

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

23 July 2023

Prelude The Twenty-third Psalm

Albert Hay Malotte (1895-1964)

Edda Roemelt, soprano

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
 he leadeth me beside the still waters.
 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me
 in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
 I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
 thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
 Thou preparest a table before me
 in the presence of mine enemies:
 thou anointest my head with oil;
 my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
 all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

All stand as the minsters enter. At the high altar, 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 Opening Hymn #374

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

The Collect of The Day

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

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, who knowest our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion, we beseech thee, upon our infirmities, and those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask, mercifully give us for the worthiness of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

The Lesson

Genesis 28:10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

*The Lector concludes
The People respond*

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

All stand.

The Alleluia

The Cantor sings:



All repeat: Alleluia.

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

*Celebrant
People*

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

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind

them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

*Celebrant
People*

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

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

In our prayers for the Anglican Communion, we remember the Church of the Province of Central Africa; and in the Albany Diocese, we pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we prepare to elect a new bishop.

We ask God's blessing on those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week; and those whose year's mind falls at this time.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name maybe united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence. Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

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 #475

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. Creator of the light and source of life, who hast made us in thine image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. 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, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for 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 to thee, he broke 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 this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, 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, we thy people do celebrate and make, 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; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory. And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in 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 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.**

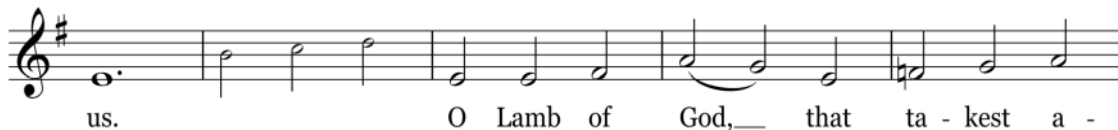
The Fraction

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

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



way the sins of the world, have mercy upon 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 O Lord, Be Merciful *Homer N. Bartlett (1845-1920)*

With broken heart, and contrite sigh,
 A trembling sinner, Lord, I sigh;
 Thy pard'ning grace is rich and free:
 O God, be merciful to me!

Nor alms, nor deeds that I have done,
 Can for a single sin atone;
 To Calvary alone I flee,
 O God, be merciful to me!

And when, redeemed from sin and hell,
 With all the ransomed throng I dwell,
 My raptured song shall ever be:
 God hath been merciful to me!

Text: Anonymous

After Communion, all kneel. All say together

The Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. **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.**

The Closing Hymn #542

From the Hymnal 1982

The Voluntary

Jubilate Deo
based on a theme from Aiblinger - Philip G. Kreckel (1886-1963)

Today at Bethesda

Readers. Thank you to those reading and leading prayers at services today:
8am Lynne Priestley 10am Paula Pinion

Refreshments will be served followed the 10am service. Please join us! Thank you to Kathy and Jay Higle for hosting today.

Edda Roemelt

Edda Roemelt is delighted to be singing with this faith community today!

Edda was born and raised in Glenville, NY and has always had an immense love of singing. She enjoys performing a wide variety of music, from arias and art songs to contemporary music and show tunes, and most recently appeared on stage at Home Made Theatre in The Sound of Music (Maria alternate/nun). Some of her other favorite roles include A Funny Thing Happened... Forum (Philia) at SLOC, Seussical the Musical (Mrs. Mayor) at BH-BL High School, and the title role in Cinderella.

Edda has also performed as a soloist for oratorio works such as Vivaldi's Gloria and John Rutter's Requiem, and received first place in the Adult Non-professional Category at the ENY/NATS Art Song Festival in 2019.

Off-stage, Edda is a mom to three fun-loving kiddos, and enjoys spending time with her husband, family and friends. She also works part-time as a Dietitian and Life Coach in her own private practice where she helps people with their eating and body image concerns.

A special thank you to Derek for this opportunity!

Parish Notices

Special Monthly Envelope for July Donations to our special monthly appeal will support the Race Track Chaplaincy. Founded in 1971, the Chaplaincy provides vital ministry to backstretch workers and their families by offering food and clothing; legal, medical and clerical assistance; as well as educational support and enrichment to Backstretch families who could not otherwise afford these services or opportunities.

Summer 2023 Music Series Bethesda Church hosts special musical guests during the 10am services this summer:

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|-----------|---|
| August 6 | Elizabeth Sterling, soprano |
| August 13 | Valerie Lord, mezzo soprano |
| August 20 | Michael and Stephani Emery, violinist and violist |
| August 27 | Karen Becker, pianist |

Flowers and Communion Elements If you would like to contribute flowers for the altar or eucharistic elements (bread and wine) as a memorial, or in thanksgiving for a birthday or anniversary, please contact the office.

