

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Seventh Sunday After The Epiphany

20 February 2022

We continue to recommend that masks are worn throughout the service.

Prelude

Prélude modal

Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

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 Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth: Send thy Holy Ghost and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee. Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The people are seated

The First Lesson

Genesis 45:3-11,15

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there--since there are five more years of

famine to come--so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'" And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The Lector concludes
The People respond

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Gradual Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

- 1 Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; *
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
- 2 For they shall soon wither like the grass, *
and like the green grass fade away.
- 3 Put your trust in the Lord and do good; *
dwell in the land and feed on its riches.
- 4 Take delight in the Lord, *
and he shall give you your heart's desire.
- 5 Commit your way to the Lord and put your trust in him, *
and he will bring it to pass.
- 6 He will make your righteousness as clear as the light *
and your just dealing as the noonday.
- 7 Be still before the Lord *
and wait patiently for him.
- 8 Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, *
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- 9 Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; *
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.
- 10 For evildoers shall be cut off, *
but those who wait upon the Lord shall possess the land.
- 11 In a little while the wicked shall be no more; *
you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.
- 12 But the lowly shall possess the land; *
they will delight in abundance of peace.
- 41 But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the Lord; *
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.
- 42 The Lord will help them and rescue them; *
he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,
because they seek refuge in him.

The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50

Someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical,

and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The Lector concludes
The People respond

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The people stand, if able.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

Celebrant
People

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

Jesus said, "I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

Celebrant
People

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

The Sermon

Fr Russo

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.*

Lord God, you sent your Son to bring good news to the poor, sight to the blind, freedom to the captives and salvation to your people: anoint us with your Spirit; rouse us to work in his name.

Father, by your Spirit: bring in your kingdom.

Give comfort to the poor and freedom to the oppressed.

Father, by your Spirit: bring in your kingdom.

Send us to tell the world the good news of your healing love.

Father, by your Spirit: bring in your kingdom.

Help us to bring in your kingdom of mercy, justice, love and peace.

Father, by your Spirit: bring in your kingdom.

Give to all the departed, the riches of eternal life.

Father, by your Spirit: bring in your kingdom.

Let us commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father, offering our own prayers in a moment of silence

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 How firm a foundation

- 1 How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
 is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
 What more can he say than to you he hath said,
 to you that for refuge to Jesus have fled?

- 2 "Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed!
 For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

3 "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

4 "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

5 "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell shall endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

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 Messe Basse

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1927)

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Agnus Dei, dona nobis pacem,
O Lamb of God, grant us thy peace.

Communon Motet Tantum Ergo

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1927)

Tantum ergo Sacramentum veneremur cernui;
Let us therefore, bowing low, venerate so great a sacrament;
Et antiquum documentum novo cedat ritui.
And let the old law give way to the new rite.

Genitori genitoque, Laus et jubilatio,
To the Begetter, and the Begotten, let there be praise and jubilation,
Salus, honor, virtus quoque sit et benedictio:
Salvation, honor, also power and blessing;
Procedenti ab utroque compar sit laudatio. Amen.
And to the One proceeding from both, let there be equal praise. Amen.

Thomas Aquinas, c. 1264

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 Psalm 19, The Heaven's Declare Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)

Notices

In our Intercessions for the Church and Parish this week, we pray for	
Anglican Communion	The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem
Albany Diocese	St. Christopher's, Cobleskill
Our Parish	For the sick and infirm

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.

Ash Wednesday this year falls on 2 March. To mark this first day of Lent, there will be services of Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes at 12 Noon and 7pm. All welcome.

Join us on Sunday March 6 at 4pm for a **Lenten Music and Meditation Concert** featuring The Finger Lakes Guitar Quartet. Guitarists Joel Brown, Sten Isachsen, Brett Grigsby and Paul Quigley will present works by Brouwer, Fauré, Granados and other composers.

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

Roof Replacement. The church roof is tentatively scheduled for replacement starting in late March with work continuing until early July. Scaffolding will be erected around the exterior of the church and the work will proceed by sections of the roof, beginning with the west side of the church. The sequence of work for each roof section is removal of the old roof shingles, inspection and repair of the roof deck, repair of trim work and installation of the new roof. Since there may be some debris inside the church during removal of the old roof it will be necessary that the pews, organ, and high altar are covered for protection. While we have contracted to have the organ covered, we need volunteers to care for the pews. The volunteer group, dubbed "The Holy Rollers", will cover the pews after Sunday services and uncover the pews prior to the weekend services. If you would like to volunteer to help with either covering or uncovering pews, please call the office or contact Mark

Claverie. A practice session for covering and uncovering the pews will be held on Saturday, March 12th at 9am.

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>

Spring Book Group, Thursday 19 May 2022, Location –to be Announced.
Verlyn Klinkenborg's novel *Timothy, or, Notes on an Abject Reptile*, is a delightful reading experience. The Yale Review faculty bookshelf noted the blurb: "Few writers have attempted to explore the natural history of a particular animal by adopting the animal's own sensibility. But Verlyn Klinkenborg has done just that in *Timothy*: an insightful and utterly engaging story of the world's most famous tortoise, whose real life was observed by the eighteenth-century English curate and naturalist Gilbert White. For thirteen years, Timothy lived in White's garden. Here Klinkenborg gives the tortoise an unforgettable voice and keen powers of observation on both human and natural affairs. Wry and wise, unexpectedly moving and enchanting at every-careful-turn, Timothy surprises and delights." Mary Sanders Shartle will lead the discussion. Please call the church office if you would like to attend. Order your books now!

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.

Guidelines for Attending 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

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