Soli Deo Gloria

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH famously wrote the initials: S.D.G. at the end of all his church compositions. These initials short for the Latin phrase "Soli Deo Gloria", or Glory to God alone, inspire us to offer our best to God.

In preparation of the upcoming Faith Dialogues Rilling Lecture, the Saint Mark community will be exploring aspects of Bach's life and the time frame in which Bach lived. Join us Sundays in April at 9:45am for the Adult Forum in the Fireside Lounge at Saint Mark.

APRIL 3 – Harpsichord mini-concert and discussion with Susan Miller
APRIL 10 – Stories from Bach's Life (from The Bach Reader shared by Judy Boyd)
APRIL 17 – Organs and Melodies of the Day, Organist Tim Bibelheimer
APRIL 24 – Historical context and contemporaries of Bach, facilitated by Deb Mantey

These conversations and mini-concerts will set the stage for the "Theological Aspects of Johann Sebastian Bach's Music" lecture by Herr Rilling on Saturday, April 30th.

About Faith Dialogues at Saint Mark

"Faith seeks understanding"—so said Saint Anselm. Faith Dialogues at Saint Mark (formerly the Visiting Theologian program) seeks to promote understanding among the faithful, not only within the parish of Saint Mark, but also within the wider church as a gift to the entire Salem community.

Since the early 1970's, Saint Mark has welcomed more than thirty distinguished theologians and scholars into the Congregation's life of worship, learning and service. Teachers of church history, ethics, Bible, culture, art, theology, liturgy and sacramental life have enriched our community's deliberation on what it means to live the Christian faith in our society today. The ecumenical community, including students at Willamette University, Western Oregon University and Mount Angel Seminary, have participated.

By means of visiting teachers, Saint Mark hopes to encourage lively reflection and faithful action within the congregation and all faith communities, inviting broad participation in the program for the sake of mutual appreciation, growth in common understanding and mutual learning.

Recent Visiting Speakers

2015 Susan Pitchford
2014 David & Susan Palo Cherwien
2013 Barbara Rossing
2012 Mark Allan Powell
2011 Lisa Dahill
2010 Stephen Bouman
2009 Martin Marty
2008 Bishop Gomez
2007 Bishop David Brauer-Rieke
2006 Paul Wadell
2006 Dr. David Jensen
2005 Kelly A. Fryer
2005 Mark Brocker

"Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness.”
—Psalm 150:1-2
## Schedule of Events

### THURSDAY, APRIL 28

11:30 AM–1:00 PM  
**Theological Aspects of Johann Sebastian Bach’s Music**  
Lecture by Helmuth Rilling; Willamette University Hudson Hall; Free

### FRIDAY, APRIL 29

4:00–6:00 PM  
**Master Class with the Willamette University Chamber Choir**  
Willamette University Hudson Hall; Free

### SATURDAY, APRIL 30

10:00–10:30 AM  
**Welcome & Opening**  
Saint Mark Sanctuary

10:30–11:45 AM  
**Theological Aspects of Johann Sebastian Bach’s Music**  
Lecture by Helmuth Rilling; Saint Mark Sanctuary

Noon–1:00 PM  
**Catered Luncheon**  
Saint Mark Fellowship Hall; Reservations required; $12  
Contact Elaine at emcn@att.net or 503.769.2520

1:00–3:00 PM  
**American Guild of Organists: Selections from the Orgelbüchlein by J.S. Bach**  
Saint Mark Sanctuary; Free

7:30–9:00 PM  
**Willamette Master Chorus Concert**  
Willamette University Hudson Hall
Helmuth Rilling, Conductor  
Tickets available at willamettechamberchorus.org

### SUNDAY, MAY 1

3:00–4:30 PM  
**Willamette Master Chorus Concert**  
Willamette University Hudson Hall
Helmuth Rilling, Conductor  
Tickets available at willamettechamberchorus.org

---

### This Year’s Faith Dialogues Presenter: Helmuth Rilling

Over his career, HELMUTH RILLING has become one of the most respected choral conductors in the world. Born in Stuttgart, Germany, Rilling grew up in a musical family; his father was an organist and choir conductor, while his mother played violin. He himself took up piano and organ as a child, showing a fine talent for each. He later studied at the Hochschule für Musik in his home city, becoming a distinguished Kantor in Konstanzheim and Stuttgart; he received his music diploma in 1954.

Rilling had already started down the path to a long and fruitful career when he founded the Gächinger Kantorei in December 1953. Gäching is a small town in southwest Germany, but Rilling’s Kantorei were well enough supported by the locals that their reputation soon spread as leaders in the performance of unaccompanied choral repertoire. The Gächinger Kantorei’s singer’s success is due both to the dedication of its members and the amazing pedagogical skills of its leader.

Eventually, Rilling founded the Stuttgart Bach-Collegium orchestra to accompany the Kantorei, and the synthesis was an immediate success. Rilling and his ensembles recorded all the major works of Bach: the Passiones of St. John and St. Matthew, the B Minor Mass, and eventually the complete cantatas, a series which was finished in time for the 300th anniversary of Bach’s birth in 1985. The Kantorei, under Rilling’s direction, has also made extensive appearances with foreign orchestras, including one particularly memorable occasion in Israel in 1976. It was the first time German and Israeli musicians had performed together since World War II, and Rilling conducted the Kantorei in the Israeli national anthem as a further gesture of reconciliation.

Outreach through music was nothing new to Rilling; the Kantorei had undertaken a tour of East Germany almost immediately after its founding, and in general Rilling always tried to bridge the gap between East and West with music before the Iron Curtain lifted. He also conducted the premier performance of the Requiem for Reconciliation, which combined movements written for the occasion by composers from all the nations involved in World War II.

Though his activities have been centered in Germany, Rilling’s activities have taken him all over the world: he founded the Oregon Bach Festival in 1970, and he has instructed choral groups all over the world. In 1981 he founded the International Bach Academy in Stuttgart, and in 2001 established the Festival Ensemble of the European Music Festival, also in Stuttgart. All of his performances are deeply felt, scrupulously detailed, and outstandingly sung.