

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

10 October 2021

Prelude

Jesu du bist mein

Ernest Zechiel (1931-1972)

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.

Lord, we pray thee that thy grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ 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

Amos 5:6-7,10-15

Seek the Lord and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground! They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins — you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time. Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

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

Gradual [Congregation says the verses in bold]

Psalm 90: 12-17

- 12 So teach us to number our days *
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.
- 13 **Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry? ***
be gracious to your servants.
- 14 Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning; *
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.
- 15 **Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us ***
and the years in which we suffered adversity.
- 16 Show your servants your works *
and your splendor to their children.
- 17 **May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; ***
prosper the work of our hands;
prosper our handiwork.

The Second Lesson

Hebrews 4:12-16

The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Lector concludes
The People respond

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The people stand, if able.

The Holy Gospel

Mark 10:17-31

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

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God

all things are possible." Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age--houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions--and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

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 With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the city of Saratoga Springs, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.
To thee, O Lord our God.

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 Take my life and let it be

1 Take my life, and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my voice, and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;

take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.
 take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

Take my hands, and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no long - er mine.

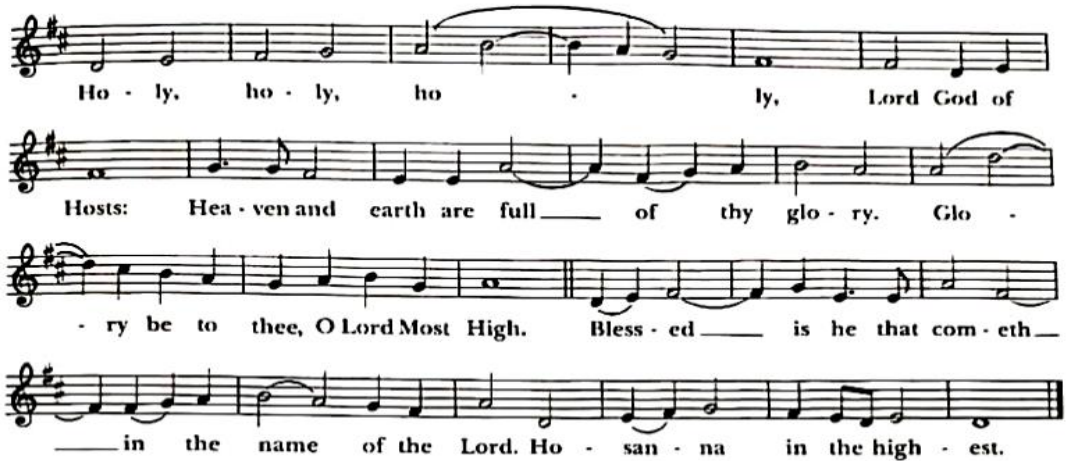
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy roy - al throne.
 Take my - self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

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.

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

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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

Almighty and ever-living 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 Maestoso from Sonata No. 3

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Notices

In our Intercessions for the Church and Parish this week, we pray for:
Anglican Communion The Church of the Province of West Africa
Albany Diocese The Rev'd Walton Zelle
Our Parish For those traveling this weekend

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.

The flowers on the Altar today, and the Eucharist Elements for October are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ray Priestley by Lynne Priestley.

To make a gift of Eucharist Elements for a month, or Altar flowers for a week, please contact the church office. Your generosity is appreciated.

Newcomers— we encourage anyone who wishes to join the parish to complete a visitor card available on the back table.

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

Looking ahead to 2022 -We are starting to plan Bethesda's operations and activities in 2022, and also for the funds to accomplish those goals. In the coming week we will be mailing some information to all parishioners, with a request for your help. Please contact the office if you do not receive this mailing, and thank you for your support.

Sunday School for children is offered during the 10:00am service. For more information please see Sara Manny or call the church office.

Fellowship after 10am service. Thank you to Laurie Brenenstuhl and David and Nancy Wilder for volunteering in recent weeks with refreshments after the 10am service. We continue to look for volunteers. Would you be willing to help? For further information, please call the office or speak to Fr Wallace.

Nametags - If you have a nametag, please be sure to wear it. If you would like a nametag, please sign up in the back of the church or speak with Pam Houde.

Heat in the church— As you may recall a new church boiler is scheduled to be installed in November. Until then, the temperature in the church may be chilly. Please dress warmly.

Giving Statements: Interim statements containing detailed year to date [end of September] donation information have been mailed to all parishioners who pledged giving for 2021. Please contact the office if you have any questions or do not receive your statement. If you wish to receive statements of your giving, or become a pledger to Bethesda Church, please contact the office. Thank you for your generosity.

Bible Study: The Tuesday evening Bible Study meets at the church this week, 12 October, at 6.30pm.

