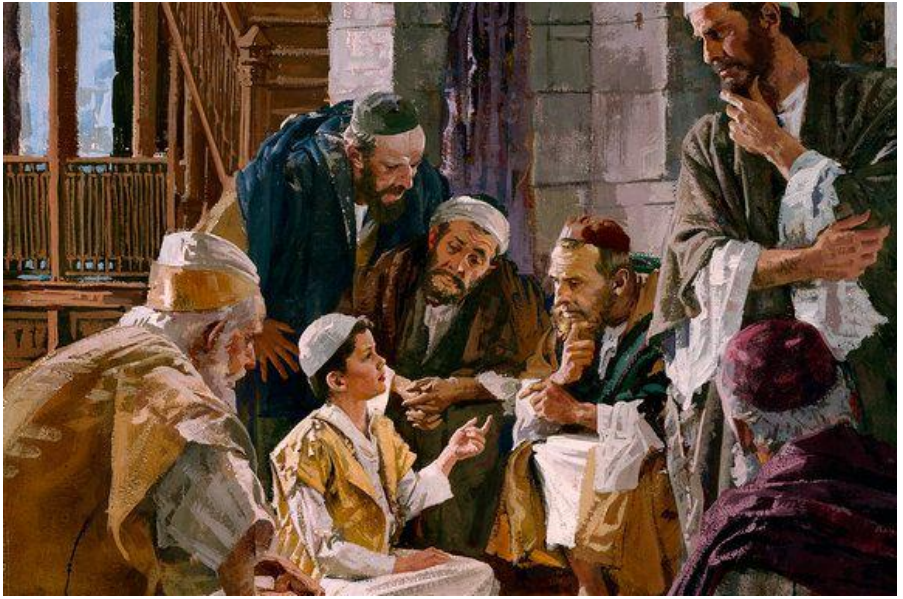
When He is King they will clothe Him in grave-sheets,
Myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,
He that lies now in the arms of Mary
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here He has peace and a short while for dreaming.
Close-huddled oxen to keep Him from cold,
Mary for love, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.



Christ's Youth

Little is recorded about Jesus' life between His birth and the age of 30. But this next episode tells us so much. First, Jesus' family life is a lot like everyone's – full of mishaps and misunderstandings. Second, as Jesus enters young adulthood, He begins manifesting an extraordinary sense of identity. He isn't just Mary and Joseph's son. He has a direct relationship with God as His Father, and He knows His life will follow a path of working for God.



Jesus Teaching in the Temple Luke 2:46-52 (The Voice)

After three days of separation, they finally found Him—sitting among a group of religious teachers in the temple—asking them questions, listening to their answers. Everyone was surprised and impressed that a 12-year-old boy could have such deep understanding and could answer questions with such wisdom.

His parents, of course, had a different reaction.

Mary: “Son, why have you treated us this way? Listen, your father and I have been sick with worry for the last three days, wondering where you were, looking everywhere for you.”

Jesus: “Why did you need to look for Me? Didn’t you know that I must be following the will of my Father?”

Neither Mary nor Joseph really understood what he meant by this. Jesus went back to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. His mother continued to store these memories like treasures in her heart. And Jesus kept on growing – in wisdom, in physical stature, and in favor with God.



Crown of Roses

Text Unknown Source Pytor Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)
Translated: Geoffrey Dearmer (1893-1996)

When Jesus Christ was yet a child
He had a garden small and wild,
Wherein He cherished roses fair,
And wove them into garlands there.

Now once, as summertime drew nigh,
There came a troop of children by,
And seeing roses on the tree,
With shouts they plucked them merrily.

Do you bind roses in your hair?
They cried, in scorn, to Jesus there,
The Boy said humbly: "Take, I pray,
All but the naked thorns away."

Then of the thorns they made a crown,
And with rough fingers pressed it down,
Till on His forehead fair and young,
Red drops of blood like roses sprung.



Jesus Shares a Vision for What Lies Ahead Luke 17:20-25 (The Message)

Jesus, grilled by the Pharisees on when the kingdom of God would come, answered, “The kingdom of God doesn’t come by counting the days on the calendar. Nor when someone says, ‘Look here!’ or, ‘There it is!’ And why? Because God’s kingdom is already among you.”

