

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Third Sunday after Pentecost

13 June 2021

10:00am Sung Eucharist

Prelude

Prelude on "Kingsfold"

Roberta Bitgood (1908-2007)

The Opening Acclamation

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People

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.**

Hymn Spread, O spread thou mighty word

1 Spread, O spread, thou might - y word, spread the king - dom of the Lord,
2 word of how the Fa - ther's will made the world, and keeps it, still;
3 word of how the Sa - vior's love earth's sore bur - den doth re - move;
4 word of how the Spi - rit came bring - ing peace in Je - sus' name;
5 Word of life, most pure and strong, word for which the na - tions long,

1 that to earth's re - mot - est bound all may heed the joy - ful sound;
2 how his on - ly Son he gave, earth from sin and death to save;
3 how for - ev - er, in its need, through his death the world is freed;
4 how his nev - er - fail - ing love guides us on to heaven a - bove.
5 spread a - broad, un - til from night all the world a - wakes to light.

The Collect of The Day

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

Keep, O Lord, we beseech thee, thy household the Church in thy steadfast faith and love, that by the help of thy grace we may proclaim thy truth with boldness, and minister thy justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated

The First Lesson

Ezekiel 17 : 22-24

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

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

Gradual [Congregation says the verses in bold]

Psalm 30 92: 1-4,11-14

- 1 It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord, *
and to sing praises to your Name, O Most High;
- 2 **To tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning ***
and of your faithfulness in the night season;
- 3 On the psaltery, and on the lyre, *
and to the melody of the harp.
- 4 **For you have made me glad by your acts, O Lord; ***
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.
- 11 The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, *
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.
- 12 **Those who are planted in the house of the Lord ***
shall flourish in the courts of our God;
- 13 They shall still bear fruit in old age; *
they shall be green and succulent;
- 14 **That they may show how upright the Lord is, ***
my Rock, in whom there is no fault.

The Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

We are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in

the body, whether good or evil. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

The Lector concludes
The People respond

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The people stand, if able.

The Holy Gospel

Mark 4: 26-34

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

Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

The Sermon

Evan Reardon

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.*

Let us join our prayers with those of our Savior Jesus Christ, seeking the Father's blessing,
and the gifts of the Spirit.

Jesus Christ, our great high priest, living for ever to intercede for us, pray for the Church,
your broken body in the world. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, king of righteousness, enthroned at the right hand of your majesty on high,
pray for this troubled world, and make it subject to your just and gentle rule. Lord, hear
us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, Son of Man, drawing humanity into the life of God, pray for your brothers
and sisters in any need, distress or sorrow. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, pioneer of our salvation, bringing us to glory through your death and resur-
rection, surround with your saints and angels those who have died trusting your promises.
Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things, ascended far above the heavens and filling the universe,
pray for us who bear witness to your glory and power. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

The Celebrant concludes with a Collect

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 Andante Religioso Herbert Grieb (1898-1973)

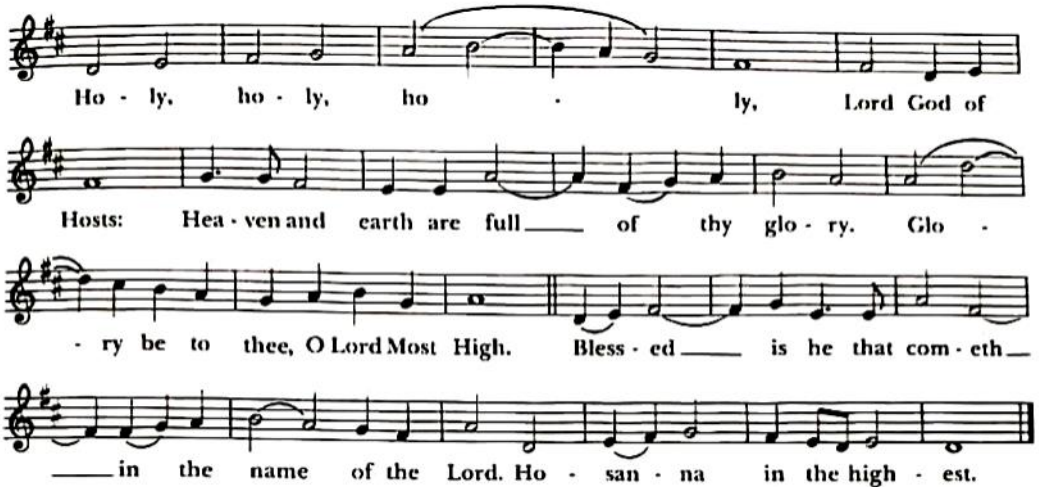
The Great Thanksgiving *Please stand, if you are able.*

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 Son

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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

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*



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

Prayer

Herbert Grieb (1898-1973)

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 Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as the ministers depart, if you are able.

