

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

27 March 2022

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

Prelude

Menuet, Op. 42, No. 2

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

The Opening Acclamation

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People His mercy endures forever.

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 Celebrant says the Summary of the Law

The Collect of The Day

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

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated

The First Lesson

Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The Lector concludes
The People respond

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Gradual Psalm 32

Tone III.4

- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *

- because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.
- 6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- 8 You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.
- 10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."
- 11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.
- 12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

The Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, 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! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Lector concludes
The People respond

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The people stand, if able.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Celebrant
People

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

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would

gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe — the best one — and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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

The Sermon

Robert Bullock

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.*

This week, in our Anglican cycle of prayer, we remember the Church of the Province of Myanmar and in the Albany diocese, we pray for the ministry to College Students, and in our parish, we pray for our members living in care facilities.

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

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

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord: **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 our President, and for the leaders of all nations, that wisdom and courage may prevail in the cause of justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, oppression, and degradation; for all affected by violence and war, and especially at this time, for the people of Ukraine, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the city of Saratoga Springs, and 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, and especially for Tom, 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 the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, 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.**

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 *All stand. At the exchange of the Peace, please remain in your pew.*

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

At The Offertory Hymn #690

- 1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand;
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.
- 2 Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through;
strong deliverer, strong deliverer.
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
 bid my anxious fears subside;
 death of death, and hell's destruction,
 land me safe on Canaan's side;
 songs of praises, songs of praises,
 I will ever give to thee,
 I will ever give to thee.

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 Lent

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died and rose again.

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 Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast.

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: Communion Service in E-flat

Edward C. Bairstow (1874-1946)

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

Communion is distributed at the chancel step. Please remain seated until directed by an usher.

At The Communion Wilt Thou Forgive

Denis G. Mason (b. 1928)

Wilt thou forgive that sin where I begun,
Which was my sin, though it were done before?
Wilt thou forgive that sin, through which I run,
And do run still, though still I do deplore?
When thou hast done, thou hast not done,
For I have more.

Wilt thou forgive that sin which I have won
Others to sin, and made my sin their door?
Wilt thou forgive that sin which I did shun
A year or two, but wallow'd in, a score?
When thou hast done, thou hast not done,
For I have more.

I have a sin of fear, that when I have spun
My last thread, I shall perish on the shore;
But swear by thyself, that at my death thy Son
Shall shine as he shines now, and heretofore;
And, having done that, thou hast done;
I fear no more.

John Donne (1572-1631): A Hymn to God the Father

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

Today at Bethesda

Special Monthly Envelope for March. Gifts received in March's special monthly envelope will be divided amongst five local charities: the Franklin Community Center; the Mother Susan Anderson emergency Shelter which aides women and children; Lifeworks Community Action and the feeding ministry team at the Presbyterian – New England Congregational Church which work together to provide meals to those in need; and Christ Church Food Pantry, a ministry of the Episcopal parish in Ballston Spa. Additional envelopes will be available on the tract table at the back of the church.

Study of Genesis continues to meet between the 8am and 10 am service. All are welcome to join us at 9:20.

Laetare. Today, the Fourth Sunday in Lent, provides a short respite from our Lenten fasting. It has various names, including Mothering Sunday, Refreshment Sunday and Laetare. The first title is a reference to the fact that this was the traditional day for apprentices and young people "in service" (i.e., working as servants) to have a holiday to go home and visit their mothers. Mothering Sunday is the original "mother's day" and reminds us of our natural mothers and also of our spiritual mother, the Church. This Sunday is marked with a special holiday confection called Simnel cake, baked with fine flour, sugar, and dried fruit. Modern recipes are considerably simpler than the original versions which were boiled and baked cakes. In some churches, it was the custom to bring the Simnel cake to church to be blessed and distributed. A recipe and prayer are printed below.

A Recipe for Simnel Cake

3/4 cup butter	1/2 tsp. salt
2 cups sugar	3/4 cup raisins
4 eggs	1 cup diced candied fruit
2 cups flour	1 cup almond paste
icing sugar glaze	

Grease a large round deep cake pan (10") and set aside. Cream together butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well. Blend in flour and salt, adding candied fruit and raisins last. Pour half of the batter into the cake pan. Roll out almond paste and place on top of the batter. Cover almond paste with remaining batter. Bake at 300° for one hour. After the cake has cooled, frost with confectioner's sugar glaze.

Blessing of Simnel Cake

Almighty God, giver of all joy: Receive at our hands this cake, that it may be to us a symbol of our communion with thee and with one another; as its flour was once scattered over our land as wheat and now is one, so let us be one in anticipation of thy gift of the new Jerusalem which, as thy redeemed people, is our joy, our hope, our destiny, and our home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Coffee Hour Thank you to all those who helped to arrange coffee hour this morning after the 10am service.

Upcoming at Bethesda

Lenten Study (John Milton, Paradise Lost) continues this week on Thursday evening at 7pm.

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!

Holy Week Services

10 April - Palm Sunday

8am Eucharist

10am Sung Eucharist

13 April - Wednesday in Holy Week

7pm Stations of the Cross

14 April - Maundy Thursday

7pm Eucharist

Following the Eucharist, the Church remains open until

10pm for private prayer

15 April - Good Friday

12 Noon Liturgy of the Day

17 April - Easter

8am Eucharist

10am Sung Eucharist

**Stations of the Cross
Wednesday 13 April, 7:00pm
All Welcome**

News

Prayers of the People. We recently have reworked the prayers in order to include a point where we can pray by name for those who are sick, recently departed, celebrating birthdays, wedding anniversaries. etc., and to remember troubled places in the world. If there is someone you would like added to our prayers, please call or email Barbara by midday on Wednesday. The list will refresh each week, so if there is someone you’d like remembered for a longer period, you’ll need to contact the office weekly.

Election of the 10th Bishop of Albany. The Profile and Search Committee is moving to the listening session phase of the process to elect our next Bishop. The listening sessions are intended to provide an opportunity for parishioners and clergy of the Diocese to gather and share their thoughts as part of the work to finalize the diocesan profile. These meetings are open to everyone in the diocese, however pre-registration is required. For further information (including dates) and to register please consult the diocesan homepage: www.albanyepiscopaldiocese.org

Midweek worship services Please be advised that during the roof work mid-day prayers and the Saturday evening Eucharist have been suspended.

Roof Replacement. 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.

In The Community

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.

Fr. Charles Wallace, Priest in Charge

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