He went on to say to his disciples, “The days are coming when you are going to be desperately homesick for just a glimpse of one of the days of the Son of Man, and you won’t see a thing. And they’ll say to you, ‘Look over there!’ or, ‘Look here!’ Don’t fall for any of that nonsense. The arrival of the Son of Man is not something you go out to see. He simply comes.

You know how the whole sky lights up from a single flash of lightning? That’s how it will be on the Day of the Son of Man. But first it’s necessary that he suffer many things and be turned down by the people of today.” (This was the vision which Christ shared for what lies ahead, the vision for where following him always must and will lead.)

Be Thou My Vision

Early Irish

Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Translated: Mary Byrne (1880-1931)

Treble Soloists: Leo Ensing & Charles Good – Saturday
Axel & Flint Townsend - Sunday

Be thou my vision, oh Lord of my heart,
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
Thou in my dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou and thou only the first in my heart;
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art;
Great heart of my heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.



Jesus Sets His Sights on Jerusalem

Its stones remembering ancient promises,
its gates opening like held breath released—
as the Prince of Peace entered,
gentle and resolute,
bearing the weight of a world
that did not yet understand
the kind of kingdom he would bring.

For a moment,
the city shimmered with possibility,
as if heaven brushed earth
and left a trail of glory
in the shape of a man
riding toward his destiny.

As the humble King drew near,
and the crowd became a chorus—
their longing rising like incense,
their voices echoing heaven's own cry:
“Sanctus: Holy, holy, holy...Hosanna in the highest!”

Sanctus (& Hosanna)
from ‘Missa Ad Praesepe’

George Malcolm (1917-1997)

Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth,
pleni sunt coeli
et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis!

Holy, Lord God of hosts,
the heavens and the earth
are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed

Cloaks fell, palms waved,
and for a heartbeat the city felt
the nearness of glory.
The One who comes in the name of the Lord
passed through its gates
blessed with peace in his steps
and mercy in his eyes. Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Benedictus (& Hosanna)
from ‘Missa Ad Praesepe’

George Malcolm (1917-1997)

Benedictus, qui venit
in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis!

Blessed is He Who cometh
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.



Gethsemane: A Dark Night

Luke 22:39-48

Leaving there, he went, as he so often did, to the Mount of Olives. The disciples followed him. When they arrived at the place, he said, “Pray that you don’t give in to temptation.”

He pulled away from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down and prayed, “Father, remove this cup from me. But please, not what I want. What do *you* want?” At once an angel from heaven was at his side, strengthening him. He prayed all the harder. Sweat, wrung from him like drops of blood, poured off his face.

I Am with You Always

The night gathers around him as he kneels,
the weight of what approaches pressing down onto him.
His breath is unsteady, his hands open in trembling surrender,
the silence of the garden feels heavier than any crowd.

Fear does not pass him by; it settles on him fully,
a shadow he does not deny, a truth he does not hide.
He prays not because he is untouched by dread,
but because he knows the cost of love and walks toward it anyway.

In this moment he becomes the companion of all who fear,
the witness to every heart that breaks under its own burden.
Our private Gethsemanes are not unknown to him,
for he has knelt in his own and felt its crushing weight.

And so, he stands beside us when we tremble,
holding us with the same love that carried him through his fear.

Do Not Be Afraid

Text: Gerald Markland (b. 1953)

Philip Stopford (b. 1977)

Based on Isaiah 43:1-4

Treble Soloists: Bennett Foreman & Francis Hillary – Saturday
Joshua & Timothy Lipsy - Sunday

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by your name; you are mine.

When you walk through the waters, I'll be with you;
you will never sink beneath the waves.
When the fire is burning all around you,
you will never be consumed by the flames.

Do not be afraid . . .

When the fear of loneliness is looming,
then remember I am at your side.
When you dwell in the exile of a stranger,
remember you are precious in my eyes.

Do not be afraid . . .

You are mine, O my child, I am your Father,
and I love you with a perfect love.

Do not be afraid . . .

