

# Bethesda Episcopal Church

**The Third Sunday in Lent**

**3 March 2024**

**Organ** Toccata in E Minor

*Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)*

**The Entrance Hymn #372**

*From the Hymnal 1982*

**The Opening Acclamation**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

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

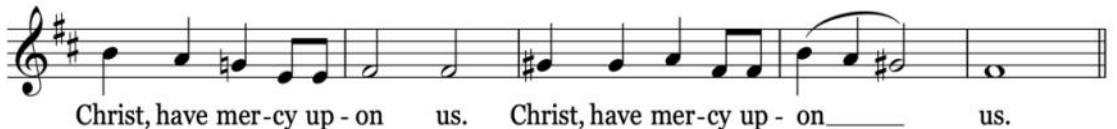
Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

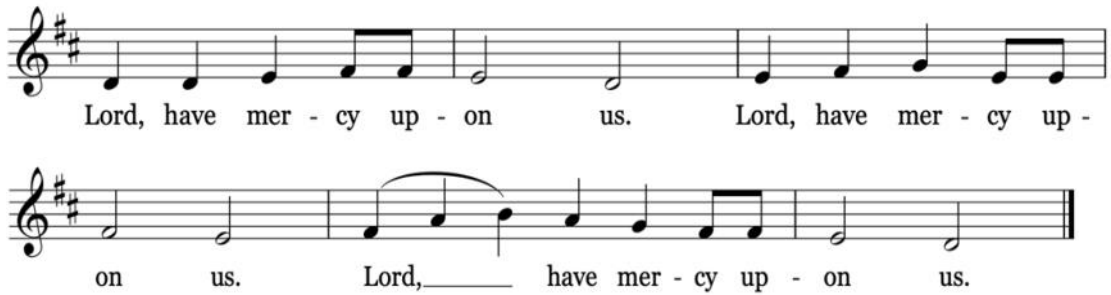
**The Summary of the Law**

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**





*Remain standing.*

***The Collect of The Day***

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

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves; Keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*All sit.*

***The Lesson***

*1 Corinthians 1:18-25*

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

<i>The Lector concludes</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>The People respond</i>	<b>Thanks be to God.</b>

*All stand.*

***The Gradual Hymn #697***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

*Remain standing.*

## ***The Holy Gospel***

*John 2.13-22*

*Celebrant  
People*

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

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

*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 Church of The Province of Uganda; and in our diocese, for our bishop, Jeremiah, and the clergy and staff of All Saints' Cathedral, Albany.

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 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 at this time for Paul, Sonia, Robert, Jerilyn, Mal, Kristie, Doris, Mary Anne, and Pat. 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, especially Tim and Brant. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

*The Celebrant says the concluding prayer.*

Give us, O Lord, a steadfast heart, which no unworthy affection may drag downwards; give us an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear out; give us an upright heart, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace you; 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***

<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 #149***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

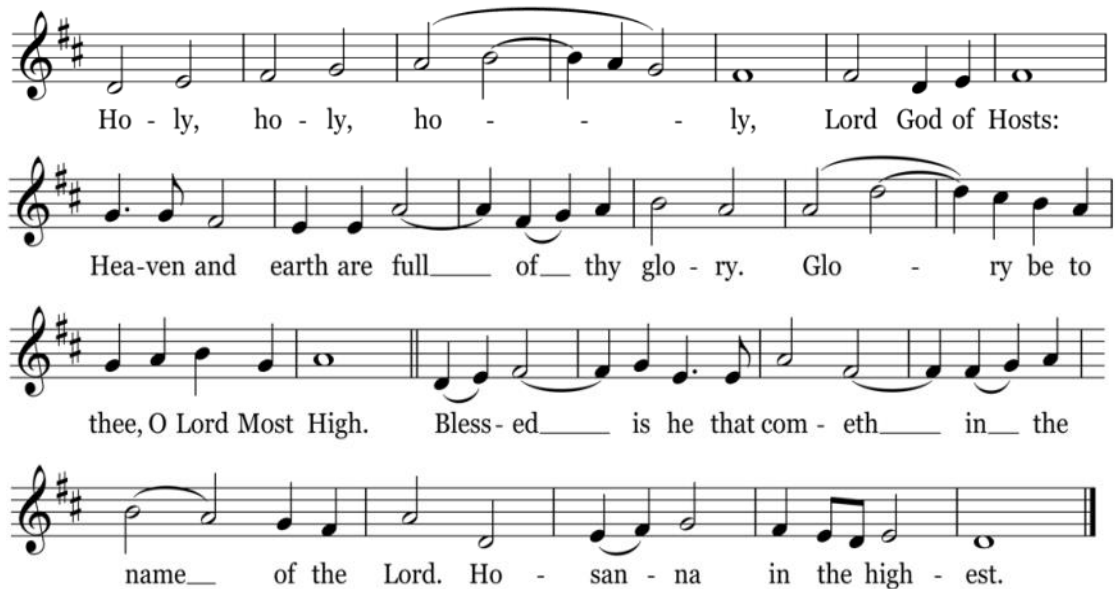
*Remain standing*

***The Eucharistic Prayer***

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	<b>And with thy spirit.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	<b>We lift them up unto the Lord.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
<i>People</i>	<b>It is meet and right so to do.</b>

