

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The First Sunday in Lent

26 February 2023

8.00 Holy Communion

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Prelude

Prélude, Fugue et Variation, Op.18

César Franck (1822-1890)

All stand as the choir and clergy enter.

The Entrance Hymn #143

From the Hymnal 1982

The Opening Acclamation

The people standing, the Celebrant says

**Celebrant
People**

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

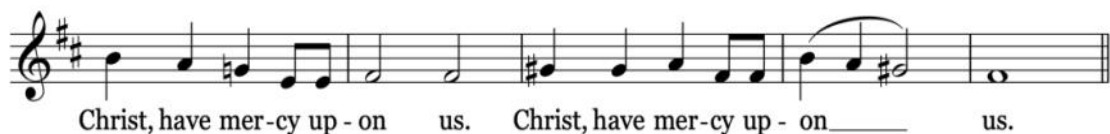
Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

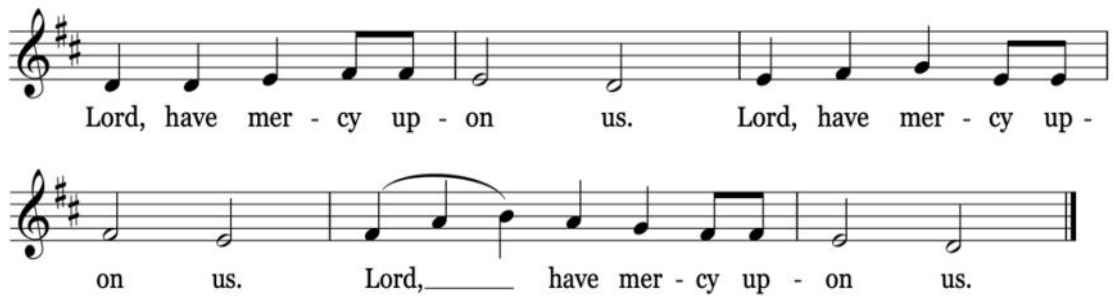
The Summary of the Law

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: Hear O Israel, The Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first and great commandment And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.'

All: Lord, have mercy upon us, and write both these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.

The Kyrie Eleison





Remain standing.

The Collect of The Day

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
People	And with thy spirit.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted of Satan: Make speed to help thy servants who are assaulted by manifold temptations; and, as thou knowest their several infirmities, let each one find thee mighty to save; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

The First Lesson

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The Lector concludes
The People respond

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

The Gradual *Psalm 32*

*The congregation should join in singing the verses in **bold** print.*



- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are for-given, *
and whose sin is put a-way!
- 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 a-way, *
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 de-liverance.**
- 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 under-standing; *
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

Romans 5.12-19

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

*The Lector concludes
The People respond*

**The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.**

All stand.

The Gradual Hymn #150

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 4.1-11

*Celebrant
People
Celebrant
People*

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.
The Holy Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew
Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

*Celebrant
People*

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

The Sermon

Fr Wallace

After the sermon, all stand.

The Nicene Creed *Said by all*

**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 pray for the Scottish Episcopal Church; and in the Albany diocese, for the people and clergy of Christ Church, Cooperstown. Of your charity, I ask your prayers today for the repose of the soul of Melissanne Roberts Piper, and for all who mourn her untimely death, especially her husband, Michael and daughters, Alexis and Gianna, and also for her mother, Glenda and sister, Jennifer. We remember with thanksgiving those who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week and those whose year's mind falls at this time.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, by responding to each petition, **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and especially, for this parish family,
 Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends
 of the earth, Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

For those preparing for baptism and for their sponsors; for members of our Sunday School,
 and for their teachers, Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

For peace in the world, that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations
 and peoples, Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and for their families; for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

For those whom we have injured or offended, Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God, Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

In communion with all those who have walked in the way of holiness and are now at rest, Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

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

The people say together

**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 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.**

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.

Hymn at The Offertory #675

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing

The Eucharistic Prayer

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And with thy spirit.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them up unto the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
<i>People</i>	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 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. 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, standing*

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.

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**

Our Father

And now, as our Savior Christ hath commanded and 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 Fraction

*Celebrant
People*

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

Remain kneeling

Prayer of Humble Access

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.

The Agnus Dei *from Missa Marialis*

Plainsong (adapted by W. Douglas)

*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.

