

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany: Sexagesima

23 February 2025

8.00 Holy Communion

*At 8am, the order of service is printed on the laminated card.
The Reading, Gospel, and Prayers of the People can be found below.*

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Organ Diapason Movement and Siciliana

John Alcock (1715-1806)

All stand as the choir and ministers enter.

The Processional Hymn #448

From the Hymnal 1982

The Acclamation and Collect for Purity

***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

Celebrant
People

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray. O Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth: Send thy Holy Ghost and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee. Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

The First Reading

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there--since there are five more years of famine to come--so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'" And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

Remain seated.

The Gradual: Psalm 37.1-6

Tone 1.4



- 1 DO NOT fret yourself because of evil-do-ers; *do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
- 2 **For they shall soon wither like the grass, ***
and like the green grass fade^a-way.
- 3 Put your trust in the LORD and do good; * dwell in the land and feed on its rich-es.
- 4 **Take delight in the LORD, ***
and he shall give you your heart's^de-sire.
- 5 Commit your way to the LORD and put your trust in him, * and he will bring it to pass.
- 6 **He will make your righteousness as clear as the light ***
and your just dealing as the noon-day.

The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50

A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

Someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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

All stand.

The Alleluia



Verse: Give ear to my words, O Lord; consider my meditation. (*Ps 5:1*)

All repeat: **Alleluia.**

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

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

Jesus said, "I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even

sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

Deacon Helene Patterson

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

We pray today for the Episcopal Church of Brazil; and in the Albany Diocese, for Jeremiah Williamson, our bishop, and all who minister to children and youth in our parishes, especially Roxanne, our Sunday School director.

We ask God's blessing on those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week; and those whose year's mind falls at this time. We also give thanks today for the baptism of Luca Goss and pray for his parents and sponsors.

Lord God, you sent your Son to bring good news to the poor, sight to the blind, freedom to the captives and salvation to your people: anoint us with your Spirit; rouse us to work in his name. Father, by your Spirit: **bring in your kingdom.**

Give comfort to the poor and freedom to the oppressed.
Father, by your Spirit: **bring in your kingdom.**

Send us to tell the world the good news of your healing love.
Father, by your Spirit: **bring in your kingdom.**

Help us to bring in your kingdom of mercy, justice, love and peace.
Father, by your Spirit: **bring in your kingdom.**

Give to all the departed, the riches of eternal life.
Father, by your Spirit: **bring in your kingdom.**

Let us commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of God, remembering especially at this time Robin, Lew, Fred, and Jerilyn.
Father, by your Spirit: **bring in your kingdom.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, giver of strength and joy: change, we beseech thee, our bondage into liberty, and the poverty of our nature into the riches of thy grace; that, by the transformation of our lives, thy glory may be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Confession and Absolution

Celebrant Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;**

**that we may delight in thy will,
and walk in thy ways,
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

The Celebrant says the Absolution.

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>	And with thy spirit.

Hymn at The Offertory #665

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing

The Eucharistic Prayer

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And with thy spirit.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them up unto the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
<i>People</i>	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. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, thou hast caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of thy glory in the face of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 Agnus Dei from “Missa Simplex”

Rihards Dubra (b. 1964)

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

*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 administered at the high altar. Please move at the direction of the ushers.

The Motet Ubi Caritas

Ola Gjello (b. 1978)

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exultemus, et in ipso jucundemur. Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincere.
Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor. Amen.

*Where charity and love are, God is there. The love of Christ has brought
us together. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Let us fear and love the living God.
And from a sincere heart, let us love one another.
Where charity and love are, God is there. Amen.*

(10th c. Antiphon)

The Hymn #593

From the Hymnal 1982

After Communion, all kneel.

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 #565

From the Hymnal 1982

Organ Psalm 19: The Heavens Declare

Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)

Notices

Welcome! Thank you for joining us this morning. If you are interested in becoming a member of Bethesda, introduce yourself to an usher or to Fr Wallace.

Thank you to those reading and leading prayers this morning:
8am Mary Withington 10am Bob Bullock and Libby Smith-Holmes

Please join us for **coffee** following the 10am service. If you are willing to host in February or March, please add your name to the rota in the narthex.

