

Bethesda Episcopal Church  
26 Washington Street  
Saratoga Springs

The First Sunday in Lent  
8am Holy Eucharist

21 February 2021  
10:00 am - Holy Eucharist

Prelude

Prelude

Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

The Opening Acclamation

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
*People* His Mercy endures forever.

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.**

**Hymn** (at 10am): Forty days and forty nights

1 For - ty days and for - ty nights thou wast fast - ing in the wild;  
2 Should not we thy sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,  
3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, Je - sus, Sa - vior, hear our call!  
4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;  
5 Keep, O keep us, Sa - vior dear, ev - er con - stant by thy side;

1 for - ty days and for - ty nights tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.  
2 fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with thee to suf - fer pain?  
3 Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant we may not faint nor fall!  
4 round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as min - is - tered to thee.  
5 that with thee we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

## The Collect of The Day

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

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted of Satan: Make speed to help thy servants who are assaulted by manifold temptations; and, as thou knowest their several infirmities, let each one find thee mighty to save; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The people are seated*

## The First Lesson

Genesis 9:8-17

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

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

**Gradual** [Congregation says the verses in bold ]

Psalms 25:1-9

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

**Let none who look to you be put to shame; \***  
**let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

Show me your ways, O Lord, \*  
and teach me your paths.

**Lead me in your truth and teach me, \***  
**for you are the God of my salvation;**  
**in you have I trusted all the day long.**

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, \*  
for they are from everlasting.

**Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \***  
**remember me according to your love**

**and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.**

Gracious and upright is the Lord; \*

therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

**He guides the humble in doing right \***

**and teaches his way to the lowly.**

All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness \*

to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

### **The Second Lesson**

1 Peter 3:18-22

Christ suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you — not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

*The Lector concludes*

The Word of the Lord.

*The People respond*

Thanks be to God.

*The people stand, if able.*

### **The Holy Gospel**

Mark 1:9-15

*Celebrant*

The Holy Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

*People*

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

*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** *Pease kneel, if you are able.*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, by responding to each petition, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and in particular, for this parish family,  
Lord, hear us.  
Lord, graciously hear us.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends  
of the earth, Lord, hear us.  
Lord, graciously hear us.

For those preparing for baptism and for their sponsors; for members of our Sunday  
School, and for their teachers, Lord, hear us.  
Lord, graciously hear us.

For peace in the world, that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations  
and peoples, Lord, hear us.  
Lord, graciously hear us.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, especially those suffering from COVID, and for their families; for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, Lord, hear us.  
Lord, graciously hear us.

For those whom we have injured or offended, Lord, hear us.  
Lord, graciously hear us.

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God, Lord, hear us.  
Lord, graciously hear us.

In communion with all those who have walked in the way of holiness and are now at rest, Lord, hear us.  
Lord, graciously hear us.

*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 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** Offertory Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

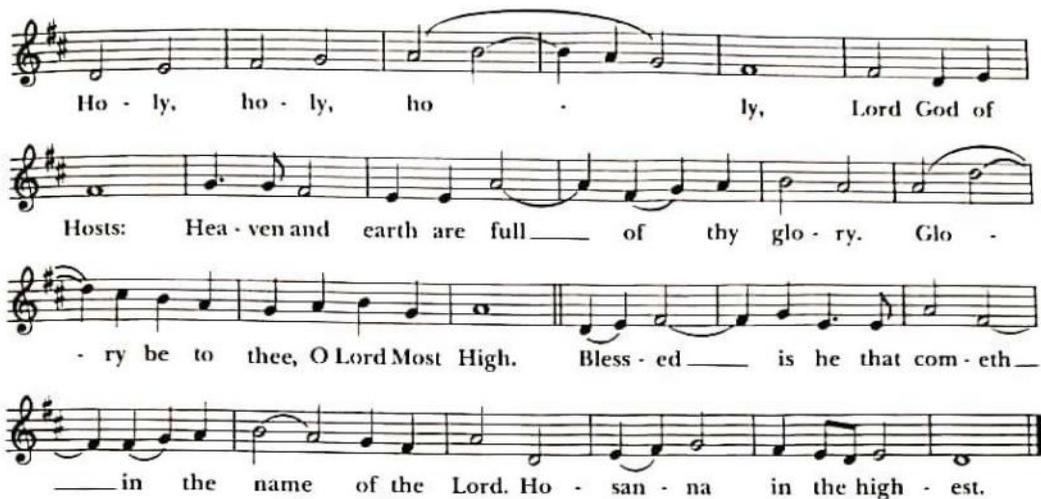
**The Great Thanksgiving** *Please stand, if you are able.*

*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 Lent

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died and rose again.

### 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*      Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People*          Therefore let us keep the feast.

**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*



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**

Meditation

Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

**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**

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*      Let us bless the Lord.  
*People*        Thanks be to God.

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

**Voluntary**

Fantasia

Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

## Notices this Week

In our Intercessions for the Church and Parish this week, we pray for  
Anglican Communion    The church of the Province of Central Africa  
Albany Diocese         Diocesan Council  
Our Parish                Our Lenten observance

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.

If you are shopping online remember to use **AMAZONSMILE** and designate Bethesda Episcopal Church as the charity to which you want Amazon to donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/14-1364477>.

