

Memorial Day Weekend

What do an unknown Psalmist, Mary,
Luke, and Johann Sebastian Bach
have in common....

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have in common....

.... the sublime nature of Glory

Psalm 66: 1-7

- ¹ Shout with joy to God, all the earth! ² Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious! ³ Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you. ⁴ All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing praise to your name.” Selah
- ⁵ Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man’s behalf. ⁶ He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the waters on foot – come, let us rejoice in him. ⁷ He rules forever by his power, his eyes watch the nations – let not the rebellious rise up against him. Selah

Psalm 66: 8-12

- ⁸ Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard; ⁹ he has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping. ¹⁰ For you, O God, tested us; you refined us like silver. ¹¹ You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs. ¹² You let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance.

Psalm 66: 13-15

- ¹³ I will come to your temple with burnt offerings and fulfill my vows to you – ¹⁴ vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke when I was in trouble. ¹⁵ I will sacrifice fat animals to you and an offering of rams; I will offer bulls and goats.
Selah

Psalm 66: 16-20

- ¹⁶ Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me. ¹⁷ I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue. ¹⁸ If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; ¹⁹ but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer. ²⁰ Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!

Psalm 66

- So how do we glorify a God who is, by definition, glorious?
 - Isn't this like trying to take coals to Newcastle?

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- Perhaps referring to the occupation of Israel by the Assyrians And God's miraculous intervention on their behalf in II Kings 19
- Isaiah 43:2: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you ... When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."

**Being Refined ... Where Have We
Heard This Before?**

Refined ... New Testament Style

- Hebrews 12:11: “No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”
- James 1: 2-4: “² Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials on many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”
- I Peter 1:6-7: “⁶ In this greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even when refined by fire – may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”
- Matthew 5:11: “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.”

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- Anyone make vows when they are not in trouble?

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- Anyone make vows when they are not in trouble?
- Is God some kind of cosmic Monty Hall?
 - “God, I need a little help here, OK? How about we make a deal? Get me outta this mess, and I promise – really, truly, I do – *to become a monk*. So that’s my end of the bargain. So God - whaddya say?”

Psalm 66: 13-15

- Perhaps better to reverse the order!
- Psalm 50:14-15: “¹⁴ Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill you vows to the most High, ¹⁵ and call upon me in the day of trouble and I will deliver you and you will honor me.”
- Psalm 116:17-19: “¹⁷ I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the Lord. ¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people. ¹⁹ in the courts of the house of the Lord -- in your midst O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord. ”

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- ¹⁶ Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me. ¹⁷ I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue. ¹⁸ If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; ¹⁹ but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer. ²⁰ Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!

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God Sometimes Covers His Ears

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- Wait – isn't God always "open for business?"
 - I thought His grace was not dependent on me or my actions!

God Sometimes Goes Radio Out ..

- Amos 5: 21 - 24: “²¹ I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your assemblies. ²² Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. ²³ Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. ²⁴ But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream.”
- Malachi 1: 10: “Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you not light useless fires on my altar! I am not pleased with you,’ says the LORD ALMIGHTY, ‘and I will accept no offering from your hands.’”

God Sometimes Goes Radio Out ..

- Isaiah 1: 11 - 15: “¹¹ The multitude of your sacrifices – what are they to me’ says the Lord. ‘I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. ¹² When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts? ¹³ Stop bringing meaningless offering, your incense is detestable to me....¹⁵ *when you spread out your hand in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you; even if you offer many prayers I will not listen...*”

... But Instantly Comes Back On

- Isaiah 1: 17 – 19: “¹⁷ ... Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow ¹⁸ ... ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. ¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land.’”
- I John 1:9: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from from all unrighteousness.”
- Psalm 51: “¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. ² Wash away all my iniquity and cleans me from my sin... ⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow... ¹¹ Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”

But Let's Step Back

- But back to the beginning of the class
 - the emphasis on glory
- ¹ Shout with joy to God, all the earth! ² Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious! ³ Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you. ⁴ All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing praise to your name.” Selah

I Say The Magnificat.... And You
Say What?

Luke 1: 46 - 55

- ⁴⁶ And Mary said: My soul glorifies (*magnifies*) the Lord ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices (*exults*) in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is his name. ⁵⁰ His mercy extends to all those who fear him, from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. ⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful ⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers.

I Samuel 2: 1 - 10

- ¹ And Hannah prayed and said: “My heart rejoices in the Lord; in the LORD my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance. ² There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no rock like our God. ³ Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the LORD is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed. ⁴ The bows of warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength. ⁵ Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry hunger no more. She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away. ⁶ The LORD brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up. ⁷ The LORD sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts. ⁸ He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor. For the foundations of the earth are the LORD’s; upon them he has set the world. ⁹ He will guard the feet of his saints, but the wicked will be silenced in darkness. It is not by strength that one prevails; ¹⁰ those who oppose the LORD will be shattered. He will thunder against them from heaven; the Lord will judge the ends of the earth. He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed.”

The First Lines Are Similar

- Hannah: ¹ And Hannah prayed and said: “My heart rejoices in the Lord; in the LORD my horn is lifted high.”
- Mary: ⁴⁶ And Mary said: “My soul glorifies (*magnifies*) the Lord ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices (*exults*) in God my Savior”

Johann Sebastian Bach



From The Music History Desk Of The Good News Class

- Renaissance (1450-1600)
 - Tallis (1505 – 1585)
- Baroque (1600-1750)
 - Vivaldi (1678-1741)
 - Handel (1685-1759), **Bach (1685-1750)**
- Classical (late 18th to early 19th centuries)
 - Mozart (1756-1791)
 - Haydn (1732-1809)
 - Beethoven (1770-1827), Schubert (1797 – 1828)
- Romantic (19th century)
 - Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847)
 - Chopin (1810 – 1849), Brahms (1833-1897), Liszt (1811-1886)

Bach and The Magnificat

- Bach takes job as director of music in 1723 for the four Lutheran churches in Leipzig and associated church choir school
 - Reluctantly offered after Georg Telemann declined
- Sets out to prove himself
 - Composed a new cantata each week – about 60 per year
 - Composed initial Magnificat for Christmas or Feast of the Visitation (July 2)
- Modifies his initial work ~8 years later
 - Sung in German at Sunday evening vespers each week (Cantata no. 10)
 - Sung in Latin twice a year – Christmas and Feast of the Visitation (The Magnificat)

Magnificat in D Major

1st Movement

- Magnificat anima mea Dominum,
- Et exsultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo,
- My soul glorifies (magnifies) the Lord,
- And my spirit rejoices (exults) in God my savior,

Magnificat in D Major

2nd Movement

- Magnificat anima mea Dominum,
- My soul glorifies (magnifies) the Lord,
- Et exsultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo,
- And my spirit rejoices (exults) in God my savior,

Magnificat in D Major

12th Movement

Gloria Patri, gloria
Filio, gloria et Spiritui
Sancto,
et nuc et semper, et in
saecula saeculorum.
Amen

Glory to the Father, glory
to the Son, glory to
the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the
beginning, is now and
always, and in
generations to come.
Amen