The Trial & Crucifixion of Jesus

Luke 23

Then Pilate called in the high priests, rulers, and the others and said, "You brought this man to me as a disturber of the peace. I examined him in front of all of you and found there was nothing to your charge. And neither did Herod, for he has sent him back here with a clean bill of health. It's clear that he's done nothing wrong, let alone anything deserving death. I'm going to warn him to watch his step and let him go."

At that, the crowd went wild: "Kill him! Give us Barabbas!" (Barabbas had been thrown in prison for starting a riot in the city and for murder.) Pilate still wanted to let Jesus go. But they kept at it, a shouting mob, demanding that he be crucified. And finally, they shouted him down. Pilate caved in and gave them what they wanted. He released the man thrown in prison for rioting and murder, and gave them Jesus to do whatever they wanted.

As they led him off, they made Simon, a man from Cyrene who happened to be coming in from the countryside, carry the cross behind Jesus.

Two others, both criminals, were taken along with him for execution. When they got to the place called Skull Hill, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right, the other on his left.

Jesus prayed, “Father, forgive them; they don’t know what they’re doing.”

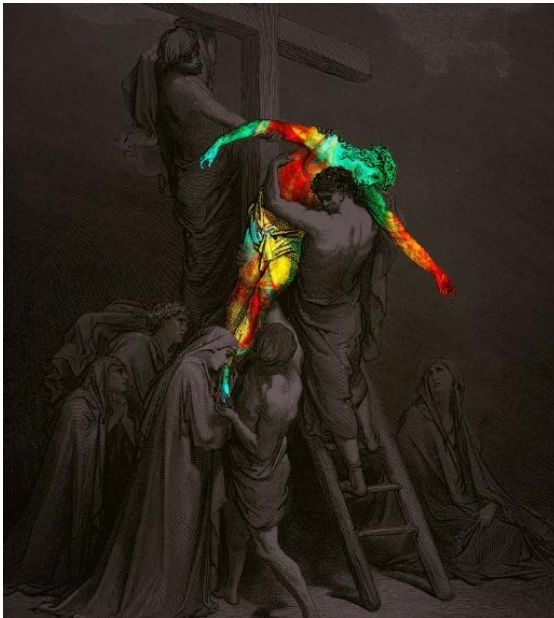
One of the criminals hanging alongside cursed him: “Some Messiah you are! Save yourself! Save us!”

But the other one demanded he remain silent: “Have you no fear of God? You’re getting the same as him. We deserve this, but not him—he did nothing to deserve this.”

Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you enter your kingdom.”

Jesus replied, “Don’t be afraid, I will. Today you will join me in paradise.” By now it was noon. The whole earth became dark, the darkness lasting three hours. The Temple curtain split right down the middle. Jesus called loudly, “Father, I place my life in your hands!” Then he breathed his last.

A silent pause as Jesus bows his head and gives up his spirit.



Agnus Dei
from 'Missa Ad Praesepe'

George Malcolm (1917-1997)

Agnus Dei, qui tollis
peccata mundi,
miserere nobis
dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, Who takest away
the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
grant us peace.



The Question That Echoes Through the Ages

Lamb of God...the world falls silent as they lift him down.
Agnus Dei...in that invocation, the weight of every sorrow
leans toward the One who bore it without protest.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
even in death You draw all things toward mercy.

Yet the question rises, asking whether my spirit
stood among the crowd that day when the sky turned black.
I hear this question not as accusation but invitation,
a summons to stand in the shadow of the cross
and feel the trembling that truth awakens.

For suffering is never distant when love is real,
and the world still shakes beneath its memory.
I imagine the silence that followed his final breath,
and I wonder where I would have stood
as the Lamb bore the hurts of every age.

The question lingers, asking not about the past
but where I stand now, awake to its cost.



Were You There?

