

Bethesda Episcopal Church


The First Sunday in Lent

18 February 2024

Organ Voluntary in D Minor


William Boyce (1710-1779)

The Entrance Hymn—printed below



1 Lord Jesus, think on me, and purge a-way my sin. From
2 Lord Jesus, think on me, a - mid the battle's strife. In
3 Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray. Through
4 Lord Jesus, think on me, that, when this life is past, I

5



earthborn passions set me free, and make me pure with-in.
all my pain and mis - er - y be thou my health and life.
dark-ness and per - plex - i - ty point thou the heaven-ly way.
may the e-ter - nal brightness see, and share thy joy at last.

The Opening Acclamation

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People **His mercy endures forever.**

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 Summary of the Law

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: Hear O Israel, The Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first and great commandment And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.'

All: Lord, have mercy upon us, and write both these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.

The Kyrie Eleison

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.

Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Remain standing.

The Collect of The Day

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

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted of Satan: Make speed to help thy servants who are assaulted by manifold temptations; and, as thou knowest their several infirmities, let each one find thee mighty to save; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

The Reading

Genesis 9:8-17

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

*The Lector concludes
The People respond*

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

All stand.

The Gradual Hymn #150

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

Mark 1:9-15

*Celebrant
People*

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

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

*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

This week, in the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for the Episcopal Church of Sudan; and in our diocese, for our bishop-elect, Jeremiah, to be ordained to the episcopate on Saturday at All Saints Cathedral. In our parish, we ask God's blessing on those who have recently joined the Bethesda community.

We remember with thanksgiving those who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week and those whose year's mind falls at this time.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, by responding to each petition, Lord, graciously hear us.

For the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and especially, for this parish family, Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth, Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those preparing for baptism and for their sponsors; Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For peace in the world, that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples, Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and for their families; for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, In our parish, we pray for Tim, Paul, Sonia, Robert, Jerilyn, Mal, Kristie, Doris, and Mary Anne. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those whom we have injured or offended, Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God, Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

In communion with all those who have walked in the way of holiness and are now at rest, praying at this time for Brant. Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Celebrant says the concluding prayer.

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy, but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession and Absolution

Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

**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 #143

From the Hymnal 1982

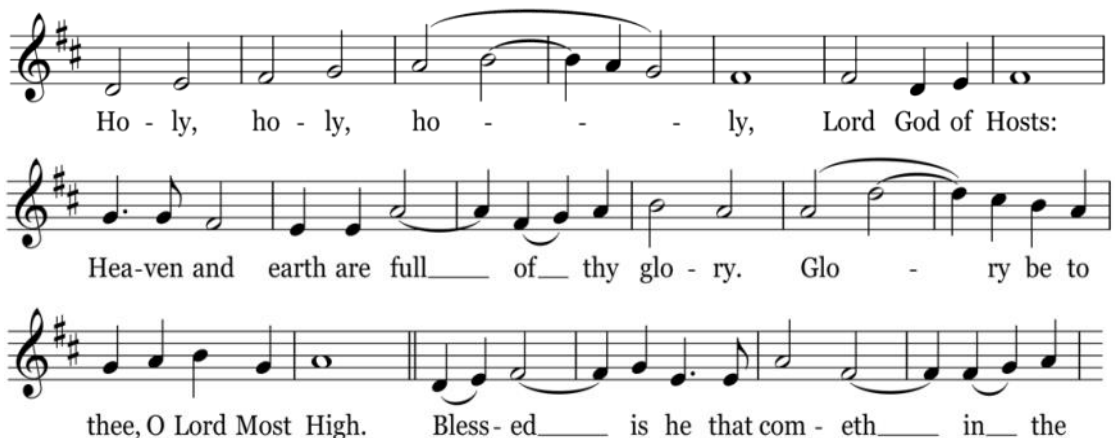
Remain standing

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 was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died and rose again. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee and saying,

Sanctus and Benedictus Qui Venit *Sung by all, standing*



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, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of 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, he *brake* 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 ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, 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, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, 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; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with 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 commanded and 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 Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Remain kneeling

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 the Communion Service *John Merbecke (1510-1585)*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on 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: The Lamb of God *Richard Shephard (1949-2021)*

*O Lamb of God who gave thyself for me;
Now in my heart, I give myself to thee.*

*Forgive us Lord, and grant with prayer and praise,
That we may come to love you all our days.*

*Teach us to know and keep your ways, O Lord;
That we would hold thy wondrous Name adored.*

Organ: My Heart is Filled with Longing *J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*

After Communion, all kneel.

