

## **Bethesda Episcopal Church**

**Michaelmas: At 8am Holy Communion**

**29 September 2024**

*The service order is printed on the laminated card.*

### **The Collect**

Let us pray. O everlasting God, who hast ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and men in a wonderful order: Mercifully grant that, as thy holy angels always serve and worship thee in heaven, so by thy appointment they may help and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

### **The Reading**

*Genesis 28:10-17*

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

V. The Word of the Lord.

R. **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Holy Gospel**

*John 1.47-51*

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

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

V. The Gospel of the Lord.

R. **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

### **The Prayers of the People**

*Printed in the black prayer book, p.329*

V. Lord, in thy mercy.

R. **Hear our prayer**

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

*Printed in the black prayer book, p.333*

### **Today's Feast: St Michael and All Angels (Michaelmas)**

The biblical word "angel", from the Greek, *angelos*, means "messenger." Messengers from God can be visible or invisible, and may assume human or non-human forms. Christians have always felt themselves to be attended by helpful spirits which are often depicted in human form, with wings to signify their swiftness; with swords to signify their power; and with dazzling raiment to signify their ability to enlighten. Of the many angels spoken of in the Bible, only four are called by name: Michael, Gabriel, Uriel, and Raphael. The Archangel Michael is the powerful agent of

God who wards off evil from God's people, and delivers peace to them at the end of this life's mortal struggle. *Michaelmas*—"Michael's mass" has long been one of the popular celebrations of the Christian Year. Michael is the patron saint of countless churches and holy sites, including Mont Saint-Michel, a monastery fortress off the coast of Normandy that figured so prominently in medieval English history, (*1066 and all that...!*); and Coventry Cathedral, England's most famous modern church building, rising from the ashes of WWII.

### Notices

**September's Monthly Envelope** supports the work of *Habitat for Humanity*.

**Midweek Communion** begins this Thursday, at 12.10pm. In honor of St Francis, there will be blessing of animals at the conclusion of this week's service. All welcome—including pets!

**Spiritual Autobiography Group** This group, which will meet on Mondays for four weeks, draws on the writings of C.S. Lewis and Fredrick Buechner in order to explore our own spiritual journeys. Our first meeting is tomorrow, September 30th. To register, email the office.

**Legs Misérables**, the parish hiking/walking club, will meet Thursday 10th October at 2.15pm in Round Lake (Zim Smith trail) Guided tour/walk through Greenridge Cemetery on Sunday afternoon, 20 October (note change of date; time TBD). To register, email the office.

**Bible Study: St Mark** Bethesda parishioners are invited to participate in a four-week study of the Gospel of Mark beginning Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 3.30pm. Mark's Gospel is the shortest among the four accounts and has often been overlooked throughout church history; however, one should not be fooled by its brevity or obscurity. Mark's account has rightfully earned the nickname "The Lion Gospel" because it is a swift and powerful account of Christ's life. Mark's rapid narrative is filled with suspense and relatable characters, which masterfully point to the Messiah. The course will be led by Jonathan Kimmel. Jon serves as Director of Christian Formation at the Cathedral of All Saints; and is a candidate for holy orders in the Albany diocese. To register for the Bible study, contact: [office@bethesdachurch.org](mailto:office@bethesdachurch.org)

**Two November Concerts** On Friday, 1st November at 7:30pm Bethesda welcomes Musicians of Ma'alwyck for *Mayhem and Madness*, a program offering music from quirky eighteenth and nineteenth-century composers related to the chaotic titular theme. To purchase tickets, contact [www.musiciansofmaalwyck.org](http://www.musiciansofmaalwyck.org). Then, on Monday 4th at 7pm, Bethesda hosts an *organ recital*, featuring music of J.S. Bach.

**Bethesda Book Club** meets 5 December at 5.30pm to discuss the novel, *People of the Book*, by Pulitzer Prize winning author, Geraldine Brooks. To register, contact the office at the email below.

The **parish office** is open Tuesdays and Wednesday, from 10–12.30pm.

**Building Update** As the scaffolding along the bell tower bears witness, this month, the needed stone masonry repairs to the Bethesda Church building have begun. These repairs include repointing and resetting stone at the bottom of a buttress on the east side of the building, rebuilding and repointing the bottom six courses of stone at the base of a buttress on the west side of the building and restoration of the back-up wall beneath eight courses of veneer stone to address and correct a bulge in the bell tower edifice. The mason contractor and the church's architect are working together to ensure that all work is done in a manner consistent with the historic character of the church building. It is expected that all work will be completed by the end of October.

A copy of the parish **Financial Report** (YTD August) is available on the back table.

**Bethesda Episcopal Church**  
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