At The Communion ‘Angelis Suis’

Johann Joseph Fux (1660-1741)

*Angelis suis Deus mandavit de te: ut custodiant te in omnibus viis tuis.
In manibus portabunt te, ne unquam offendas ad lapidem pedem tuum.*

*God shall give his angels charge over thee: to keep thee in all thy ways.
They shall bear thee in their hands: that thou hurt not thy foot against a stone.*

Text: from Psalm 91: 11-12

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
People*

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Closing Hymn #559

From the Hymnal 1982

Voluntary

Agincourt Carol

English Folk Tune (15th Century)

Parish News

Bible Study. Today at 9.20am, we continue our weekly study of the Old Testament. This course is led by Dr Blaine Edele. All welcome and no registration required.

Readers. Thank you to those reading at services today:

8am Robert Bullock

10am Christopher Lyons and Robert Bullock

Contributions to Bethesda's **Special Monthly Envelope** in February will support the work of the **Franklin Community Center**. Located in downtown Saratoga Springs but serving all of Saratoga County, the Franklin Community Center has been providing necessities and essential support to local individuals and families since 1983.

Lent Course: A History of Christianity. This year's Lent study examines the emergence and global spread of Christianity from the first followers of Jesus Christ to the present day. The course will meet for three consecutive Thursdays in **March: 9th, 16th and 23rd** from 4pm to 5pm. Please register with the office: 518.584.5980.

Thursday Communion Service in Lent. There will be a celebration of Holy Communion on Thursdays at 12.05pm. All welcome.

Stations of the Cross. On Thursday, 2 March at 7pm, The Stations of the Cross, a series of meditations on the Passion, Crucifixion and death of Jesus, will be offered in the church.

The Office is open Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays, from 10am to 1pm.

Services this Week

Thursday 2 March: 12.05 p.m. Holy Communion

Thursday 2 March: 7pm Stations of the Cross

Next Sunday, 5 March - Lent 2: 8am Holy Communion & 10am Sung Eucharist

Opportunities for Outreach

LifeWorks Community Action is a nonprofit established in 1965 that works to alleviate poverty by assisting local families facing economic hardship. Bethesda is currently collecting the following items on behalf of LifeWorks: household cleaning supplies; laundry detergent, dishwasher detergent; baby care products; shampoo and

soap; and adult personal hygiene products. You may leave donated items in the box by the side door entrance of the church.

Loaves and Fishes is a feeding ministry based in the parish hall of the St. Francis Mission (Episcopal) Church in the Arbor Hill area of Albany. The ministry offers a hot, healthy meal every Saturday to people from this underserved neighborhood. The Mission is looking for volunteers to assist on Saturdays, 11.30—1pm. If you're interested speak to Fr Wallace for further information.

Building Update

Bethesda has entered into an agreement with Bonacio Construction Company to lease our lot adjacent to the church for 10 months with a possible extension for additional time. The construction company reached out to the church since additional staging space is needed to complete construction of the condominiums across from Bethesda. The topsoil has been pushed back to the rear of the lot and crushed stone laid down. A trailer serving as a project office will be located on the west side of the lot and the area will be fenced in with privacy screening. Upon completion of the construction project, the gravel will be removed, and the topsoil restored and reseeded, leaving the lot in better condition. We will still have access to the exterior of the church for remaining projects (clerestory windows, chiller replacement, *etc*). Thank you for your understanding and support.



Fr Charles Wallace, *Priest-in-Charge*

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Website: bethesdachurch.org

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Daily Devotions for Lent—beginning Monday 27 February

Invocation: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Opening Prayer (*said daily*)

Almighty God, whose Son, Jesus Christ, was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and as you know our weaknesses, let us find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading:

Monday: James 1.1-15;
Tuesday: Matthew 26.36-46;
Wednesday: 1 Timothy 6.3-10;
Thursday: Galatians 6.1-5;
Friday: Hebrews 2.14-18;
Saturday: 1 Corinthians 10.12-13.

After the reading, a period of silence may be kept.

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayers

O God, help us today to see ourselves in the light of your holiness; that we may turn from sin, receive your grace and forgiveness, and learn to love and serve you with our whole heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

Please place this form in the collection plate if you would like us to get in touch with you:

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Home address: _____

Preferred contact method: _____

Contact Reason(s):

- ☐ Visitor or new resident
- ☐ Would like more information about the church and/or worship
- ☐ Interested in opportunities to serve
- ☐ Would like to speak with or have a visit from the priest
- ☐ Other _____