Summer Office Hours This week, the office will be open Tuesday and Thursday from 10 to 11am. We advise that you call ahead if you wish to visit in person, or email office@bethesdachurch.org with your query.

Parking The lot adjacent to the church offers free parking for the first two hours. You will require a credit card to enter and exit the lot which is accessible via Congress Street.

Community News and Outreach

Donations of linens and blankets The RISE shelter on Adelphi Street in Saratoga Springs is accepting donations of towels, sheets and blankets. There is a box in the narthex in which to place your donations.

Volunteers Needed *Mary's Haven* is seeking new volunteers for our community home for the dying. For further information, please call Agatha: 518-584-9397.

LifeWorks Community Action is a non-profit established in 1965 that works to alleviate poverty by assisting local families and individuals with a wide range of services. Bethesda is currently collecting the following items on behalf of LifeWorks:

- ◆ Household cleaning supplies.
- ◆ Foods low in salt, fat & sugar. Gluten Free foods.
- ◆ Sponges, laundry detergent, dishwasher detergent.
- ◆ Diapers (size 4 & 5), baby wipes, and baby care products: shampoo and soap.
- ◆ Adult personal hygiene products: soap, toothpaste/brushes, shampoo, razors, shaving cream, deodorant.

You may leave donated items in the box by the side door entrance.

Autumn Events at Bethesda

Parish Events Please register with the office for the following autumn events. Further details to follow:

Parish **BBQ** is planned for Sunday 17 September.

Trip to **New Skete** to visit to the Religious Communities at New Skete in Cambridge, NY on Wednesday 27 September.

Sunday Bible Study resumes on 24 September at 9.20am.

Retreat at Holy Cross Monastery, West Park, NY from 13th–15th October.

Bethesda Book Club meets Thursday 7 December (time: tbd) to discuss a novel by Joseph O'Connor, *My Father's House*, based on the true story of a priest who helped thousands of Jews and Allied prisoners escape from Italy during World War II. The book may be ordered online or from your local independent bookshop. All welcome.

Diocesan News

Episcopal Election News

1. A week of 'walkabouts' for the four candidates for bishop has been arranged from 14th to 17th August. If you wish to attend one of these townhall-style meetings, you must *register in advance* via the diocesan website. The closest venues are St Paul's Church, Albany on Monday 14th and Church of the Messiah, Glens Falls on Thursday 17th. Both meetings start promptly at 6pm. For further information, please consult www.albanyepiscopaldioocese.org/abctour/
2. Biographical sketches of those standing for election as 10th Bishop of Albany are also posted at the website above.
3. Each parish of the diocese will send delegates to a special electoral convention to be held on Saturday 9 September at All Saints' Cathedral, Albany. Lynne Priestley, Charles Maze and Fr Wallace will represent Bethesda at the convention.

Theology Courses Beginning in August, the Diocese is offering two classes in Christian Spirituality, led by Bishop Michael Smith and Pat Mackey Stone. For further information, consult the website: www.ctkcenter.org/events/9-events/243-spiritual-theology-classes

Class 1: Life in Christ: Ascetical Theology and Spiritual Practices

An introduction to the basic elements of Christian spirituality and a study of Christian disciplines that move the student further into the transformed and lived life of Christ. This class will emphasize Christian experience in light of Biblical revelation and Christian tradition with Anglican and Benedictine spirituality as the foundation. This class will run from 1:30 p.m - 4:30 p.m. one Saturday per month for 10 months beginning August 19th.

Class 2: Introduction to Spiritual Direction as a Vocation

An introduction to the basic elements of Anglican Spiritual Direction, elements of spiritual formation and the craft of supporting others as they mature in their Christian life. This class is coupled with other Stanton Center courses required to receive a certificate of completion in Spiritual Direction. The course will include some lectures, a lot of sharing on the readings and sharing of reflections on readings and practices. Success is dependent on active participation, reading and writing. This class will run from 9:30 a.m - 12:30 p.m. one Saturday per month for 10 months beginning August 19th. Life in Christ: Ascetical Theology and Spiritual Practices is a pre-requisite for this class.

Bible Symposium All Saints' Cathedral, Albany, will host a special Bible Symposium this year on Saturday, 4 November, with British poet, priest, and scholar, Malcolm Guite. His talks will be based on his most recent book, *David's Crown: Sounding the Psalms*, a collection of poems written in response to the Coverdale translation of the Psalms in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. The cost is \$35 and includes lunch. To purchase tickets online, go to www.cathedralofallsaints.org/events/bible-symposium-2023-malcolm-guite.



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

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