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  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*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 Mass in D

Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)

*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:** Jesu, Grant Me This I Pray

Percy Whitlock (1903-1946)

*Jesu, grant me this, I pray,  
Ever in thy heart to stay;  
Let me evermore abide  
Hidden in thy wounded side.*

*If the world or Satan lay  
Tempting snares about my way,  
I am safe when I abide  
In thy heart and wounded side.*

*If the flesh, more dangerous still,  
Tempt my soul to deeds of ill,  
Naught I fear when I abide  
In thy heart and wounded side.*

*Death will come one day to me;  
Jesu, cast me not from thee:  
Dying let me still abide  
In thy heart and wounded side.*

*17th c Latin Hymn translated by Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877)*

**Organ:** Lentamente, from Vocalise

Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)

*After Communion, all kneel.*

**The Post Communion Prayer** Said by all.

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*      Let us bless the Lord.  
*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as the choir and ministers depart.*

## ***The Closing Hymn #524***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

**Organ**      Grand Jeu

*Jean Adam Guilain (1680-1739)*

## **Notices**

**Welcome!** If you are new to Bethesda and interested in further information about our parish community, please complete the form on the back of this bulletin and drop it into a collection plate or hand it to an usher.

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

8am Mary Withington      10am Katie Hooper & Daniel Beach

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

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

Bethesda's special monthly envelope for **March** supports **LifeWorks Community Action**. Since 1965, Lifeworks has built a comprehensive network of programs and resources in Saratoga County to assist low-income families facing a variety of challenges, including health, housing, childcare, immigration and legal services.

**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.

**Midweek Communion** A midweek service (Communion or Midday Prayers) is held on Thursdays at 12.10pm. Our next Communion service is 7 March.

**Stations of the Cross.** There will be a service of Stations of the Cross on Thursday, 7th March at 7pm. The service lasts approximately half an hour. The Stations of the Cross are an exercise in following Christ in the last few hours of his earthly life through his passion and death as we contemplate the love our Savior showed for us, revealed in the incidents that characterised his journey to the Cross and tomb.

Our next **Parish Work Day** to tidy the church before Holy Week and Easter is planned for Saturday 16 March at 9am. Please join us!

## **Community and Diocesan Events**

**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

**Passiontide Lessons and Carols** On Sunday, 24 March, the Cathedral Choir of All Saints', Albany, presents a service of lessons and carols on the Passion of Christ. The service begins at 3.00pm, and is preceded by an organ recital at 2.30pm. The Cathedral is located at 62 South Swan Street, Albany.

### **Daily Prayers—beginning Monday 4 March**

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

**Opening Prayer** (*said daily*)

O Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing; Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Reading:**

<b>Monday:</b>	Ephesians 1.1-23
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Mark 2.1-15
<b>Wednesday:</b>	1 John 1.1-15
<b>Thursday:</b>	Matthew 3.1-17
<b>Friday:</b>	Luke 19.1-10
<b>Saturday:</b>	John 20.19-24

*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, give us grace to bear witness to your Son, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by following you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ 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.



## Holy Week Offerings

Bethesda offers the opportunity to purchase palms for Palm Sunday as well as flowers for Easter Sunday. If this is something that you would like to do, please complete this form and return it to the church office. You can place the completed form in the offering plate or mail it to the office at 178 Elm Street, Suite 5, Saratoga Springs.

I would like to contribute towards the following:

- \_\_\_ Palms (Fans and Fronds) \$20
- \_\_\_ Maundy Thursday (Altar of Repose, white flowers) \$25 each
- \_\_\_ Easter Flowers (Lilies, Hyacinths, etc) \$25 each

Given By:

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In Honor of:

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In Memory of:

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**Please return to the church office before March 22, 2024:**

Bethesda Episcopal Church Office  
178 Elm St. Suite 5  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866





***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 \_\_\_\_\_

*Fr Charles Wallace, Priest-in-Charge*

Email: [office@bethesdachurch.org](mailto:office@bethesdachurch.org)  
Office Telephone: (518) 584-5980

Website: [bethesdachurch.org](http://bethesdachurch.org)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bethesdaepiscopalchurch>

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