

# Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

19 September 2021

Prelude

O Day of Peace

Charles Callahan (b. 1951)

## 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.**

## The Collect of The Day

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

Grant us, O Lord, not to mind earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to cleave to those that shall abide; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The people are seated*

## The First Lesson

Wisdom of Solomon 1:16-2:1, 12-22

The ungodly by their words and deeds summoned death; considering him a friend, they pined away and made a covenant with him, because they are fit to belong to his company. For they reasoned unsoundly, saying to themselves, "Short and sorrowful is our life, and there is no remedy when a life comes to its end, and no one has been known to return from Hades. Let us lie in wait for the righteous man, because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions; he reproaches us for sins against the law, and accuses us of sins against our training. He professes to have knowledge of God, and calls himself a child of the Lord. He became to us a reproof of our thoughts; the very sight of him is a burden to us, because his manner of life is unlike that of others, and his ways are strange. We are considered by him as something base, and he avoids our ways as unclean; he calls the last end of the righteous happy, and boasts that God is his father. Let us see if his words are true, and let us test what will happen at the end of his life; for if the righteous man is God's child, he will help him, and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries. Let us test him with insult and torture, so that we may find out how gentle he is, and make trial of his forbearance. Let us condemn him to a shameful death, for, according to what he says, he will be protected." Thus they reasoned, but they were led astray, for their wickedness blinded them, and they did not know the secret purposes of God, nor hoped for the wages of holiness, nor discerned the prize for blameless souls.

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

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

Psalm 54

- 1 Save me, O God, by your Name; \*  
in your might, defend my cause.
- 2 **Hear my prayer, O God; \***  
**give ear to the words of my mouth.**
- 3 For the arrogant have risen up against me,  
and the ruthless have sought my life, \*  
those who have no regard for God.
- 4 **Behold, God is my helper; \***  
**it is the Lord who sustains my life.**
- 5 Render evil to those who spy on me; \*  
in your faithfulness, destroy them.
- 6 **I will offer you a freewill sacrifice \***  
**and praise your Name, O Lord, for it is good.**
- 7 For you have rescued me from every trouble, \*  
and my eye has seen the ruin of my foes.

### The Second Lesson

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

*The Lector concludes*  
*The People respond*

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

*The people stand, if able.*

### The Holy Gospel

Mark 9:30-37

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

Jesus and the disciples passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

*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.*

*Lector*    Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

*The Celebrant says a concluding 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.

*We ask that you now wear your mask until after receiving Communion.*

**At The Offertory** 10am: Fairest Lord Jesus

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,<br>O Thou of God and man the Son;<br>thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,<br>thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.                 | 2 Fair are the meadows, fairer still the wood<br>lands<br>robed in the blooming garb of spring;<br>Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,<br>who makes the woeful heart to sing. |
| 3 Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,<br>and all the twinkling, starry host:<br>Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer<br>than all the angels heaven can boast. |  |

**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**

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**

Tranquillo

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

**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**

Allegro Scherzando

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

### **Notices**

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

Anglican Communion	The Church of the Province of Uganda
Albany Diocese	The Rev'd Hugh Wilkes, The Rev'd Carolyn Bartkus
Our Parish	The homeless in Saratoga

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

**Sunday School** will begin September 26 during the 10:00am service. For more information please speak to Sara Manny or call the church office.

The **Bethesda roof project** has been delayed until early spring due to delays by the manufacturer for roofing material and the onset of winter weather. We will continue to provide updates as we get them in the notices and on the website.

**Bible Study:** continues this week at 6:30pm Tuesday in the church. Newcomers are welcome. Please contact the office to register.

**Book Group** – The Book Club meets to discuss "The Nine Tailors" by Dorothy Sayers on Thursday, 28 October at 7 pm. Please contact the Office to sign up.

How to get your book: The library requested that individuals wanting copies of The Nine Tailors for the book group in October should request said copies at the library individually. They can provide either Saratoga Springs Public Library copies or obtain them through the Southern Adirondack Library System for readers. You can also order from Northshire Books on Broadway.

**Legs Misérables.** Bethesda Walkers (aka Legs Misérables) will meet on three consecutive Thursdays at 2 pm: October 14, 21 and 28. Venue's to be announced. Please contact the office to register.

Our next **Parish Work Day** is scheduled for Saturday 16 October beginning at 9am. Please register with the office if you're able to lend a hand.