

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

3 September 2023

Prelude

Allegro, from Organ Concerto

Thomas Arne (1710-1778)

All stand as the ministers enter. At the high altar, the Celebrant says

***Celebrant
People***

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
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 #677

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

The Collect of The Day

***Celebrant
People
Celebrant***

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

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of thy Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

The Lesson

Romans 12.9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

*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 16.21-28

*Celebrant
People*

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

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

*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

**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 Anglican Church of Melanesia; and in the Albany Diocese, we pray for all those participating in our upcoming episcopal election: the four candidates and their families; and the clergy and lay delegates to Convention.

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, remembering especially at this time: Debbie, Pat, Penny, David, Paul and Jerilyn.

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

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

Hymn at The Offertory #304

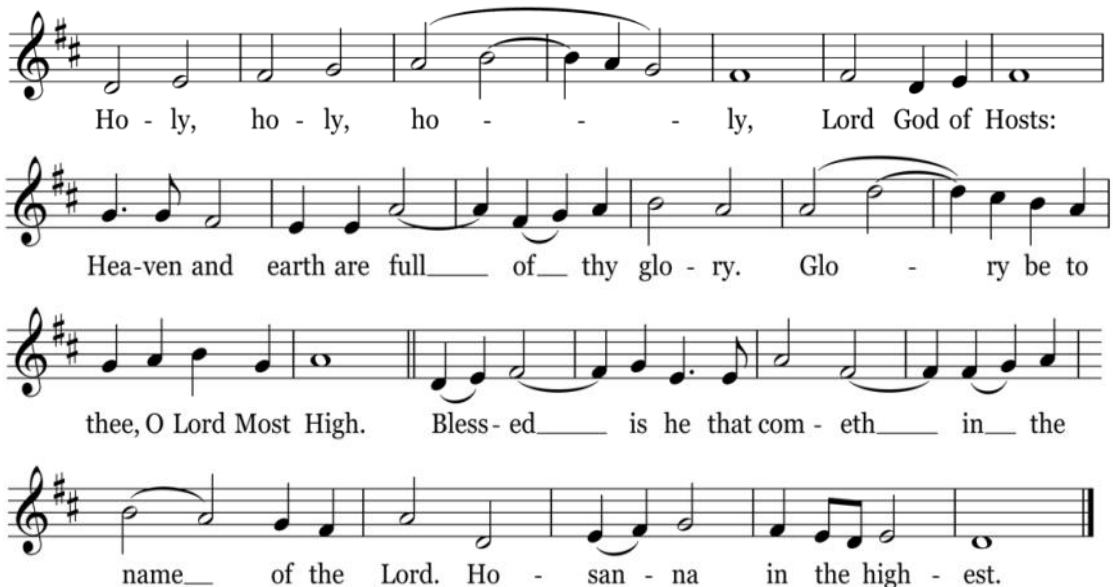
From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing

The Eucharistic Prayer

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.**

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,



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



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,



Communion is distributed at the chancel step.

At The Communion

After Communion, all kneel.

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 #525

From the Hymnal 1982

The Voluntary

Tocatta in G Minor

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Today at Bethesda

Thank you to **Bob Bullock** for preaching at services this morning.

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.

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

8am Bob Bullock
 10am Mary Shartle

Refreshments will be served followed the 10am service. Thank you to Yvonne and Max Ascitutto for hosting today. Please join us!

Parish Notices

Anticipating the fall choir season Have you ever considered singing in the choir? Do you know someone who might enjoy the experience? We are always looking for more voices, especially in the tenor and bass sections. You don't need a professional-quality voice, just some musical experience and an interest. Please speak to Kathleen or call the office for more information.

A **Parish Clean-up** day is planned for this Saturday, September 9th at 9am. We will be cleaning inside the church and, weather permitting, do some yard work as well. If you have any time to spare, feel free to drop by and lend a hand.

Memorial Service for Bruce and Anne Solenski on Saturday, 16 September at 10.30am at Bethesda. Reception to follow.

Summer Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-11am.

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.

Autumn Events at Bethesda

Bible Study resumes on **10 September** at 9.20am. No registration required.

Please register with the office for the following autumn events. For further information, contact the office, or speak to Fr Wallace.

New Skete An afternoon to visit to the Religious Communities at New Skete in Cambridge, NY has been arranged for Wednesday 27 September. Our tour begins at 1.15pm and includes a talk, tour of the chapel and grounds, and a visit to the kennel where the community breeds and trains German Shepherds. For those interested, there is an option of meeting beforehand at Christ the King Center in Greenwich (just before noon) for lunch; the cost is \$15.

CHANGE OF DATE: A **Parish BBQ** is planned for **Sunday 1 October** and will be held at the MacVane farm in Ballston Spa. We will begin with an outdoor Eucharist at 11am for those who wish to attend. Lunch will be served from 12 noon. A variety of meats and salads will be provided, courtesy of our generous friends at *Fred the Butcher*. Cold drinks and desserts will also be available. When you register with the office, please let us know if you are able to provide transportation for others or to bring a dessert. The office will provide directions to the venue via email prior to the event to everyone who has registered. Please be advised that there will only be one service at the church (8am) on the day of the BBQ. If you already registered for the original BBQ date, you need only contact the office if you are unable to attend.

Weekend Retreat at Holy Cross Monastery, West Park, NY from 13th–15th October. Our retreat this year will include daily reflections led by one of the Holy Cross brothers, worship and meals with the monastic community, and plenty of time to enjoy this beautiful setting on the Hudson River.

Bethesda Book Club meets Thursday 7 December at 5pm to discuss a novel by Irish author, 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.

Community News and Outreach

Special Monthly Envelope Our appeal in **September** supports the work of Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization that helps people build, repair and improve homes and neighborhoods, particularly in urban areas, by working with communities to address their housing needs. It also works closely with local agencies to respond quickly to communities affected by natural disasters. Thank you for your generosity.

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 of the church.

Diocesan News and Events

Episcopal Election News To learn more about the candidates standing for election as 10th Bishop of Albany, go to www.albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/abctour/ The election will take place on Saturday, 9 September at All Saints' Cathedral, Albany.

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
- Would like information about pledge envelopes or regular giving to Bethesda
- Other _____

Fr Charles Wallace, Priest in Charge

Email: office@bethesdachurch.org

Website: bethesdachurch.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bethesdaepiscopalchurch>

Bethesda Episcopal Church Office

178 Elm Street, Suite 5

Saratoga Springs NY 12866

(518) 584-5980