

Bethesda Episcopal Church
26 Washington Street
Saratoga Springs

Please review the guidelines to attend services on the back page of this service sheet.

The Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

15 November 2020

10:00 am - Holy Eucharist

Please switch off all cellular telephones and other electronic devices before the Liturgy begins. Also, kindly refrain from audible conversation to respect those wishing to pray and listen to the organ prelude. Thank you.

Prelude

Prelude in F

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

The Opening Acclamation

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant
People

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Celebrant may say The Summary of the Law

Gloria In Excelsis

Glory be to God on high,
and on earth peace, good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee,
we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,

O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of The Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And with thy spirit.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them; that, by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The people are seated

The First Lesson

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The Lector concludes The Word of the Lord.
The People respond Thanks be to God

Gradual

Psalm 90:1-8, 12



Lord, you have been our refuge *
from one generation to an-other.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born, *
from age to age you are God.
You turn us back to the dust and say, *
"Go back, O child of earth."
For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past *
and like a watch in the night.
You sweep us away like a dream; *
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
For we consume away in your dis-pleasure; *
we are afraid because of your wrathful indig-nation.
Our iniquities you have set be-fore you, *
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
★ *2nd half*
So teach us to number our days *
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

The Second Lesson

Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Lector concludes
The People respond

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The people stand, if able.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 25: 14-30

Celebrant
People

The Holy Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus said, “It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

Fr Wallace

The Nicene Creed *Said by all, standing if you are able.*

I believe in one God,
 the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of his Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God;
 begotten, not made;
 being of one substance with the Father;
 by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
 came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
 and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of The People

Please kneel, if you are able.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and William our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

Silence

The Celebrant concludes with a prayer.

The people respond Amen.

The Celebrant introduces the Confession

The people say

Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all men:
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins
and wickedness,
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.
We do earnestly repent,
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,
the burden of them is intolerable.
Have mercy upon us,
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter
serve and please thee in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of thy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution

The Celebrant says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Celebrant may say The Comfortable Words

The Peace *Please stand, if you are able.*

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

At The Offertory

Fugue in F

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

The Great Thanksgiving

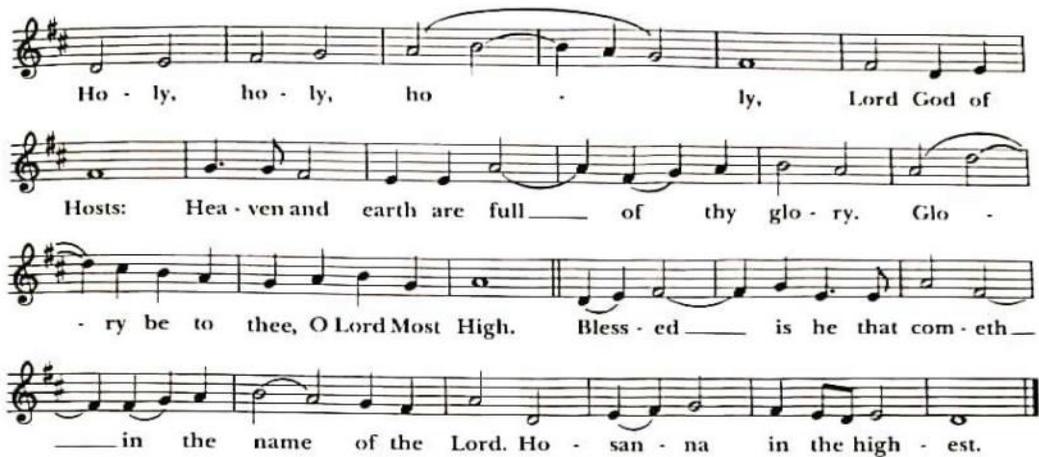
Please stand, if you are able.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And with thy spirit.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them up unto the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface Of The Lord's Day of God the Father

Creator of the light and source of life, who hast made us in thine image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sanctus and Benedictus Qui Venit *Sung by all*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of
Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -
- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Please kneel, if you are able.

The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer, which concludes

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 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.
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of The Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Prayer of Humble Access *Said by all*

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Agnus Dei

Sung by all

Healey Willan

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
 way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
 on us. O Lamb of God, that
 ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have

mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of

God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the

world, grant us thy peace.

At The Communion

Prelude and Fugue in G

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

The Post Communion Prayer *Said by all, kneeling if you are able.*

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant

The Peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Celebrant

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as the celebrant departs, if you are able.

Voluntary

Prelude and Fugue in B Flat

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

NOTICES

The Flowers on the Altar today are given to the Glory of Almighty God in loving memory of Mary E Parker and William J. Parker by George and Martha Parker.

If you would like to make an offering of flowers or Eucharistic Elements, please contact the Parish Office by phone (518-584-5980) or email barbara@bethesdachurch.org. Your offering of flowers or elements can not only include memorials for loved ones, but also offerings in honor of loved ones or of thanksgiving for special events. Your gift is appreciated by all.

In our Intercessions for the Church and Parish this week, we pray for

Anglican Communion	The Church of Ceylon
Albany Diocese	The Rev'd Allen Peyton
Our Parish	Those who have recently joined our parish family

We remember with thanksgiving those who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week. We also pray for those who have died recently and those whose year's mind falls at this time.

Pastoral Care. Many of our members are not able to come to church at this time due to the pandemic or health conditions. To add a name to the parish prayer list, please ring the church office during office hours, or email Fr Wallace: frwallace@bethesdachurch.org

Needed. We are making every effort to have our church open for prayer and service as much as possible. With this comes the need for additional disinfecting. If you are out and about and see a can or two of Lysol Disinfecting Spray, it would be most appreciated if you would get one for the church. Thank you.

Parish Activities November and December

As fall approaches there are many new opportunities for learning, fun and fellowship with your fellow Bethesda parishioners:

Activities: please register with the church office for the activities below, via email (office@bethesdachurch.org) or phone (518) 584-5980.

Bible Study on Infancy Narratives. Following midday prayers at noon on Wednesday 9th and 16th December, Fr Wallace will lead a discussion on the story of Jesus's birth as told by the evangelists, Matthew and Luke. Please register with the church office.

The BBC (**Bethesda Book Club**) will meet on Monday 21 December at 7pm to discuss four short stories: The Gift of the Magi (O. Henry); The Saint and the Goblin (Saki/H.H. Munro); The Christmas Goblins (Dickens) and Between the Lights (E.F. Benson)

Special Services

Quiet Day at Bethesda. Mother Miriam, Superior of the Community of St Mary, Greenwich, New York, will offer a series of short talks at Bethesda on Saturday 21 November beginning at 9.30am. Plan to set aside some time for prayer and reflection before the busy holiday season is upon us. Please register with the church office if you wish to attend.

Thanksgiving. There will be a Eucharist at the High Altar to celebrate Thanksgiving on Wednesday, 25 November at noon. Midday prayers will be said at 12pm on Thanksgiving Day. All welcome.

Organ Music. Midday prayers on **Thursday 3, 10 and 17th December**, will include a series of organ meditations based on Advent – Christmas themes, played by Owen Reid, the Lloyd Cast Organ Fellow at the Cathedral of All Saints, Albany. Owen studied organ performance in the US at the Eastman School of Music and Southern Methodist University, and in the UK at St John's College, Cambridge University. Music by Bach, Brahms, Guilant, as well as contemporary composers. This service begins at 12pm.

Planning for Christmas Services. We are starting our planning with a short survey to provide an estimate of attendance and group size. This survey was sent from Bethesda Episcopal Church to all who are on our email list; be sure to check your spam/junk folder. Please call the office if you did not receive the survey, if you would like to be added to the email list or if you need a hard copy. Thank you for your help. More information on December services will be available shortly, and all available service information is on the Bethesda website at bethesdachurch.org.

In the Community

EOC Collection. Thank you to all those who have already donated items. At this time EOC is in serious need of diapers (size 4 & 5), baby wipes, baby care products, soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, tooth brushes, hygiene products, razors and shaving cream. At this time they cannot collect clothing items. We will be delivering the donations to the Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council (EOC) for distribution to those who need them in our community, and we will continue this collection drive during the pandemic. Thanks again for your generosity.

Weekly Services

Monday – Friday	Midday Prayers	12pm
Wednesday	Eucharist	12pm
Saturday	Eucharist (Vigil of Sunday) Rite II	5pm
Sunday	Mattins	7:20am
	Eucharist	8am & 10am
	Children’s Program	10am

Guidelines for Attending Church

Welcome to Bethesda Church. Thank you for joining us for worship today.
For your safety, we ask you to follow the guidelines below when attending our services.

Social distancing protocols will be observed at all times. Please do not attend church if you are currently ill or have been in contact recently with someone who is ill.

1. A mask is required at all times. If you require a mask, an usher will provide one for you.
2. Upon entry, please use the provided hand sanitizer.
3. Bathrooms are currently off-limits.

At the exchange of the Peace, please do not leave your pew.

At the distribution of Communion, remain in your pew until an usher invites you to move to the chancel step.

At the end of the service, only move when directed to do so by an usher.

Take your bulletin home or place it in the wastebasket at the door.

Financial contributions for the ministry of Bethesda Church are gratefully received. Please place your donation in the collection plates at the rear of the church. We appreciate your support.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.