Spiritual

arr. Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Offertory

Psalm Prelude Op. 32 - No. 2

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

(The Choir moves to the rear gallery)



36 Years of Your Caring, Generous Partnering Has Kept our Mission of Music Alive... Thank You!

“I dread the extinction of boys’ choirs!” The Spectator – June 2018

So appeared a recent headline in a prominent British paper. Did you know that there are now only 11 daily-singing choirs of men and boys left — four Anglican cathedrals, one Catholic one, four Oxbridge colleges, and two Royal Peculiars. As Britain is the only country in the world that maintains the medieval miracle that is daily sung services with psalms, responses, canticles and anthem, this means that there are only 11 choirs of men and boys left in the world singing daily. (Well, 12: St Thomas’s Fifth Avenue in New York has a choir of men and boys who sing five services a week, emulating the glorious British phenomenon.)

This tradition, for those communities blessed to support it, twice blesses. Those who come to listen are given pause to re-think, re-experience, re-feel, reconnect and re-charge. And for the boys who sing, it’s not just about becoming musically literate, it is also about becoming emotionally literate and learning how to grow spiritually.

In the current climate of how the world teaches boys to behave, our sons and grandsons have very few places to turn to learn how to safely express how they feel. What the world needs now more than ever are caring, expressive boys who will grow into men with great empathy for the people and communities in which they will one day live and lead. The Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys is dedicated to our boys, sharing with them how to connect their head to heart and heart to head. *Boys will be boys* must leave our mind-set. In its place let’s proclaim that ***boys will be and are caring, expressive, empathetic and open-hearted spiritual human beings.***

As to the Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys and the extinction of boys' choirs, with your continued support and prayers the choir



remains strong and has now returned to presenting musically and spiritually rich performances throughout the year. We continue to engage several of the world's greatest choirs and choral conductors, to travel to Grand Rapids to be part

of our GRCMB family and to inspire the choir to be the very best that it can be.

The Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys receives no city or state grants or corporate support, but depends totally upon you, our choir family, for the funds to keep this sacred programming alive.

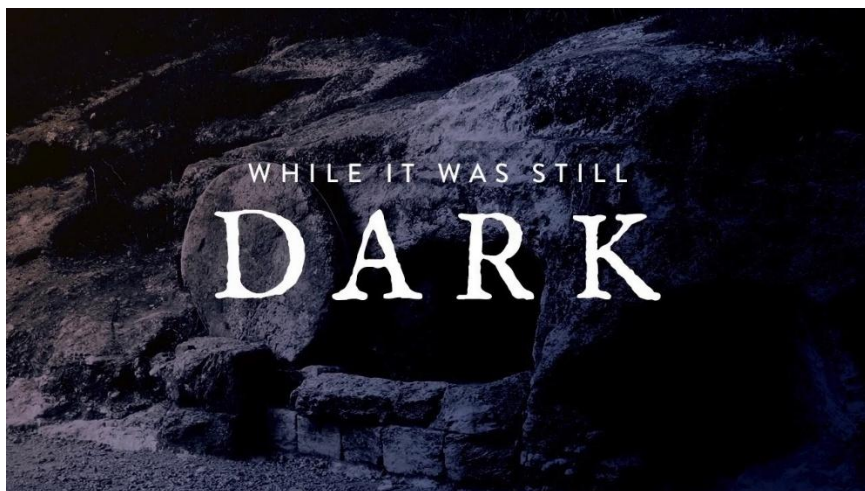


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For tax purposes, GRCMB is a Registered 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit organization. Contributions to the Choir are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

The Choir's tax-exempt ID# is 38-2919772.



Saturday's Darkness

The world held its breath as the stone sealed the dark,
and grace, once walking among us, seemed to fall still.
No voice teaching on the hillsides,
no hands healing the broken or lifting the weary.

Only the hush of a day suspended between sorrow and promise,
as if heaven itself waited for the next word.
Yet beneath the silence, grace was not gone.

It moved in depths unseen,
threading through the shadows of death,
claiming every forgotten corner of human fear.

It rested with the body of Christ,
yet worked with the power of God,
quiet as dawn before it breaks.

On that Saturday, grace did not vanish—
it gathered strength in the dark, preparing to rise.
While it was still dark...resurrection began.

What Grace is This?

Larry Visser (b. 1962)

What grace is this! My Lord and King
has set his face to suffering.
The Son eternal dies to bring eternal life to me.

What grace is this—That very God
would stoop to lift a cross of wood,
And walk a road of rock and blood, a sinner's road, for me.

