

Bethesda Episcopal Church
26 Washington Street
Saratoga Springs

The Fourth Sunday in Lent
8am Holy Eucharist

14 March 2021
10:00 am - Holy Eucharist

Prelude

Song

Gordon Young (1919-1998)

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): Led on their way by this triumphant sign

Lift High the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred Name.

1. Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in conquering ranks combine. (Refrain)

2. Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of him who died. (Refrain)

3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee. (Refrain)

4. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory. (Refrain)

The Collect of The Day

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

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated

The First Lesson

Numbers 21:45-9

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

Gradual [Congregation says the verses in bold]

Psalms 107: 1-3, 17-22

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, *
and his mercy endures for ever.

**Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim *
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.**

He gathered them out of the lands; *
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

**Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; *
they were afflicted because of their sins.**

They abhorred all manner of food *
and drew near to death's door.

**Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, *
and he delivered them from their distress.**

He sent forth his word and healed them *
and saved them from the grave.

**Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy *
and the wonders he does for his children.**

Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

The Second Lesson

Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The Lector concludes
The People respond

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The people stand, if able.

The Holy Gospel

John 3:14-21

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

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

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 Pastel Gordon Young (1919-1998)

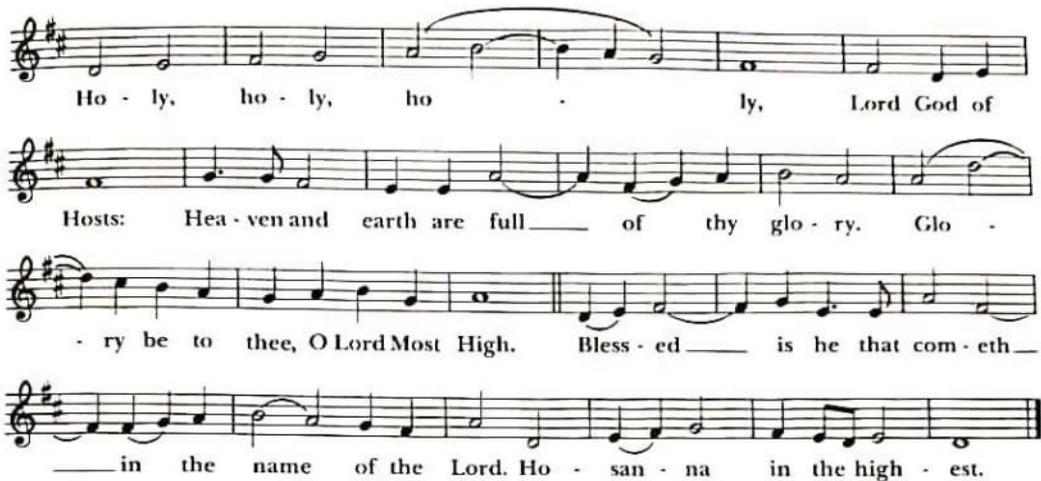
The Great Thanksgiving *Please stand, if you are able.*

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

Who dost bid thy faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by thy Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which thou hast prepared for those who love thee.

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

Psalm

Gordon Young (1919-1998)

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

Postludium

Gordon Young (1919-1998)

Notices this Week

In our Intercessions for the Church and Parish this week, we pray for	
Anglican Communion	Anglican Church of Chile
Albany Diocese	St. John's Church, Delhi – The Rev'd Art Garno, The Rev'd Nancy Truscott
Our Parish	The hungry and homeless living in our city

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>.

Altar Frontal We are in the process of replacing, repairing and completing the green set of vestments and altar frontal, a set which was begun in commemoration of Fr Parke's 25th anniversary at Bethesda. If you would like to donate to this project in memory of Fr Parke, please forward your check to the parish office with a notation in the memo line of "Green Set."

Altar Guild The Altar Guild eagerly seeks new members. Duties include overseeing arrangements for weekend services as well as occasional pastoral offices (weddings, baptisms, and funerals). If you are interested in serving in this way at Bethesda, please speak with Fr Wallace.