## Parish Activities for February

### Financial Update: Month of January 2021

Income: For the Month of January, total Pledge and Plate giving was \$20,673. This was \$1,054 over our Budget of \$19,619.

Expenses for the month were \$22,612. This was \$2100 under the budget of \$24,712, driven primarily by a timing difference in our budget for Insurance Expense.

Expense exceeded Pledge and Plate Income by \$1,939.

**Next Sunday, 28 February** we welcome the Reverend Helene Patterson as our preacher at the 8am and 10am services. Helene is a former member of Bethesda, and was recently ordained to the diaconate. She is now assisting at Grace Church, Waterford.

### Today: *Music and Meditations for Lent*

Join us this afternoon at 4pm as we begin a five-week series of contemplative recitals played by illustrious local concert artists. Today, we welcome classical guitarist, Harry Pellegrin. Bethesda gratefully acknowledges a gift from Ann and Bob Bullock in support of this afternoon's recital.

28 February	Jonathan Greene, clarinet
7 March	Chuck Lamb, jazz piano
14 March	Oona Grady and James Gascoyne, Celtic duo
21 March	Joel Brown, classical guitar

Freewill donation. Advanced Registration is required to reserve a seat for these recitals. Please visit the Bethesda web site ([www.bethesdachurch.org](http://www.bethesdachurch.org)) to register, or call the office.

## **Beginning this Thursday at 7pm: Lent Study 2021**

Four weeks: 25 February, 4 March, 11 March and 18 March

TS Eliot is one of the greatest poets of the 20th century and an acute describer of the modern age. His greatest work is the Four Quartets, a series of four long poems that are deeply philosophical and theological, while also appealing to the universality of human experience, particularly the human experience of the Divine. In this course we will read Eliot's Four Quartets closely, while also attending to their spirituality and sense of God. Through an analysis of what the poems say and our own responses to them, we will use these poems as a path to come closer to God and gain a deeper insight into the unique spirituality expressed through poetry.

Our facilitator is Evan Craig Reardon. Evan is a poet, librarian, and archivist. He is completing an MA in English and MSLS at SUNY Albany where he focuses on poetry and poetics, and literary archives, respectively. He is a layperson in the Episcopal Diocese of Albany, and devoted to bringing poetry to as many people as possible.

You can purchase your own copy of the Four Quartets, or it may download a copy at: <http://www.paikassociates.com/pdf/fourquartets.pdf>

**Please register via email at [office@bethesdachurch.org](mailto:office@bethesdachurch.org) or by calling the parish office: 518-584-5980.**

### **In the Community**

**LifeWorks Community Action** (formerly EOC). Thank you to all those who have already donated items. At this time LCA 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 LifeWorks Community Action 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.

**Direct Care Volunteers Needed** The Gateway House of Peace, and end of life home that provides hospice care and emotional support to families managing with the last few months of life, is in great need of licensed or retired health care volunteers capable of providing direct care. Other volunteers are needed as well, for facility management and event planning support. Please contact Executive Director, Bethany Gonyea at [bgonyea@gatewayhouseofpeace.org](mailto:bgonyea@gatewayhouseofpeace.org) for more information

### **Upcoming Services and Events at Bethesda**

Today:	Lent I: Services at 8am and 10am 4pm Music & Meditation for Lent: Harry Pellegrin, classical guitar
Wednesday, 24 February	12pm Eucharist
Thursday, 25 February	7pm Lent Study: Four Quartets, T.S. Eliot
Saturday, 27 February	5pm Vigil Eucharist (Rite II)
Sunday, 28 February	Lent II: Services at 8am & 10am. Preacher: Helen Patterson 4pm Music & Meditation for Lent: Jonathan Greene, clarinet

## Home Prayers in Lent: Week 1

*Begin by saying:*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*The Prayer for the Week is said:*

Almighty God, whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, but did not sin: Give us grace to discipline ourselves in submission to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Recite the Psalm listed for the Day, followed by the Reading:*

Sunday	Feb 21	Psalm 25	1 Peter 18-22
Monday	Feb 22	Psalm 63	John 1.29 - 2.12
Tuesday	Feb 23	Psalm 45	John 1.43 – 2.22
Wednesday	Feb 24	Psalm 49	John 2.23–3.15
Thursday	Feb 25	Psalm 50	John 3:16-21
Friday	Feb 26	Psalm 40	John 3:22-36
Saturday	Feb 27	Psalm 55	John 4:1-26
Sunday	Feb 28	Psalm 16	Rom. 8:31-39

*Prayers follow:*

Let us praise our loving Redeemer, who gives us this season of grace: *Lord, create in me a new spirit.*

Lord Jesus, through baptism we are buried and raised to life with you: may we walk today in newness of life: *Lord, create in me a new spirit.*

Savior of all, you have brought blessings to your world: bring us to share your concern for the good of others: *Lord, create in me a new spirit.*

Great Physician, help us to bring comfort to the sick, the suffering, the poor, the persecuted and all in danger; that they may all be relieved and protected. *Lord, create in me a new spirit.*

Lord, strengthen us to work together to build up the earthly city, with our eyes fixed on the city that lasts for ever. *Lord, create in me a new spirit.*

A period of silent prayer follows. Conclude with the Lord's Prayer and the Grace:  
Our Father...

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen.