

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON — *A Reading from the Book of Isaiah*

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.” (7:10-16)

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL — *Qui regis Israel*

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Words: *Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18*

Music: Anglican Chant, Henry Wolf Davies (1869-1941)

THE SECOND LESSON — *A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans*

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (1:1-7)

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE: HYMN 117 — *Pleading Saviour*

The people stand and turn to face the Book of Gospels

THE HOLY GOSPEL *of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew*

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

(1:18-25)

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE SERMON

Dean Vang

THE NICENE CREED

Prayer Book, page 327

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant My sisters and brothers, with Mary and Joseph we know that all things are possible with God, and so we confidently ask the Lord to hear our prayers.

Assisting Priest That the servants of Jesus Christ will receive the Lord's blessing in living the Gospel. We pray especially for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding Bishop, William, our Diocesan, Daniel and David, our Assisting Bishops, and Marshall and Paul, our Priests,

Let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

That local, state, and national officials will receive the Lord's blessing in doing justice for all in need,

Let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

That pregnant women will receive the Lord's blessing in the birth of their children,

Let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

That those facing decisions about their future will receive the Lord's blessing in seeking God's will,

Let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

That we who prepare to celebrate Christmas will receive the Lord's blessing in serving others,

Let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

That those who have died, will receive the Lord's blessing in living with God for ever,

Let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant God of Mary and Joseph, and our God, we ask you to answer these prayers, for we pray only that your will be done in us and through us. Let your blessing be powerfully present in every word we speak and in every action we perform for your glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Celebrant and People

Lord Jesus Christ, when you come among us, you proclaim the Kingdom of God in this and every place: Grant that your presence and power will make this parish church a home of spiritual refreshment and healing. We acknowledge our thankfulness to you for the generosity of those who have and continue to support our Capital Campaign. Open our loving hearts so that our mission may prosper and your Name be glorified. This we ask through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Assisting Priest Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

The Celebrant concludes with an Absolution.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People ***And with thy spirit.***

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

ANTHEM

There is no rose of such virtue As is the rose that bare Jesu; Alleluia.
For in this rose contained was Heaven and earth in little space; Resmiranda.
By that rose we may well see That he is God in persons three, Pariforma.
The angels sungen, the shepherds to: Gloria in excelsis Deo: Gaudamus.
Now leave we all this worldly mirth, And follow we this joyful birth; Transeamus.

Words: Fourteenth century carol
Music: Gerald Near (b.1942)

HYMN — *Valet will ich dir gehen*



1 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of God! For
 2 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of God! By
 3 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of God! He
 4 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of God! He



him let doors be o - pened, no hearts a - gainst him barred! Not
 those who tru - ly lis - ten his voice is tru - ly heard; pi -
 on - ly to the hum - ble re - veals the face of God. All
 of - fers to the bur - dened the rest and grace they need. Gen -



robed in roy - al splen - dor, in power and pomp, comes he; but
 - ty the proud and haugh - ty, who have not learned to heed the
 power is his, all glo - ry! All things are in his hand, all
 - tle is he and hum - ble! And light his yoke shall be, for



clad as are the poor - est, such his hu - mil - i - ty!
 Christ who is the Prom - ise, who has a - tone - ment made.
 a - ges and all peo - ples, till time it - self shall end!
 he would have us bear it so he can make us free!

Words: Frederico J. Pagura (b. 1923; tr. F. Pratt Green (b. 1903), alt.
 Music: melody Melchior Teschner (1584-1635) alt.; harm. And desc. Ronald Arnatt (b. 1930)
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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, *Eucharistic Prayer I* *Prayer Book, page 333*

PROPER PREFACE OF ADVENT

Because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS QUI VENIT (*Hymnal 797*) **Prayer Book, page 341**

OUR FATHER **Prayer Book, page 336**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD: AGNUS DEI (*Hymnal 712*)
Prayer Book, page 337

PRAAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS **Prayer Book, page 337**

MINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

MOTET

There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu. Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was

Heav'n and earth in little space. Resmiranda.

There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu.

Words: Anonymous Medieval Carol
Music: Williametta Spencer (b.1932)

THE CONCLUDING RITE

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER **Prayer Book, page 339**

ADVENT BLESSING

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

DISMISSAL

Assisting Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 484 — *Truro*

ORGAN — *Toccata*

Max Reger (1916-2016)

WORSHIPING THIS MORNING

We welcome all visitors to Bethesda. Please identify yourself to the clergy and sign the Register in the narthex, located next to the vestibule door.

Large print copies of the service leaflet are available. An usher would be happy to assist you.

A wheelchair, located near the handicap lift in the vestibule, is available to those who require it.

Please join us for COFFEE HOUR at the Empire Room, of the former Van Dam Hotel, immediately following the ten o'clock liturgy.

ASSISTING AT OUR LITURGIES TODAY

| | <i>8:00 am</i> | <i>10:00 am</i> |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| <i>Celebrant</i> | Dean Vang | Dean Vang |
| <i>Assisting Priest</i> | | Father Evans |
| <i>Lay Eucharistic Minister[s]</i> | Sean Byrnes Robert Bullock | Robert Bullock David Wilder |
| <i>Lay Eucharistic Visitor[s]</i> | | David Wilder |
| <i>Altar Guild</i> | Gail Remington | Christine Miller |
| <i>Bell Ringers</i> | | Denise Limoli Mayumi Kato |
| <i>Lectors</i> | Tom Remington | Denise Limoli Betsy Cummins |
| <i>Ushers & Greeters</i> | | Douglas Huston Christopher Lyons John Van der Veer Frederick Scheidt |

NOTICES

In our INTERCESSIONS FOR THE CHURCH today, we pray for
Anglican Communion Church of Armagh, Ireland
Diocese of Albany Missionaries in foreign lands
Our Parish Our preparations for Christmas

A basket in the vestibule awaits your contributions of hygiene products to Economic Opportunity Council (EOC). These are taken monthly to assist those in need. Your assistance is gratefully appreciated.

