

# Bethesda Episcopal Church

**The Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**19 March 2023**

**8.00 Holy Communion**

**10.00am Sung Eucharist**

**Prelude** Toccata in E Minor

*Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)*

**The Entrance Hymn #440**

*From the Hymnal 1982*

**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 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**



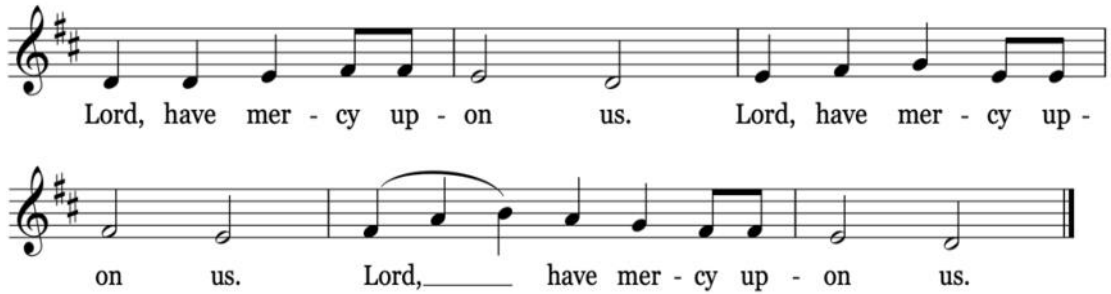
Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



Lord, have mer-cy up - on us. Christ, have mer-cy up - on us.



Christ, have mer-cy up - on us. Christ, have mer-cy up - on us.



*Remain standing.*

***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.**

*All sit.*

***The Lesson***

*Ephesians 5:8-14*

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

*The Lector concludes*                      The Word of the Lord.  
*The People respond*                      **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

***The Gradual Hymn #488***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

***The Holy Gospel***

*John 9.1-41*

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

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when

no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

*Celebrant*  
*People*

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

***The Sermon***

*Fr Wallace*

*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 Church of Southern Africa; in the Albany diocese, for the people of St John's Church, Essex; and in our parish community, for the ministry of our Choir.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, 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.*

*All 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 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

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

### Hymn at The Offertory #646

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing

### The Eucharistic Prayer

Celebrant      The Lord be with you.  
People          **And with thy spirit.**  
Célébrant      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.**

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,

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

*Remain kneeling*

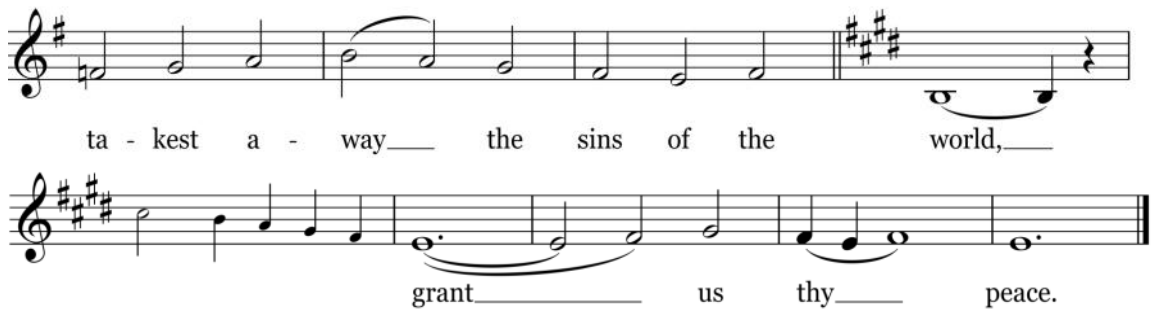
***The Prayer of Humble Access***

**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***

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the  
sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on  
us. O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -  
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -  
on us. O Lamb of God, that





ta - kest a - way\_\_\_ the sins of the world,\_\_\_  
grant\_\_\_\_\_ us thy\_\_\_ peace.

*Communion is distributed at the chancel step.*

**At The Communion**

*After Communion, all kneel.*

**The Post Communion Prayer**      *Said by the Celebrant.*

Let us pray. O Lord and heavenly Father, who has given unto us thy people the true bread which comes down from heaven, even thy Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that throughout this Lent, our souls may so be fed by him that we may continually live in him and he in us; and that day by day, we may be renewed in spirit by the power of his endless life; who gave himself for us, and now lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **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.**

<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us bless the Lord.
<i>People</i>	<b>Thanks be to God.</b>

**The Closing Hymn #493**

*From the Hymnal 1982*

**Organ Voluntary** Movement III, Vivace, from Organ Sonata in F  
*Maurice Whitney (1909-1984)*

## **The Fourth Sunday of Lent**

*The Fourth Sunday of Lent provides a respite from the Lenten fast and has traditionally been marked with special activities. It has various names, including **Mothering Sunday, Refreshment Sunday and Laetare Sunday**. 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 continues to be in the United Kingdom) 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 shared.*

### **Notices**

**Let there be cake!** In celebration of Laetare Sunday, please join us for coffee (and a slice of Fr Kriss's Simnel cake!) following the 10am service.

**The Altar Flowers** for Laetare Sunday are given to the glory of Almighty God and in loving memory of Hugh Agee by his wife, Jane.

**Readers.** Thank you to those reading and leading prayers at services today:

8am Mary Withington  
10am Rick Wissler & Darren Miller

Our **Bible Study** group is not meeting this morning. We will resume next Sunday at 9.20am.

The **History of Christianity** study group meets for its final class this Thursday, 23 March, from 4–5pm in the church.

**Parish Cleaning Day.** In preparation for Holy Week and Easter, volunteers are needed for a parish cleaning day to be held on Saturday, 1 April, from 9am-11am in the church.

On Palm Sunday, 2 April, the Cathedral Choir of All Saints', Albany, presents '**Meditations on the Passion of Christ**', a service of seasonal lessons and carols, at 3.00pm. The service is preceded by an organ recital at 2.30pm. The Cathedral is located at 62 South Swan Street, Albany.

### **Services this Week**

**Thursday** 23 March: 12.05 p.m. Holy Communion  
**Next Sunday**, Lent V: 8am Holy Communion & 10am Sung Eucharist



## Holy Week Offerings

Bethesda offers the opportunity to purchase palms for Palm Sunday as well as flowers for Easter Sunday. If this is something that you would like to do, please complete this form and return it to the church office. You can place the completed form in the offering plate or mail it to the office at 178 Elm Street, Suite 5, Saratoga Springs.

I would like to contribute towards the following:

- Palms (Fans and Fronds) \$20
- Maundy Thursday (Altar of Repose, white flowers) \$25 each
- Easter Flowers (Lilies, Hyacinths, etc) \$25 each

Given By:

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In Honor of:

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In Memory of:

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**Please return to the church office before April 3, 2023:**

Bethesda Episcopal Church Office  
178 Elm St. Suite 5  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866



**Holy Week 2023**

**2 April - Palm Sunday**

8am Eucharist & 10am Sung Eucharist

**5 April - Wednesday in Holy Week**—7pm Stations of the Cross

**6 April - Maundy Thursday**—7pm Eucharist.

*The Church remains open until 10pm for prayer.*

**7 April - Good Friday**—12 Noon Liturgy of the Day

**9 April - Easter Day**

8am Eucharist

10am Procession & Sung Eucharist

***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 \_\_\_\_\_

*Fr Charles Wallace, Priest in Charge*

Email: [office@bethesdachurch.org](mailto:office@bethesdachurch.org)

Website: [bethesdachurch.org](http://bethesdachurch.org)

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