

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany: Quinquagesima

2 March 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 Méditation

Gabriel Dupont (1878-1914)

All stand as the choir and ministers enter.

The Opening Hymn #137

From the Hymnal 1982

The Celebrant says

*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 God, who before the passion of thy only-begotten Son didst reveal his glory upon the holy mount: Grant unto us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

The First Reading

Exodus 34:29-35

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Remain seated. The congregation is invited to sing the verses in **bold** print.*

The Gradual: *Psalm 99*

Tone IV.4



- 1 THE LORD is King; let the peo-ple trem-ble; * he is enthroned upon the cheru-
bim; let the eārth shake.
- 2 The LORD is great in Zi-on; * he is high a-bove all peo-ples.
- 3 **Let them confess his Name, which is great and awe-some; * he is the Ho-ly One.**
- 4 "O mighty King, lover of justice, you have es-tab-lished eq-ui-ty; *
you have executed justice and rich-teous-ness in Jacob."
- 5 **Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God and fall down be-fore his foot -stool; * he is the Ho-ly One.**
- 6 Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among those who call up-on his Name * they called upon the LORD, and he an-swered them.
- 7 **He spoke to them out of the pil-lar of cloud; *
they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave to them.**
- 8 O LORD our God, you answered them in-deed; *
you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their e-vil deeds.

9 Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God and worship him upon his ho-ly hill; * for the LORD our God is the Ho-ly One.

The Second Reading

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

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

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All stand.

The Alleluia

Tone V



Verse: He is the brightness of the everlasting light, the unspotted mirror of the power of God; and the image of his goodness. (*Wisdom 7:26*)

All repeat: **Alleluia.**

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 9:28-36

*Celebrant
People*

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

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings,

one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"--not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

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

In our prayers for the Anglican Communion, we remember this week the Church of the Province of Burundi; and in the Albany Diocese, our bishop, Jeremiah Williamson, and our parish altar guilds.

We ask God's blessing on those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week; and whose year's mind falls at this time.

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 Robert Nedwick, 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, greet those around you in the name of the Lord.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**

Hymn at The Offertory #135

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. 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,

The Sanctus and Benedictus

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, 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

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 Brevis in E-flat

Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)

*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 Eternal Light

Leo Sowerby (1895-1968)

Eternal Light, shine into our hearts. Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil. Eternal Power, be our support. Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance. Eternal Pity, have mercy upon us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Communion Hymn #129

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 #122 (Tune: #559 Dulce Carmen)

From the Hymnal 1982

Organ

Allegro

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Today at Bethesda

Welcome to Bethesda! Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. If you are interested in joining the parish, introduce yourself to Fr Wallace or complete the form on page 12.

Thank you to those reading and leading prayers this morning:

8am Lynne Priestley

10 am Peter Brooks & Darren Miller

Please join us for **refreshments** following the 10am service. Hosts for March needed!

Ash Wednesday is this week, 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'. Services are at **12.10pm and 7pm.** 9

There will be a service of **Holy Communion** this week on Thursday at 12.10pm.

The **Parish Office** is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 10-1pm; and Thursday, 2—4pm.

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. **On 12 March, we will meet at Christ Church, Ballston Spa.** Please **RSVP** to office@bethesdachurch.org or 518.584.5980, if you plan to attend.

Special Monthly Envelope 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.

Keeping Lent during the week...

Beginning this week, a short service with prayers and daily readings will be printed in the Sunday bulletin. On the **weekdays following Ash Wednesday**, the selected readings focus on Creation and "The Fall." According to the book of *Genesis*, when God acts, he first creates the light. This light dispels the void of emptiness and formlessness and brings creation into being. God later creates two great sources of light which organise time and the seasons and make human life possible. This light will be fulfilled in the light of Christ which transforms, enhances, and restores human life.

God creates man and woman in his image and God places them in a garden where they will have fellowship with him and all they need. Man and woman, however, are tempted, and they succumb to temptation and disobey God's one command. By disobedience they alienate themselves from God, and by that alienation are expelled from the garden into the world where toil, frustration, and mortality will be theirs.

A Liturgy for use at home on **Thursday, Friday and Saturday this week:**

*Begin with the **Invocation** and the **Collect** for Ash Wednesday.*

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading	Thursday:	Genesis 1:1–24
	Friday:	Genesis 1:26–2:3
	Saturday:	Genesis 3:1–24

*Each day, after the reading, recite the following verses of **Psalm 104**.*

O Lord, how manifold are your works! * in wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

There is the great and wide sea with its living things too many to number, * creatures both small and great.

There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan, * which you have made for the sport of it.

All of them look to you * to give them their food in due season.

You give it to them; they gather it; * you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

Then you hide your face, and they are terrified; * you take away their breath, and they die and return to their dust.

You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; * and so you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever; * may the Lord rejoice in all his works.

He looks at the earth and it trembles; * he touches the mountains, and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; * I will praise my God while I have my being.

May these words of mine please him; * I will rejoice in the Lord.

After a period of silence, there follows,

A Prayer Be thou, O God, a bright flame before me; a guiding star above me; a smooth path below me; and a kindly shepherd behind me, today, tonight, and forever. Amen.

(St Columba of Iona, 6th c.)

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 Grace 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.



A Lenten Litany of Fasting and Feasting

**Fast from judging others; feast on the Christ within them.
Fast from emphasis on differences; feast on the unity of life.
Fast from words that pollute; feast on phrases that purify.
Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.
Fast from anger; feast on patience.
Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.
Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.
Fast from negatives; feast on affirmatives.
Fast from unrelenting pressures; feast on unceasing prayer.
Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.
Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.
Fast from suspicion; feast on truth.
Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on promises that inspire.
Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.
Fast from instant gratifications; feast on self-denial.
Fast from worry; feast on divine order.
Finally, fast from sin; feast on the abundance of God's mercy.**

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

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Home address: _____

Preferred contact method: _____

Contact Reasons:

- ☐ 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 _____

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