Legs Misérables - On October 14, we will do a one mile walk along the Ellen Reid Soundwalk at the Saratoga Springs State Park, starting from the Creekside Classroom at 2:30 pm. The state park has many trails, but we will walk along the Geyser Creek trail, which is relatively, although not completely, flat. Some of it is paved and all of it is wide enough to allow for physical distancing. We wanted to start with a more leisurely and shorter walk that would accommodate parishioners of all ages and abilities and so will only do only one mile. Since we will be outside, masks are optional. For those who have them bring a smart phone and headphones to the walk so you can listen to the music that Ellen Reid has written for Saratoga Spa State Park. Please download the app for the Soundwalk before you arrive. Cell service in the park is not strong enough to make downloading easy. Here's the link to the Soundwalk app (<https://www.ellenreidsoundwalk.com/download>) It is at the very top of the webpage describing the Soundwalk on SPAC's website (<https://spac.org/ellen-reid-soundwalk/>). The walkers group is open to anyone interested in a walk in the woods and lively fellowship with fellow parishioners, friends and family. Please register with the church office if you want to go on one or more of these walks, via email (office@bethesdachurch.org) or phone (518) 584-5980. Rain date: October 21

Our next **Parish Workday**- We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming Parish Workday on October 16 at 9am. People with all talents and experience are welcome. You do not need to be "handy", just present! Coffee, donuts and lunch will all be served. There are a variety of projects we can tackle, including removing vegetation from around the church (bring your garden tools), removing wax from the pew cushions (bring your iron), some cleaning in the basement to get ready for the new furnace. Carpentry and basic electric skills and tools are particularly appreciated. Other project suggestions are welcome. We hope to be finished around noon, but stay for some lunch. Please let the church office or Steve Rucker know you are coming.

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.

Understanding Holy Scripture

When: Thursdays at 7pm on 4, 11, 18 November and 2 December

Where: Bethesda Church

Led by the Reverend Jonathan Beck

Holy Scripture has always been the center of Anglican life and belief.

This class will look at how the Church has read Scripture, with a particular emphasis on the Prayer Book tradition, in order to understand the place of Scripture in the Christian life. Each week we will look at important passages within the context of the Bible as a whole, and address difficult questions and viewpoints in order that we may faithfully "hear, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest" the Word of God.

4 November: Introduction to a theology of Scripture

11 November: How the early Church read Scripture

18 November: The Reformation and Anglican view of Scripture

2 December: Holy Scripture and the Modern World.

LifeWorks Community Action (formerly EOC). Thank you to all those who have donated. As you can imagine the need is ongoing. If you would like to help by donating here is a list of items needed.

- ◆ Foods low in salt, fat & sugar. Gluten Free foods.
- ◆ Household cleaning supplies.
- ◆ Sponges, laundry detergent, dishwasher detergent.
- ◆ Diapers (size 4 & 5) and baby wipes.
- ◆ Baby care products like baby shampoo and soap.
- ◆ Adult personal hygiene products such as soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, razors, shaving cream, deodorant.
- ◆ Did you have a garden this year? Do you have extra vegetables? Fresh veggies as well as other perishable food items like eggs, milk, butter, can be brought directly to the food pantry located at 39 Bath Street, Ballston Spa. Donations are accepted Monday - Friday from 9am to 4pm.

Parking. Finding parking near Bethesda Church can be a nightmare. Parishioners and newcomers are reminded that the lot surrounding the church offers free parking for the first two hours.

Please keep in mind:

1. You are required to swipe a credit or debit card to enter/exit the lot. Your card is only charged if you are parked longer than two hours. The lot is only accessible via the Congress Street gate. Certain spaces near Washington Street remain reserved for local residents, so do not park there. Rates are as follows: First two hours are free. Additional hours: \$5 per hour up to \$20 maximum.

Remembrance Sunday (All Souls') On Sunday 14 November, the names of loved ones who have died in the past year will be read aloud at the 8am and 10am services. If you wish to add a name, a list is available on the back table of the church, or you may notify the office.

Advance Notice: The Cathedral of All Saints, Albany, will hold its annual Bible Symposium on Saturday, 6th November. Garwood Anderson, President and Provost of Nashotah House Theological Seminary, is this year's presenter. His talk is on 1 Peter: entitled, "Aliens, Strangers, and Citizens: A First Century Vision for Twenty-first Century Christians." For further information and to register, please consult:

www.cathedralofallsaints.org

Parish retreat in 2022. Would you be interested in a three-day retreat at Holy Cross Monastery from 21-23 October 2022? Founded in 1884, the Order of the Holy Cross is a Benedictine religious order, in the Anglican/Episcopal tradition, located just south of Kingston, NY on Route 9W. The cost of the weekend is \$230, inclusive of (single) room and board. To reserve a place, a deposit of \$50 is required before 1 January 2022. For more information about the retreat, please speak to Fr Wallace. To learn more about the Order of the Holy Cross, consult their website at www.holycrossmonastery.com