

# Bethesda Episcopal Church

***The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost***

***24 September 2023***

**Organ** Sicilienne

*Maria Theresia von Paradis (1759-1824)*

*All stand as the minsters enter.*

***The Opening Hymn #47***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

*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 Gloria in excelsis***

*Healey Willan (1880-1968)*

Glo - ry be to God on high, and on earth, peace, good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee, we wor - ship thee, we glo - ri - fy

thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glo - ry, O Lord

God, heaven - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al -

might - - y. O Lord, the on - ly be - got - ten

Son, Je - sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the

Fa - ther, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Thou that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, re - ceive\_ our  
prayer. Thou that sit - test at the right hand of God\_ the Fa - ther, have  
mer - cy up - on us. For thou on - ly art ho - ly;  
thou on - ly are the Lord; thou on - ly, O\_ Christ, with the Ho - ly  
Ghost, art\_ most high in the glo - ry of God\_ the\_  
Fa - ther.\_ A - - - - -  
men.

Remain standing.

### **The Collect of The Day**

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

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

**The Lesson**

*Jonah 3.10-4.11*

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

*The Lector concludes*  
*The People respond*

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

All stand.

**The Alleluia**



V: O give thanks unto the Lord and call upon his Name: tell the people what things he hath done.

R: **Alleluia.**

Remain standing.

**The Holy Gospel**

*Matthew 20.1-16*

*Celebrant*  
*People*

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

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage,

he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.'

When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

*Celebrant*      The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*          **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***

This week, in our prayers for the Anglican Communion, we remember the Church of Ireland; and in our diocesan cycle of prayer, we give thanks for all who serve as first responders in our communities.

We also pray for the Reverend Jeremiah Williamson, elected 10th Bishop of Albany at our recent Convention; for Fr Jeremiah's family, and his parish of Grace and St Stephen's, Colorado Springs, and for our diocese during this period of transition.

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying *Lord, have mercy.*

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our Bishop-elect, Jeremiah, for Michael, our Assisting Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For Joseph, our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this city of Saratoga Springs, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For reasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, for the sick and the suffering and for those who have asked for our prayers, especially Debbie, Pat, Penny, David, Paul, Jerilyn and Stephen; let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, remembering at this time, Tim Lane and Dick Barrett; let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

*The Celebrant says a concluding prayer.*

Almighty God, kindle, we beseech thee, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with thy wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquillity thy dominion may increase till the earth is filled with the knowledge of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

*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>	<b>And with thy spirit.</b>

**Hymn at The Offertory #692**

*(Tune: #292) From the Hymnal 1982*

Remain standing

### The Eucharistic Prayer

Celebrant  
People  
Celebrant  
People  
Celebrant  
People

The Lord be with you.  
**And with thy spirit.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up unto the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.  
**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*** from “Mass in a minor”

*Harold Darke (1888-1976)*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away 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** Motet: Sing My Soul

Ned Rorem (1923-2022)

*Sing, my soul, his wondrous love,  
who from yon bright throne above,  
ever watchful o'er our race,  
still to us extends his grace.*

*Heaven and earth by him were made;  
all is by his scepter swayed;  
what are we that he should show  
so much love to us below?*

*God, the merciful and good,  
bought us with the Savior's blood,  
and, to make our safety sure,  
guides us by his Spirit pure.*

*Sing, my soul, adore his Name!  
Let his glory be thy theme:  
praise him till he calls thee home;  
truth his love for all to come.*

*Text: Anonymous Hymn c. 1800*

*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 #482**

*From the Hymnal 1982*

**The Voluntary**      Carillon

*Herbert Murrill (1909-1952)*

## **Today at Bethesda**

The **flowers on the High Altar** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Edward & Veronica Stevens, John Huppuch, Carrie Ortiz, Walt Markert, Don Davies, Daryle Dinal, Millie Meeker, Daisy McGuirk, and Sherryle Moore by Tom and Gail Remington.

**Readers.** Thank you to those reading and leading prayers at services today:  
**8am** Mary Withington      **10am** Paula Pinion

**Bible Study** continues **today** at 9.20am. All welcome. No registration required. There will be NO classes the next two Sunday's 10.1 and 10.8. Look forward to seeing everyone again on 10.15.

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

**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.

**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.

**New Skete** Those registered for the New Skete trip this Wednesday, 27th September should have received an email from the office with directions and further details. If you did not receive an email, please speak to Fr Wallace as soon as possible.

**Coffee Hour** A new rota is available on the lectern at the back of the church. If you are willing to host refreshments following an upcoming 10am service, please sign-up!

## **NEXT SUNDAY!**

**NEXT SUNDAY is our Parish BBQ.** *Where?* At the MacVane Farm in Ballston Spa. *When?* There is Communion at 11am for those who wish to attend. Lunch is served from at 12 Noon. *What?* Hamburgers, hot dogs, etc., and salads provided, courtesy of *Fred the Butcher*. Cold drinks and desserts will also be available.

Please register before the end of the day, tomorrow. An email from the parish office was sent to everyone who has registered as of last Friday. If you did NOT receive an email with directions and further details, please contact the office by Thursday 28 September.

***There will only be one service at the church (8am Communion) next Sunday.***

## **Notices**

**Forward Day by Day** The next edition (November—January) is available for purchase from the parish office. Each copy is \$2.

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 10–noon. Thursdays from noon to 3pm. Please call ahead if you are planning to stop by.

**Weekend Retreat** at Holy Cross Monastery, West Park, NY from 13th–15th October. This year’s retreat is now full.

**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.

### **Outreach and Volunteer Opportunities**

**LifeWorks** needs 200 volunteers willing to drive Thanksgiving baskets to recipients the morning of Saturday, November 18th. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact LifeWorks at 518-288-3206.

**Loaves and Fishes**, an emergency feeding program based at St Francis Mission, Clinton Avenue, in Albany needs volunteers. The Mission serves lunch and provides basic necessities every Saturday morning to some of the most vulnerable members of the community. A link to volunteer and information about supporting the Mission financially is available on the website: [www.albanyepiscopaldioecese.org/loavesandfishes](http://www.albanyepiscopaldioecese.org/loavesandfishes) or telephone 518.414.2800

**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.



***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*

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