What grace is this! Though Lord of all,
He yields to Pontius Pilate's law.
And lets the Roman hammers draw a rush of blood for me.

What grace is this! Rude agonies!
With common thieves he hangs and bleeds.
The sinless Son bears each misdeed. He pays for all, for me.

What grace is this! Once wrapped in cloths
and gently laid in manger-trough,
He's taken, dead, from wretched cross and wrapped again for me.

What grace is this? How can it be?
He wears this raw humility.
To lift me to eternity. Such grace—sweet grace—for me.

Sunday Luke 24:1-7

Very early on Sunday morning they took the ointments to the tomb—and found that the huge stone covering the entrance had been rolled aside. So, they went in—but the Lord Jesus' body was gone.

They stood there puzzled, trying to think what could have happened to it. Suddenly two men appeared before them, clothed in shining robes so bright their eyes were dazzled. The women were terrified and bowed low before them.

Then the men asked, “Why are you looking in a tomb for someone who is alive? He isn't here! He has come back to life again! Don't you remember what he told you back in Galilee—that the Messiah must be betrayed into the power of evil men and be crucified and that he would rise again the third day?”



I Am the Resurrection and the Life

William Croft (1678-1727)

Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

John 11: 25–26

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God; whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another.

Job 19: 25–27

We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

1 Timothy 6: 7; Job 1: 21

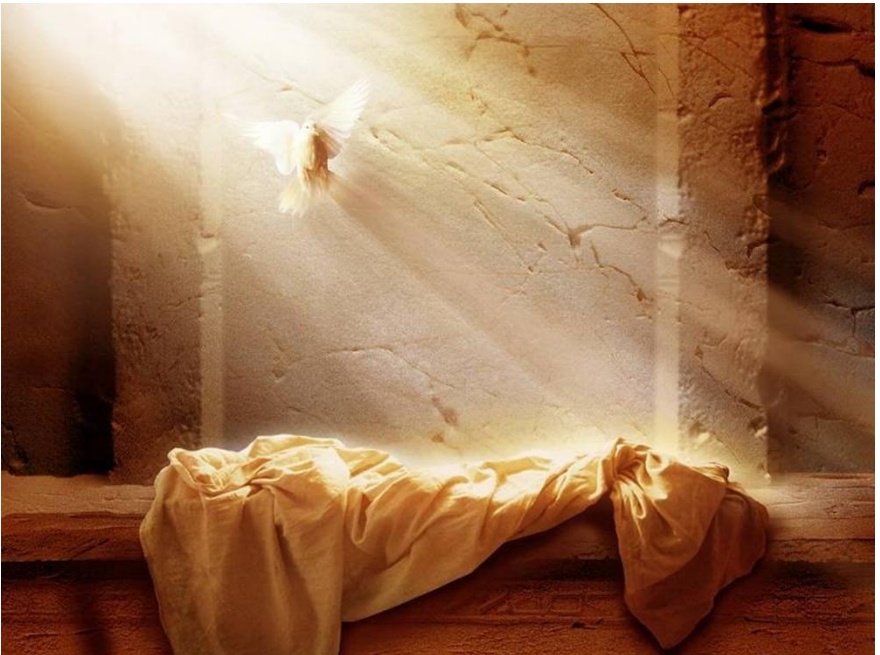
Son-Rise!

Risen Light breaks across the quiet earth,
calling every shadow to surrender its hold.
The stone is rolled back, not only from a tomb
but from the hearts that long to breathe again.

In this morning, life is not restored as before—
it is remade, widened, flung open like a gate
through which all creation may walk unafraid:
“Let the people praise thee, O God!”
the ancient song rises, steady as dawn.

“Let the nations rejoice and be glad,”
for the One who was lifted up now lives,
and His life becomes the heart of our hope.

Show us Thy loving-kindness in this new day,
that we may bear its brightness into the world
carrying resurrection with us going forward
by the way that we will now live our lives.
Let the people praise thee, O God!





Let the People Praise Thee, O God!

