

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost: 10am Sung Eucharist **4 September 2022**

Prelude Andante with Variations

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

The Entrance Rite

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be His kingdom, now and forever. 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.**

Celebrant Lord, have mercy upon us.
People **Christ, have mercy upon us.**
Celebrant Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

The Collect of the Day

Grant us, O Lord, we pray thee, to trust in thee with all our heart; seeing that, as thou dost always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so thou dost not forsake those who make their boast of thy mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All sit.

The Reading

Philemon 1-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love-- and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you

might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother--especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

The Lector concludes
The People respond

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

All stand.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 14:25-33

Celebrant
People

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

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

Celebrant
People

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

The Sermon

Robert Bullock

All stand.

The Nicene Creed *Said by all, standing.*

**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.**

All kneel.

The Prayers of The People

This week, in the Anglican cycle of prayer, we remember the Church in Australia; and in the Albany diocese, we pray for our assisting bishop, Michael Smith. In our community, we give thanks for all teachers and students as a new school year begins.

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 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 the clergy and people of this diocese, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our country, and for good government in our land, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this 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 those who travel at this time, and for their safety, 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.**

The Celebrant concludes with a Collect.

The Celebrant introduces the Confession.

**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 Said by the Celebrant

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.**

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

The Peace

<i>Celebrant</i>	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
<i>People</i>	And with thy spirit.

At The Offertory Hymn #522

From The Hymnal 1982

Remain standing

The Great Thanksgiving

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And with thy spirit.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.

People
Celebrant
People

We lift them up unto the Lord.
Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee and saying:

Sanctus and Benedictus Qui Venit *Sung by all* *Healey Willan (1880-1968)*

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.

All kneel.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Prayer Book, Page 340

The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer, which ends

...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
People*

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

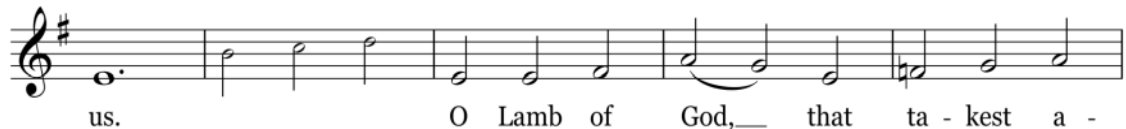
The Prayer of Humble Access

Said by all, kneeling.

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, kneeling*

Healey Willan (1880-1968)





Communion is distributed at the chancel step.

After Communion, all kneel.

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.**

All stand as the ministers depart.

Voluntary Fanfare on ‘Hymn to Joy’

Today at Bethesda

Welcome to Bethesda Church. Thank you for joining us for worship. If you’re new to the parish, or visiting Saratoga today, please introduce yourself to Fr Wallace after the service.

Please join us for **refreshments** following the 10am service. We are grateful to Garrie Long for hosting this week.

The Flowers on the High Altar are given to the glory of God by Laurie Brenenstuhl and in memory of Emily and John Capano on the anniversary of their wedding.

Donations to our **special monthly appeal in September** will support *Shelters of Saratoga*, a county-based agency that provides food, lodging, and other services to people facing homelessness. The agency currently operates a year-round shelter as well as the Code Blue emergency shelter when overnight temperatures drop below freezing. It also manages eleven affordable apartment units in downtown Saratoga Springs, with plans to open a further nine in 2023. Thank you for your consideration and support.

From the **Franklin Community Center**: *“Franklin Community Center is thankful to Bethesda parishioners who supported our recent School Supplies Drive. Your generosity helped us to provide hundreds of dollars worth of school supplies and back packs. Students who could otherwise not afford such supplies will now have those items as they begin the school year. Thank you for caring about the needs of others!”*

Upcoming at Bethesda

Outdoor Work Day: Volunteers are needed on Saturday 10 September, from 9:00-11:00 for weeding and clearing of brush around the church. This is in preparation for the installation of the clerestory windows, and replacement of the fire stairs and bell tower roof. If possible, bring a pair of work gloves and clippers. Long sleeves are strongly recommended. Any assistance would be gratefully appreciated.

Our Sunday morning study of the **Book of Genesis**, led by Dr Blaine Edele, begins **next week, 11 September** at 9.20am. All welcome and no registration required.

Parish BBQ. Please mark **Sunday, 18 September** on your calendars for a parish BBQ. This event will commence at 4pm. Hot dogs, hamburgers and salads will be provided. Though there is no charge to attend, we ask you to consider a small donation to defray the cost of other supplies. You may register by adding your name and contact information to the sign-up sheet on the tract table at the back of the church, or calling the parish office. Further information will be sent this week via email (or phone) to those who have registered.

Choral services resume on Sunday 2 October when the parish will observe the Feast of Dedication. The Reverend Derik Roy, Rector of Christ Church, Ballston Spa, will be our guest preacher at both liturgies.

Study Group: The Importance of Friendship in a Season of Loss. On **Thursday, 20 October**, at **1pm**, Bethesda welcomes the Reverend Dr Victor Austin for a one hour talk on the topic of bereavement and loss. Fr Austin writes: *In the midst of loss and its aftermath, God calls us to return to the central gift he has for us: the gift of friendship. The friendship-gift is the heart of the fellowship of Jesus (see John 15:13); indeed, we could define the essence of being human in Christ as simply living in friendship with God and each other. Such truths are important at any time but especially in times of decline and loss of persons and communities, such as many suffered in the social disruptions of the pandemic.* Father Austin will speak theologically and personally about loss and friendship, and will offer some thoughts on how a congregation can be a place where we are schooled in friendship.

The **Parish Retreat** at Holy Cross Monastery, West Park, NY from **Friday 21 to Sunday 23 October**. If you wish to place your name on a wait-list, please contact the office.

Bethesda Book Club will discuss the novel, *Cathedral*, by British film director and author, Ben Hopkins. This epic tale tells the personal stories of the colorful characters involved in the construction an imagined cathedral in 13th-century Germany. We will meet on **Thursday, 8 December, from 7–8pm**. You can purchase the book online or from your local independent bookstore.

Fr Charles Wallace, Priest-in-Charge

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