Office Hours: The PARISH OFFICES are open from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., *Monday through Thursday*, and 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on *Friday*. *The Parish Offices will be CLOSED on Monday, December 26 in observance of Boxing Day and on Monday, January 2 in observance of the second day of the New Year.*

The DEADLINE for submitting notices for each Sunday's bulletin is noon on Wednesday. Your cooperation will be gratefully appreciated.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION at BETHESDA, 2016-2017, is available at the rear of the nave.

FORWARD DAY BY DAY for November through January is available in the back of the Church.

2017 ORDO CALENDARS, \$3 each, are available in the back of the Church.

Please pick up your 2017 GIVING ENVELOPES, which are currently available in the back of the church opposite the Baptismal Font.

Envelopes for CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS are in the rear of the church. Your gifts will help with the expense of Christmas trees, greens and poinsettias. Please include the names of those in whose memory donations are given. All memorials must be in the office no later than December 19th.

The annual BETHESDA CHRISTMAS PAGEANT will be presented today in the church, after the 10:00 a.m. liturgy.

Please plan on joining us today, to DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS. We will be gathering in the sanctuary after the children's Christmas Pageant that follows the 10:00 a.m. worship service. (Approximately 1:00 p.m.) Help is needed to erect the tall trees, place garland, greens, flowers and arrange the beautifully newly restored crèche. Special thanks go to Betsy Cummins and Lewis Bruce for their work on this project. If you are able to join us please bring your pruners.

Sunday, January 1 is THE MOST HOLY NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. There will be one observance of the Holy Eucharist, with Hymns, at 9:00 a.m. The Rev'd Canon Charles King will celebrate and preach.

SUGGESTIONS FOR TREASURER & TWO NEW MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY

Bethesda Church needs two new vestry members, one for a three-year term and the other for a two-year term. Vestry members are now term-limited to a maximum of two three-year terms. According to canon law, a vestry member must be a communicant in good standing, someone who attends church regularly and pledges to support the mission and ministry of the church. The vestry meets once a month, usually on the third Wednesday of the month, from 7-8:30.

Are you interested in serving on the vestry? If so, please write your name below and put it in the collection plate. Or let Dean Vang or a member of the nominating committee know.

Do you have suggestions of people you think would make good members of the vestry. If so, please write their names below and put them in the collection plate. Or let Dean Vang or a member of the nominating committee know.

In addition, Anne Van Acker is stepping down from her role as Treasurer of Bethesda Episcopal Church after five years of service. We are looking for someone to take her place. We are looking for volunteers or suggestions of people who can become our next Treasurer. We have a bookkeeper and we use a CPA to audit our books, so the Treasurer's job is one of presenting the financial records they provide to the vestry and helping to set the budget. Anne will work with the new Treasurer until he or she is comfortable with the position. We would like the new Treasurer to serve for three years if possible.

Are you interested in serving as treasurer or do you have suggestions of people who might make a good treasurer? If so, please write your name or their names below and put them in the collection plate. Or let Dean Vang or a member of the nominating committee know.

Suggestions: _____

Thank you for your help with the important process of identifying parishioners to serve the parish in these important roles.

Nominating Committee

Catherine White Berheide, *Junior Warden, Chair*
Geneva Henderson, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Mary Withington, *Outgoing Vestry Member*

Mark Griffin, *Vestry Member*
Virginia McMorris, *Communicant*

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA
December 19 - 25

| | |
|--|---|
| Monday <i>Advent Weekday</i> | |
| Tuesday <i>Advent Weekday</i> | 6:30 p.m. - Holy Eucharist <i>High Altar</i> |
| Wednesday <i>SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE</i> | 9:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist <i>Home of the Good Shepherd, Wilton</i> 12:10 p.m. - Holy Eucharist with Healing <i>Transcept Altar</i> |
| Thursday <i>Advent Weekday</i> | 9:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist <i>Home of the Good Shepherd, Saratoga Springs</i> |
| Friday <i>Advent Weekday</i> | |
| Saturday <i>CHRISTMAS EVE</i> | 4:00 p.m. - Family Eucharist <i>with the Blessing of the Creche</i> 10:00 p.m. - Music of the Nativity 10:30 p.m. - Solemn Eucharist <i>with the Great Procession</i> |
| Sunday <i>CHRISTMAS DAY</i> | 8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer <i>Transcept Altar</i> 9:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with Hymns <i>High Altar</i> |



THE PARISH VESTRY

Churchwardens

Class of 2016

Darren Miller, *Senior Churchwarden*

Class of 2017

Catherine Berheide, *Junior Churchwarden*

Vestry

Class of 2016

Denise Limoli

Sara Manny

Mary Withington

Class of 2017

Jane Agee

Gordon Boyd

Mark Griffin

Anne Van Acker, *Treasurer*

Class of 2018

Mark Claverie

Geneva Henderson

The Very Reverend Marshall J. Vang, *Interim Rector*

The Reverend Paul F. Evans, *Assisting Priest*

Mr. Landon M. Moore, *Postulant for Holy Orders*

Mrs. Barbara Latzko, *Parish Administrative Assistant*

Mr. Farrell Goehring, *Organist/Director of Music*

Dr. Kathleen Slezak, *Choral Director*

Mr. Robert E. Bullock, *Verger*

www.bethesdachurch.org

<https://www.facebook.com/bethesdaepiscopalchurch>

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