Psalm 67:3, 5, 4, 6, 7, 1, 2

William Mathias (1934-1992)

Let the people praise thee, O God;
yea, let all the people praise thee.
O let the nations rejoice and be glad:
for thou shalt judge the folk righteously,
and govern the nations upon earth.

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase,
and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing.
God shall bless us, and all the ends of the world shall fear him.

God be merciful unto us, and bless us,
and show us the light of his countenance, and be merciful unto us.
That thy way may be known upon earth;
thy saving health among all nations.

Let the people praise thee, O God;
yea, let all the people praise thee.
O let the nations rejoice and be glad.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Lyrica David (1708)

Arr. Philip Ledger (1937-1912)

Choir & Congregation

**Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**

**But the pains that he endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!,
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

Benediction: Go Forth (Sandra Webb-Johnsen - adapted)

Go forth in joy.

You have God's kingdom in your heart.

Go forth in love.

This is the one command that is above all Christ's
commands...we are to love everyone.

Go with hope and forgiveness.

The grace of God sustains...
even in these most challenging times.

Go forth in peace.

You are to bring God's peace.

Go forth in light.

You are God's light.

Gloria

William Mathias

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.



Tonight's Narrator: Jody Knol began announcing classical music on 90.5 WKAR while a student at MSU in 1982.

After receiving his degree in Interdisciplinary Humanities--music, theater and political science--Jody worked as chief announcer for WMUK in Kalamazoo for two years before returning to WKAR to host the morning program in 1986.

Trained as a singer, Jody combines his study of music and his stage experience to present the music he loves to listeners. He has hosted approximately 9,000 shows and continues to engage with the community, sharing music that matters to him. In January 2026, Jody celebrated 40 years with WKAR.



The Results of Your Ongoing Support. Read What People are Saying:

“The achievements of GRCMB are simply breathtaking. Congratulations on creating one of America’s cultural jewels.”

Richard Webster, Organist & Choirmaster Emeritus Trinity Church, Boston

“This is a very, very special choir you have here in your midst. I do hope that more and more people will come to realize how significant and remarkable the Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys is. A group like this can transform the lives of the singers, not to mention the audience.”

Andrew Nethsingha, Organist & Choir Master Westminster Abbey, London

“The particular training to sing this music has a profound effect on a young boy’s life. How affirming it is for me, now in my tenth year of coming to Grand Rapids, to find your young choristers here absorbing this same confidence. What a joy it is to work with this choir.”

Martin Neary, Former Organist & Choir Master Westminster Abbey, London



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The Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys is a member of the prestigious Royal School of Church Music



Join us in expressing our deep appreciation to the Basilica of St. Adalbert family for allowing us to bring our sacred programming into one of our city's most glorious sacred spaces.



Our choir is also most grateful for our continued long relationship with Grand Rapids Community College (Smith Music Center) and Shannon Shaker, Program Director & Music Department Chair.

Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys 2025-2026 Roster

Senior Choristers

Andrew Barrows +	Charles Good	Joshua Lipsy
Leo Ensing +	Francis Hillary +	Liam TenHoopen
Bennett Foreman	Colt Kirkman	

Junior Choristers

Ezekiel Graeser	Tyler Netz	Axel Townsend
Lincoln Hoeksema	Jack Stover	Flint Townsend
Alex Kazmierczak	Victory Tamungang	Jacob Vande Werken
Timothy Lipsy	Peter Triemstra	Landon Vermeersch

Preparatory Choristers

Calvin Hamby

Counter Tenors

Brennen Kartes	Adrian Pool	Ross Townsend
Michael Match		

Tenors

Jacob Davies	Dan Lipsy	Jordan Malone
Chad Dykema	Michael Steinfort	Art Wallace
Phil Konczyk	Justin Triemstra	

Baritones

David Bading	Brad Hoeksema	Timothy Pennings
Curt Day	Jim Noorman	Randy Rusthoven
David Diephouse		

Basses

David Boersma	Brandon K. Harris	John Scheid
Emmanuel de Leon	John Hibma	Daniel Weinrick
Doug De Vries	Dan Natelborg	

+ = Head Choristers

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APRIL 5 | EASTER | 10:30AM WORSHIP

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