Voluntary

Tocatta

Herbert Grieb (1898-1973)

Notices

In our Intercessions for the Church and Parish this week, we pray for	
Anglican Communion	The Church of Nigeria
Albany Diocese	For all those struggling financially and emotionally as a result of COVID-19 uncertainties
Our Parish	Those who are persecuted for their faith

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.

Guest preacher today. We welcome Evan Reardon to the pulpit today. Evan led the Lent study on The Four Quartets, by T.S. Eliot. He currently assists at the Cathedral of All Saints, Albany, and is a candidate for ordination in the diocese of Albany.

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>.

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.

Upcoming Services and Events at Bethesda

Services

Today:	Services at 8am & 10am
Wednesday, 16 June	12pm Eucharist
Saturday, 19 June	5pm Vigil Eucharist (Rite II)
Sunday, 20 June	Services at 8am & 10am.

Office Open House – drop by between 10am and 12pm on Tuesday 15, June to see our new office. Refreshments will be served. 178 Elm Street, **Suite 5**. *Please note this is an address change for your mailings.*

Legs Misérables The third and final walk of the spring for Bethesda Walkers (aka Legs Misérables) will take place on Wednesday June 16 at 2 pm. We will walk about three miles in the Wilton Wildlife Preserve. We should be able to see the blue lupine and the endangered Karner blue butterflies that will have emerged around Memorial Day. Bring your camera or your phone if you want to take photographs.

To learn more about Wilton Wildlife Preserve and the Karner blue butterflies, you can visit the website: <https://www.wiltonpreserve.org/>

The map of the preserve with good spots for observing the butterflies can be found at this link: <https://www.wiltonpreserve.org/the-lands>

The walkers group is open to anyone interested in a walk on a farm, in a park, or in the woods and lively fellowship with fellow parishioners, friends and family. If you want to join us on June 16, please register with the church office by phone (518) 584-5980. We will meet at the parking lot on Route 50 north of King Road (if you are driving north on Route 50 from Saratoga Springs. If you get to Scout Road, you've gone too far). There are parking lots on both sides of the road. We will gather at the one on the left-hand side (once again if you are coming north out of Saratoga Springs) where the trailhead is. There are New York State Wildlife Management signs for both parking lots that say Saratoga Sand Plains.

We suggest that you bring sunscreen and bug repellent and a sun hat.

If it rains, we will postpone the June 16 walk at Wilton Wildlife Preserve until Wednesday June 23.

Help needed: During the installation of our new roof, the pews and church furnishings will be covered with plastic sheeting to protect them from dust and debris. We hope to form multiple teams of people to assist with preparations and cleaning of the church. Two crews are required each week. On Friday afternoons, one team removes plastic sheets from the pews and ensures the area is tidy. A second team would cover the pews after worship on Sundays. If you are able to help, please contact the office and let us know when you are available.

'At North Farm'

Somewhere someone is traveling furiously toward you,
At incredible speed, traveling day and night,
Through blizzards and desert heat, across torrents,
through narrow passes.
But will he know where to find you,
Recognize you when he sees you,
Give you the thing he has for you?

Hardly anything grows here,
Yet the granaries are bursting with meal,
The sacks of meal piled to the rafters.
The streams run with sweetness, fattening fish;
Birds darken the sky. Is it enough
That the dish of milk is set out at night,
That we think of him sometimes,
Sometimes and always, with mixed feelings?

John Ashbery (1927 – 2017)

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.

- ◆ A mask is required at all times. If you require a mask, an usher will provide one for you.
- ◆ Upon entry, please use the provided hand sanitizer.
- ◆ The windows will remain open, please dress accordingly.
- ◆ The ushers will record your name and phone number upon entry.
- ◆ "You must keep 6-feet between you and others not of your household when entering the Church and throughout the time you are in the Church."
- ◆ Pews are color coded for each service, 8am use blue pews, 10am use yellow pews.
- ◆ Bathrooms are currently for emergencies only.
- ◆ 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 gifts 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.

office@bethesdachurch.org
www.bethesdachurch.org
<https://www.facebook.com/bethesdaepiscopalchurch>
(518) 584-5980