

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Sixth Sunday After The Epiphany

13 February 2022

At the current time, for everyone's safety, masks are to be worn at all services.

Prelude Berceuse

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

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.

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust thee: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature, we can do no good thing without thee, grant us the help of thy grace, that in keeping thy commandments we may please thee both in will and deed; 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

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse who can understand it? I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

The Lector concludes
The People respond

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

- 1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- 2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.
- 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.
- 4 It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- 6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ--whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

The Lector concludes
The People respond

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The people stand, if able.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 6:17-26

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

Jesus came down with the twelve apostles and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said: Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets."

"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. "Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

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.*

In peace we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for all those who are alone.

For this community, our country, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth.

For all bishops, clergy and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For our own needs and those of others.

(A moment of silence is kept for people to add their own petitions.)

Hear us, Lord.
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

(A moment of silence is kept for people to add their own thanksgivings.)

We will exalt you, O God our king;
And praise your name for ever and ever.

We pray for those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to you alone, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

(A moment of silence is kept to remember those who have died.)

Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

The Celebrant says a concluding prayer, followed by the invitation to 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.*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And with thy spirit.

At The Offertory The people who in darkness walked (*Dundee*)

1. The people who in darkness walked
have seen a glorious light;
on them broke forth the heavenly dawn
who dwelt in death and night.
2. To hail thy rising, Sun of life,
the gathering nations come,
joyous as when reapers bear
their harvest treasures home.
3. To us the promised Child is born,
to us the Son is given;
him shall the tribes of earth obey,
and all the hosts of heaven.

4. His name shall be the Prince of Peace
forevermore adored,
the Wonderful, the Counselor,
the Mighty God and Lord.
5. His power increasing still shall spread,
his reign no end shall know;
justice shall guard his throne above,
and peace abound below.

The Great Thanksgiving *Please stand.*

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 Epiphany

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, thou hast caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of thy glory in the face of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.*

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and

in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he *brake* it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; 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,

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

Missa Sancti Niniani

C. E. S. Littlejohn (1879-1959)

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.*

At The Communion The Beatitudes

Vladimir Martnov (b. 1946)

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
Blessed are you when men shall revile you and persecute you,
and say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake,
Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.*

Matthew 5: 3-12

The Post Communion Prayer *Said by all.*

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 and Dismissal

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.

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as the celebrant departs.

Voluntary Prelude, Fugue, and Chaconne Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Notices

In our Intercessions for the Church and Parish this week, we pray for	
Anglican Communion	The Nippon Sei Ko Kai
Albany Diocese	St. Luke's, Catskill
Our Parish	For all who live in poverty and hunger

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.

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.

End of Year Statements are available at the back of the church.

Calling all Singers! After a long hiatus, the choir is beginning to take shape and enrich our worship again. Thanks to all our new and returning singers for their dedication and commitment. **THERE IS STILL A NEED FOR A FEW MORE MEN.** If you or anyone you know has a musical interest, please speak to Kathleen. All inquiries welcomed (ladies too)!

Special Monthly Envelope for February. We continue to appeal for assistance with the cost of fuel during the winter months. We are grateful for your assistance and generosity.

Cathedral in Bloom 2022: Feb 25-27 at The Cathedral of All Saints, Albany. Enjoy the glorious architecture of our diocesan cathedral combined with the talents of the Capital Region's finest floral artists. Dozens of floral displays, workshops and presentations will be offered by floral professionals. Guided tours and a flower market will be available along

with organ recitals. Special tickets are also available for Afternoon Tea on Saturday at 3 PM. To purchase tickets, consult the website: www.cathedralofallsaints.org

Inquirers' Class. Beginning in March, there will be an online class for anyone interested in baptism, confirmation, a renewal of their baptismal vows, or simply a 'refresher' course in Christian theology from an Anglican perspective. All classes will be via Zoom on Tuesdays at 8pm from March 1 - April 5. This course is hosted by the Cathedral of All Saints' and led by the Reverend Jonathan Beck. If you wish to register, please contact the office: 518 584 5980. Speak to Fr Wallace for further information.

Study of Genesis The age-old stories in the opening chapters of Genesis have been used (and abused) by Christians for centuries to address such pressing questions as how the world began, how humans originated, how males and females relate, whence comes evil, how science and religion relate and why bad things happen. Come to explore these stories on Sunday mornings from 9:20-9:50 beginning March 6 in our Sanctuary. Dr. Blaine Edele (Ph.D. in Old Testament from Duke University) will explore these foundational stories from Genesis chapter 1-6. No prior knowledge of Genesis is required, only a curiosity to learn.

Lent Study Thursday evenings at 7pm, beginning 10 March for four weeks.

Location: TBD

John Milton stands as one of the most important poets in the English language. His greatest work is Paradise Lost and in it he attempts to explain the story of creation and of the Fall. His work stands in a line with the great epics of the ancient world and presents a uniquely Christian take on the genre. More importantly, Milton was a deep theological thinker and took active part in the theological debates of the day; Paradise Lost stands as an enduring attempt to convey the splendor of God and God's creation to the world. The text grapples with questions about human agency, creation, and God's sovereignty that continue to perplex and occupy us to this day. This course will be a contemplative reading of Paradise Lost, where we will consider the poem as a living text in dialogue with theology, philosophy, and spirituality. We will find spiritual resonances everywhere in this text as we all bring our own unique perspectives to this great work of literature. No previous experience with poetry is necessary. To register, please call the parish office: 518.584.5980. The book can be purchased at Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Paradise-Lost-Modern-Library-Classics/dp/0375757961>

Offering Envelope Delivery Would you be able to deliver envelopes to someone who cannot be here to pick theirs up? The envelopes are available in the back of the church. If you could, please check to see if there is someone that you could deliver to. Thank you.

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.

- ◆ Microwaveable convenience meals
- ◆ Disposable plates/bowls and silverware
- ◆ 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.

Fresh vegetables 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.

THE -GESIMA SUNDAYS

*Septuagesima – seventy days
To Easter’s primrose tide of praise;
The Gesimas – Septua, Sexa, Quinc
Mean Lent is near, which makes you think!*

From the poem, ‘Septuagesima’ by Sir John Betjeman (1906-1984)

Before the liturgical reforms of the 1960 – 1970s, three pre-Lenten Sundays were part of the Church calendar. These Sundays, with the hard to pronounce names of Septuagesima, Sexagesmia, and Quinquagesima, denoted the seventieth, sixtieth, and fiftieth days before Easter. While we no longer (officially!) keep “gesima-tide”, it does afford us an opportunity to begin thinking about what Lenten disciplines we might observe, especially as today, 13 February, is Septuagesima Sunday. Here are a few:

Fast from...

*anger
bitterness
self-concern
gossip
discouragement
laziness
suspicion
guilt*

Feast on...

*gratitude
patience
forgiveness
compassion
hope
truth
Service
commitment*

Weekly Services at Bethesda

Tuesday to Friday	12 Noon Midday Prayers (Eucharist on Wednesdays)
Every Saturday	Vigil Eucharist (Rite II) 5pm
Every Sunday	Services at 8am & 10am.

Guidelines for Attending Church

According to New York State policy, everyone (regardless of vaccination status) is required to always wear a mask while inside the church.

Please do not attend church if you are currently ill or have been in contact recently with someone who is ill.

Hand sanitizer is provided at the entrance of the church.

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.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

Fr Charles Wallace, Priest in Charge

Email: office@bethesdachurch.org

Website: bethesdachurch.org

Bethesda Episcopal Church Office
178 Elm Street, Suite 5
Saratoga Springs NY 12866
(518) 584-5980