

# ***Bethesda Episcopal Church***

***The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost***

***10 September 2023***

***Prelude***

Préambule, from 24 Pièces en style libre, Op.31

*Louis Vierne (1870-1937)*

*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 #427***

*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.

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

*All sit.*

***The Lesson***

*Exodus 12:1-14*

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you,

and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

*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 18.15-20*

*Celebrant*  
*People*

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

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

*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 Ireland; and in the Albany Diocese, we give thanks for our recent Convention, and for the election of the 10th Bishop of Albany.

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

In peace we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;  
**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for all those who are alone.**

For this community, our country, and the world;  
**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
**For all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth.**

For all bishops, clergy and other ministers;  
**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For our own needs and those of others, remembering especially at this time: Debbie, Pat, Penny, David, Paul and Jerilyn

*A moment of silence is kept for people to add their own petitions.*

Hear us, Lord.  
**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*A moment of silence is kept for people to add their own thanksgivings.*

We will exalt you, O God our king;  
**And praise your name for ever and ever.**

We pray for those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to you alone, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*A moment of silence is kept for people to remember those who have died.*

Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;  
**Who put their trust in you.**

*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 #248**

*From the Hymnal 1982*

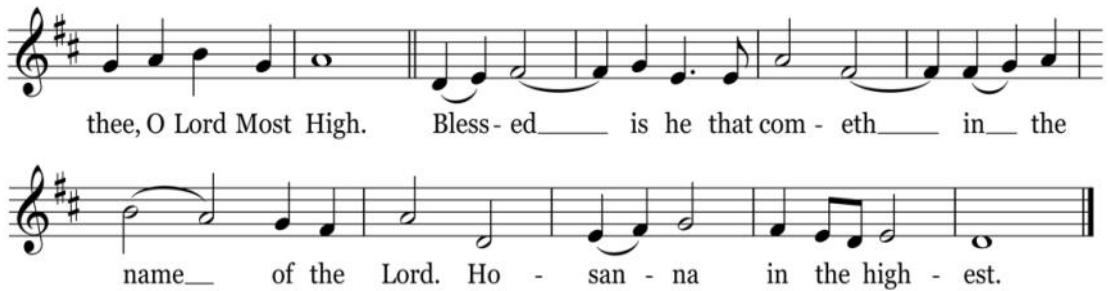
*Remain standing*

### **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



*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,\_\_\_

grant\_\_\_\_\_ us thy\_\_\_ peace.

*Communion is distributed at the chancel step.*

***At The Communion***

*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.**

<i>Celebrant</i>	Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
<i>People</i>	<b>Thanks be to God.</b>

***The Closing Hymn #478***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

***The Voluntary***

Ceremonial March

*Herbert Sumson (1899-1995)*

***Today at Bethesda***

Thank you to **Fr Gary Kriss**, our celebrant and preacher today.



The **flowers on the High Altar** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Suzie O’Cain by her husband, Doctor Lynwood O’Cain.

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

8am Lisa Edele  
10am Chris Lyons

**Refreshments** will be served followed the 10am service. Thank you to Tom Ostrander for hosting today. Please join us!

### **Notices**

**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.

**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.

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

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays from 10 to 11 am and Thursdays from noon to 3pm. Please call ahead if you are planning to stop by.

**Building Award.** The Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation recognizes local organizations that have completed projects which reflect a commitment to promoting and preserving the city’s history and architectural character. This year, Bethesda Church is being recognized for our recent roof restoration project and the efforts made by the parish to support, preserve and enhance our beautiful city. The award will take presented at the Foundation’s Annual Meeting on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September.

**Financial Overview, Year-to-Date July, 2023.** Year to date July, our Operational\* Financial performance is better than budget, but we do have a \$6,388 deficit.

In Expense, our spending is less than budget by \$22,307, driven primarily by lower Maintenance costs than planned, and some timing items that will close to budget as the year progresses.

In Income, our regular Pledge and Plate giving is close to budget, but less than our expenses.

It is typical that we run a deficit as we go through the year, and the current \$6,388 deficit is likely to grow through October, based on prior year trends. We are very dependent on generous 4th Quarter giving to close the year without a deficit and to provide cash for the following year’s expenses.

*\*The Operational view excludes items supported by designated funds (eg. Choir and Education programs) and special giving.*

**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** resumed on **today** at 9.20am and continues weekly. 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**

**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*

**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](http://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](mailto:office@bethesdachurch.org)

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

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

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