Members of Vestry will meet following today's 10am service.

The **Parish Office** is open this week: Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 to 1pm; and Thursday, 1 to 3pm.

Midweek Service There will be a celebration of Holy Communion this week on Thursday at 12.10pm. All welcome.

The **Bethesda Book Club** meets at the church this Thursday, 27th February at 5pm to discuss *People of the Book*. If you have not already registered and wish to join the group, please contact: office@bethesdachurch.org

Ash Wednesday is a next Wednesday, 5th March. It is one of the two days (along with Good Friday) when Christians are encouraged to abstain (avoiding certain foods/drink) or fast (reducing food intake) as a sign of penitence and commitment. At the Eucharist, we will receive the sign of the cross in ashes as we mark out this season to 'return to the Lord'. I hope you can attend one of the services: **12.10pm and 7pm.**

Lent Course: *The Seven Deadly Sins*. What are the seven deadly sins? Are the deadly sins, or capital vices, merely outdated concepts unfit for our modern world? Or are they still relevant for today's spirituality? In addition to exploring the deadly sins' historical development and spiritual purpose, this study will also examine the life-giving virtues that point us to Jesus Christ, the virtuous medicine that heals any sinful ailment. Classes will be held on the following Wednesday evenings: 12th March; 19th March; 2nd April; and 9th April. Further details to follow.

February's Special Monthly Envelope supports the Franklin Community Center. Located in downtown Saratoga Springs but serving all of Saratoga County, the Franklin Community Center has been providing 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.

Parking The lot adjacent to the church offers free parking for the first two hours. You will require a credit card to enter and exit the lot which is accessible via Congress Street.

From the Annual Parish Meeting on 9 February:

I. Bethesda Building and Grounds 2024-25

Masonry Work: Stone masonry repairs to the Bethesda Church building were completed in October. These repairs included 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 work was completed with the oversight of the Church's architect to ensure that all work was done in a manner consistent with the historic character of the Church building.

Steel Shoring: Due to extensive deterioration, thirteen support columns located in the extreme north end of the undercroft needed immediate replacement. This repair was completed in October by the installation of thirteen galvanized, adjustable steel shoring columns.

Fire Safety: In November, a new fire department connection (FDC) was installed to upgrade the connection to current standards. In December, a sprinkler inspection was performed and the system found in compliance.

Plumbing: In January, the sink in the lavatory off the narthex was replaced. The sacristy sink faucet was also repaired and upgraded by the installation of ball valve in the water supply line to the sink.

Northeast Side Door Hardware Repair: Replacement of the door hardware is scheduled for February 12th.

Fencing Around the Perimeter of the West Side Lot: The Church's architect is reviewing the City's Historic Preservation Design Guidelines and will provide us with some options.

Future Matters: Removal of sidewalk slabs and regrading on the east side of the Church. Clean out of the undercroft.

II. Elections

Richard Wissler elected Junior Warden.
Holly Sofarelli and Marcia MacDonald elected members of Vestry.
Charles Maze and Lynne Priestley elected delegates to Diocesan Convention.

III. Financials

See the following page. The 2025 budget was approved.

Operational* Performance Full Year 2024

Expenses:	Actual	B/(W) Budg
Rector (incl Rectory)	\$ 129,338	\$ 4,229
Building and Programs	49,875	61
Office/Employees/fees	53,692	(1,120)
Diocese	55,440	-
Total Expense	\$ 288,345	\$ 3,170

Income

Pledge and Plate	\$ 297,273	\$ 15,549
Other unrestricted	1,210	210
Divs, Distributions and Int	20,994	3,717
Total Income	\$ 319,476	\$ 19,476

Net Income	\$ 31,131	\$ 22,646
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*Excludes items funded by special/designated giving

2025 Proposed Budget

Expenses:	Budget
Rector (incl Rectory)	\$ 140,490
Building and Programs	58,503
Office/Employee/fees	51973
Diocese	54126
Total Expense	\$ 305,093

Income:

Pledge and Plate	\$ 305,180
Dividends & distribution	22,359
Total Income	\$ 327,538
Net Income	\$ 22,446