Parish Activities for March

Today: *Music and Meditations for Lent*

Join us this afternoon at 4pm as we continue a five-week series of contemplative recitals played by illustrious local concert artists. Today, we welcome Celtic duo, Oona Grady and James Gascoyne. Bethesda gratefully acknowledges a gift from Sharon and Gordon Boyd in support of this afternoon's recital.

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) to register, or call the office.

Thursday at 7pm: Lent Study 2021: 18 March

Lent Study group meets for the final time this Thursday at 7pm in the church. We are studying T.S. Eliot's Four Quartets.

The Stations of the Cross, Thursday 25 March at 7pm. Stations, or Way of the Cross, is a meditation practice popular during the season of Lent. This brief service consists of a series of prayers and readings which tell the story of Jesus' trial and crucifixion.

An Offering for Easter Flowers

If you wish to give flowers, please return this form with a minimum donation of \$20.

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Kindly return this to the office before **March 24**.



Upcoming Services and Events at Bethesda

Today: Lent 4: Services at 8am and 10am
4pm Music & Meditation for Lent: Oona Grady and James Gascoyne, Celtic duo

Wednesday, 17 March 12pm Eucharist
Thursday, 18 March 7pm Lent Study: Four Quartets, T.S. Eliot
Saturday, 20 March 5pm Vigil Eucharist (Rite II)
Sunday, 21 March Lent 5: Services at 8am & 10am.
4pm Music & Meditation for Lent: Joel Brown, classical guitar

Holy Week and Easter Services 2021

Sunday, 28 March 8am Blessing of Palms & Eucharist
10am Blessing of Palms & Sung Eucharist

Monday, 29 March 12:05pm Mid-day Prayers

Tuesday, 30 March 12:05pm Mid-day Prayers

Wednesday, 31 March 12:05pm Eucharist
7pm Stations of the Cross

Thursday, 1 April 12:05pm Mid-day Prayers
7pm **Maundy Thursday** Liturgy
The church is open for private prayer following the liturgy.

Friday, 2 April 12:00 Sung Liturgy for **Good Friday**
7pm Sung Vespers for Good Friday
Sung by Gentlemen of the Cathedral Choir, Albany

Saturday, 3 April 12:05pm **Holy Saturday** Mid-day Prayers
No 5pm Eucharist today

Sunday, 4 April **Easter Day**
8am Holy Eucharist and 10am Sung Eucharist

Sunday, 11 April **The Sunday after Easter**
8am Eucharist
10am A Service of Lessons and Music for Easter
Elizabeth Huntley, Harp

Home Prayers in Lent: Week 4

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:

Eternal God, the light of your glory shines in the darkness of our lives. Make us attentive to your presence, prompt to serve you, and ever eager to follow in the steps of the one who is our true light, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Read the Psalm for the day, followed by the Bible passage:

Sunday	March 14	Psalm 122	Eph. 2:4-10
Monday	March 15	Psalm 89 pt.1	John 6:1-15
Tuesday	March 16	Psalm 97	John 6:16-27
Wednesday	March 17	Psalm 109	John 6:27-40
Thursday	March 18	Psalm 73	John 6:41-51
Friday	March 19	Psalm 1	Luke 2:41-52
Saturday	March 20	Psalm 107 pt.1	John 6:52-71
Sunday	March 21	Psalm 2	Hebrews 5:1-10

Prayers follow:

For the whole People of God, that each one may be a true and faithful servant of Christ: *Lord, have mercy.*

For those drawing near to the light of faith, that the Lord will bring them to true knowledge of himself: *Lord, have mercy.*

For our families and friends, that the Lord will give them joy and satisfaction in all that they do: *Lord, have mercy.*

For those who are lonely, sick, hungry, persecuted, or ignored, that the Lord will comfort and sustain them: *Lord, have mercy.*

For our country, that the Lord will help us to contribute to its true growth and well-being: *Lord, have mercy.*

For the whole human family, that we may live together in justice and peace: *Lord, have mercy.*

A period of silence 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.*