The Post-Communion Prayer *Said by the Celebrant.*

Let us pray. O Lord and heavenly Father, who has given unto us thy people the true bread which comes down from heaven, even thy Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that throughout this Lent, our souls may so be fed by him, that we may continually live in him and he in us; and that day by day, we may be renewed in spirit by the power of his endless life; who gave himself for us, and now lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **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 Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as the choir and ministers depart.

The Closing Hymn #684

From the Hymnal 1982

Organ Fugue in D Minor

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Today at Bethesda

New to Bethesda? We are glad you're here! If you are interested in joining the parish and/or would like further information about our community, please complete the form on the back of the bulletin and drop it into a collection plate or hand it to an usher.

The Eucharistic elements (wine and bread) for the month of February are given in honor of Elsie Priestley's 101st birthday by her daughter, Lynne.

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

8am Lisa Edele 10am Ann Bullock & Libby Smith-Holmes

The Old Testament **Bible Study** meets this morning at 9.20am. All welcome.

Please join us for a **cup of coffee** following the 10am service.

Bethesda's special monthly envelope for **February** supports the work of the **Franklin Community Center**. Located in downtown Saratoga Springs but serving all of Saratoga County, the Franklin Community Center has been providing necessities and essential support to local individuals and families since 1983. All programs and services provided through the Center focus on those in need, regardless of race, religion or color, to improve their quality of life: for example, operating 'Project Lift', a free after-school prevention program for qualifying children at local schools; or Franklin Community Manor which provides safe and affordable Rental Housing to low-income adults. From Monday to Thursday, the Community Center also runs a Food Pantry, and a Donation Center offering clothing and household items. Thank you for supporting our friends at Franklin and their excellent work in our community.

A booklet with daily prayers and readings for Lent is available on the tract table at the back of the church.

Office The parish office on Elm Street will be open this week from 10–1pm on Tuesday and Wednesday; and on Thursday, from noon to 3pm.

Upcoming Services and Events

Midweek Service in Lent A midweek service is held on Thursdays in Lent at 12.10pm. Our next Communion service is 22 February.

Stations of the Cross. On Thursday, 7 March at 7pm, The Stations of the Cross, a series of meditations on the Passion, Crucifixion and death of Jesus, will be offered in the church.

Installation of Fr Thomas John Pettigrew Fr Pettigrew will be inducted as Rector of St George's Church, Schenectady on Friday, 15 March at 5pm. A dinner is being arranged following the service. If you wish to attend the dinner, you must RSVP in advance to rector@stgeorgesschenectady.org

Our **Lent Study** this year will be an introduction to the life and contemplative writings of the late Trappist Monk, Thomas Merton. The focus will be a brief overview of his life, his major works and teachings. We will then explore the relevancy of his teachings as they help develop a contemplative lifestyle in the midst of our anxious, complicated world. The group, which will be hosted and led by David and Cheryl Olsen, will meet at 6.30pm four Wednesday evenings: February 21 February 28 and then March 13 and March 20. To register and for further details, call the office.

Community and Diocesan Events

Consecration Fr Jeremiah Williamson will be ordained a Bishop in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, and seated as Tenth Bishop of Albany at All Saints' Cathedral, Albany, on Saturday 24 February at 11am. If you're interested in attending, please speak to Fr Wallace.

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. Laundry detergent, dishwasher detergent
- ◆ Canned Foods including those low in salt, fat & sugar and gluten free.
- ◆ 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.

Please leave donated items *in the box by the side door entrance* of the church. Thank you!

Daily Prayers—beginning Monday 19 February

Invocation: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Opening Prayers *(said daily)*

Almighty God, whose Son, Jesus Christ, was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and as you know our weaknesses, let us find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading:

Monday:	James 1.1-15
Tuesday:	Matthew 26.36-46
Wednesday:	1 Timothy 6.3-10
Thursday:	Galatians 6.1-5
Friday:	Hebrews 2.14-18
Saturday:	1 Corinthians 10.12-13

After the reading, a period of silence may be kept.

Prayers

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.

Almighty God, whose dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.



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 _____

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