

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

17 March 2024

Organ Mountain Spiritual, based on a Kentucky Folk Song *Maurice Whitney (1909-1984)*

The Entrance Hymn #674

From the Hymnal 1982

The Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity

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

Healey Willan (1880-1968)



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.

O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men: Grant unto thy people that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

The Lesson

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Lector concludes The Word of the Lord.
The People respond **Thanks be to God.**

All stand.

The Gradual Hymn #685

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

John 12:20-33

*Celebrant
People*

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

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

*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 in Wales; and in our diocese, for our bishop, Jeremiah.

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, saying, **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 Penny, Jesse, Sonia, Jerilyn, Pat, Jamie, Lyle, Sally, Leslie, Bruce and Kevin. 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. Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord:
And let light perpetual shine upon them.

The Celebrant says

Heavenly Father, who by the cross and passion of thy Son, Jesus Christ, didst save and deliver us: Keep us, we beseech thee, steadfast in faith, and enable us no longer to live unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again, even the same, 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 #699

From the Hymnal 1982

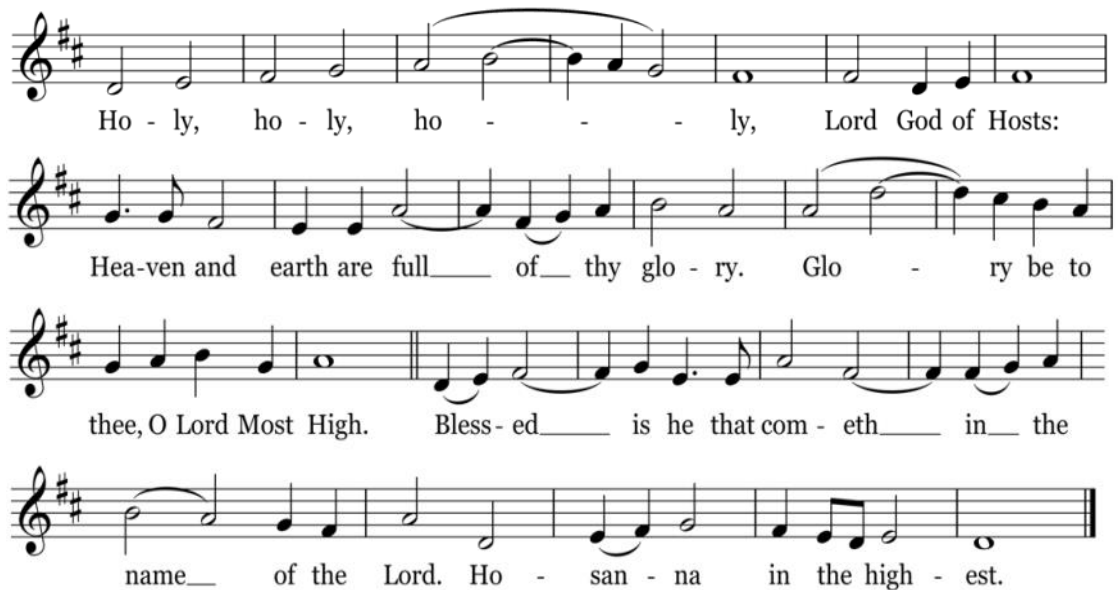
Remain standing

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. Who dost bid thy faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by thy Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which thou hast prepared for those who love thee.

Sanctus and Benedictus Qui Venit Sung by all, Healey Willan (1880-1968)



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 the Phrygian Mode

Charles Wood (1866-1926)

*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.

Music during Communion

Choir: In Monte Oliveti Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)

In Monte Oliveti oravit ad Patrem: Pater, si fieri potest, transeat a me calix iste. Fiat voluntas tua.

On the Mount of Olives, he prayed to the Father: Father, if it be possible, Let this cup pass from me. Thy will be done. (Text: Matthew 26: 39)

Choir: Christus Factus Est Giovanni Francesco Anerio (1567-1630)

Christus factus est pro nobis obediens usque ad mortem, mortem autem crucis. Propter quod et Deus exaltavit illum et dedit illi nomen quod est super omne nomen.

Christ became obedient for us unto death, even unto death on the cross. Therefore God has exalted him, and given him a name which is above all names. (Text: Philippians 2: 8-9)

Organ: Meditation on 'Aberystwyth' Whitney

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.**

All stand.

The Closing Hymn #473

From the Hymnal 1982

Organ Vivace, from *Sonata I*

Whitney

Today at Bethesda

Welcome to all, especially to newcomers. 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.

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

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

Thanks to all who **volunteered yesterday** to clean and tidy the church ahead of Holy Week and Easter.

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. Please note that there will be no refreshments on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. If you are able to provide refreshments in the weeks after Easter, please sign your name on the sheet in the narthex.

Members of **Vestry** will meet today following the 10am service.

Midweek Communion A midweek service (Communion or Midday Prayers) is held on Thursdays at 12.10pm. Our next Communion service is 21 March.

Wednesday in Holy Week. There will be a service of **Stations of the Cross** this Wednesday, 27th 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.

Maundy Thursday The church will be open for private prayer on Maundy Thursday between 8pm - 10pm, and on Good Friday between 10am - 12 noon. There is a sign-up sheet at the door. If you wish to keep vigil, please sign up for a particular period (each slot is 30 minutes) so that we have at least two persons present at all times.

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.

Next 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 18 March

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

Opening Prayer (*said daily*)

O God, help us to see ourselves in the light of your holiness, that we may turn from sin, receive your grace and forgiveness, and learn to love and serve you with our whole heart; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading:

Monday: Genesis 1
Tuesday: Ezekiel 36:22–32
Wednesday: Micah 5:5–8
Thursday: John 14:15–25
Friday: Colossians 3:1–17
Saturday: Philippians 2:1–14

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.

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. 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: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Please return to the church office before this FRIDAY March 22:

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



Holy Week and Easter Services 2024

Wednesday, 27 March	7pm Stations of the Cross
Thursday, 28 March	12:10pm Holy Communion 7pm Maundy Thursday Liturgy <i>The church remains open until 10pm for private prayer</i>
Friday, 29 March	<i>The church opens at 10am for private prayer</i> 12pm Liturgy for Good Friday
Sunday, 31 March	Easter Day 8am Holy Communion & 10am Sung Eucharist
Sunday, 7 April	The Sunday after Easter 8am Holy Communion 10am Lessons and Music for Eastertide

Please place this form in the collection plate if you would like us to get in touch with you:

Name(s):

Phone:

Email address:

Home address:

Preferred contact method:

Contact Reason(s):

- Visitor or new resident
- Would like more information about the church and/or worship
- Interested in opportunities to serve
- Would like to speak with or have a visit from the priest
- Would like information about pledge envelopes or regular giving to Bethesda
- Other _____

Fr Charles Wallace, Priest-in-Charge

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

Website: bethesdachurch.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bethesdaepiscopalchurch>

Bethesda Episcopal Church Office
178 Elm Street, Suite 5