

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Feast of Christ the King

26 November 2023

Organ Prelude in a Classic Style

Gordon Young (1919-1998)

All stand as the choir and minsters enter.

The Opening Hymn #555

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.
<i>People</i>	And with thy spirit.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in thy well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

The First Reading

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

*The Lector concludes
The People respond*

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

Remain seated.

The Gradual:

Jubilate Deo

W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)

Jubilate Deo omnis terra; servite Domino in laetitia.
Laudate nomen ejus; quoniam suavis est Dominus, alleluia.

*O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands; serve the Lord with gladness.
Praise his Name, for the Lord is gracious, alleluia.*

The Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Lector concludes
The People respond

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

All stand.

The Alleluia



Cantor: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away;
and a kingdom which shall not be destroyed. *(Daniel 7:14)*

All repeat: **Alleluia.**

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:31-46

Celebrant
People

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

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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 Intercessions for the Church and the world, we pray for Anglican Communion, and this week, for the Church of Nigeria. In our Diocese, we remember Jeremiah, our Bishop-elect; our assisting bishop, Michael, and the staff of Christ the King Center in Greenwich.

We remember with thanksgiving those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week, and we pray for those who have died recently, and those whose year's mind falls at this time.

Let us join our prayers with those of our Savior Jesus Christ, seeking the Father's blessing, and the gifts of the Spirit.

Jesus Christ, our great high priest, living for ever to intercede for us, pray for the Church, your broken body in the world. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, king of righteousness, enthroned at the right hand of your majesty on high, pray for this troubled world and make it subject to your just and gentle rule. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, Son of Man, drawing humanity into the life of God, pray for your brothers and sisters in any need, distress or sorrow, and especially at this time for Penny, David, Jude, Paul, Jerilyn and Robert. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, pioneer of our salvation, bringing us to glory through your death and resurrection, surround with your saints and angels those who have died trusting your promises. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things, ascended far above the heavens and filling the universe, pray for us who bear witness to your glory and power. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

The Celebrant concludes with a Collect.

Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession and Absolution

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead the 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.

**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 #617

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



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
People*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
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

Agnus Dei from Mass in E-minor

Christoph Dalitz (b. 1967)

*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

Choir: Fear Not, O Land (Harvest Anthem)

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Fear not, O land, be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things. Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength. Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God. The floors shall be full of wheat. And ye shall eat in plenty, and praise the Name of the Lord your God that hath dealt wondrously with you. Amen. *(Joel 2: 21-26)*

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
People*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Closing Hymn #481

From the Hymnal 1982

Organ Postlude on 'Cwm Rhondda'

Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Notices

Readers Thank you to those reading and leading prayers at services today:
8am Lynne Priestley **10am** Katie Hooper and Tom Remington

Please welcome Carl Hackert, our **guest organist** this morning. Derek returns next Sunday.

Bible Study will not meet today.

Refreshments Join us for coffee following the 10am liturgy. Thank you to Claire and Tim Wood for hosting this morning; 10 and belated thanks to Daniel Beach for hosting last Sunday.

Special Monthly Envelope Our special monthly appeal in **November** supports the work of Saratoga County Children's Committee Empty Stocking Project. There are hundreds of children living within Saratoga County who are in need of assistance yearly, but the holiday season can be the most trying time of for parents and caregivers. This project's aim is to embody the holiday spirit by helping to provide these families with a joyous holiday, assisting over 900 children each year.

Victorian Stroll Open House Bethesda Church will be open the evening of the Victorian Stroll, Thursday 30 November, from 6pm—9pm. If you are available to assist as a greeter or guide, please contact the office.

Bethesda Book Club meets Thursday 7 December at 5pm to discuss a novel by Irish author, Joseph O'Connor, *My Father's House*.

Thursdays in Advent In Advent season, there will be a celebration of Holy Communion on Thursdays at 12.10, beginning 7th December.

Christmas Decorating Join us on 9 December at 9am to decorate the church for the festive season.

Advent Recital A program of arias, art songs, and piano works performed by Carla Fisk, soprano, Derek Stannard, tenor, and Karen Becker, pianist, is planned for Sunday 17 December at 3pm at Bethesda.

Concert The Choir of Cathedral of All Saints Albany and period instrument orchestra will present a performance of Handel's masterpiece, *Messiah* at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 5 December. For tickets consult www.cathedralofallsaints.org/special-events

Lessons and Carols at Christ Church, Ballston Spa. This service, which features carols of Advent and Christmas from Celtic, African American, and Shape Note traditions, will take place on Sunday, December 10 at 4:00 p.m. and Monday, December 11 at 7:30 p.m., at Christ Episcopal Church. The event is free and open to the public.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols with music for brass, organ and choir is a traditional part of the run-up to Christmas at All Saints' Cathedral, Albany. This year's service takes place at 7pm on Tuesday, 19 December.

UPDATED Financial Overview*, Year-to-Date OCTOBER 2023

Through October, our financial position remains better than budget, though our deficit is now over \$12,000. We will be dependent on special late-year gifts to close our deficit and provide cash for the early part of 2024. Year-to-date October, our spending is less than budget by \$20,472, driven primarily by lower Maintenance costs than planned, and lower fees. In YTD Income, our regular Pledge and Plate giving is slightly over budget, but is less than our expenses by over \$30,000.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS at Bethesda

SUNDAY, 3 December: Advent Sunday

8am Holy Communion
10am Sung Eucharist

Thursday, 7 December 12.10pm Holy Communion

SUNDAY, 10 December: Advent II

8am Holy Communion
10am Sung Eucharist

Thursday, 14 December 12.10pm Holy Communion

SUNDAY, 17 December: Advent III

8am Holy Communion
10am Lessons and Carols

Thursday, 21 December 12.10pm Holy Communion

SUNDAY, 24 December: Advent IV

*9am Holy Communion (said)

CHRISTMAS EVE

4pm Sung Eucharist
10pm Procession and Sung Eucharist

CHRISTMAS DAY

9am Holy Communion (said)

SUNDAY, 31 December: Sunday after Christmas

*9am Holy Communion (said)



Christmas Flowers, Greens, Wreaths and Trees

This Christmas Season offers the opportunity to not only purchase flowers for the Altar, but to sponsor other decorations that are used to ready the Sanctuary for this special time of year. If you would like to contribute, please complete this form and return it to the church office. You can place your completed form in the offering plate or mail it to:

***Bethesda Church Office
178 Elm Street, Suite 5
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866***

I would like to purchase:

___ Poinsettia \$25 each. How many? _____

Given By: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

I would like to contribute towards the following:

___ Greens \$ _____
 ___ Wreathes \$ _____
 ___ Trees \$ _____

Given By: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Please return form to the church office before 3 December.