

# Bethesda Episcopal Church

**The First Sunday in Lent**

**9 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**

'Aberystwyth'

*Maurice C. Whitney (1909-1984)*

*All stand as the choir and ministers enter.*

***The Entrance Hymn—printed below***

1 Lord Je - sus, think on me and purge a - way my sin:  
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, with man - ya care op - pressed;  
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;  
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,  
5 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that I may sing a - bove

from earth-born pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.  
let me thy lov - ing ser - vant be and taste thy prom - ised rest.  
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point thou the heaven - ly way.  
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share thy joy at last.  
to Fa - ther, Ho - ly Ghost, and thee the songs of praise and love.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene (365?-414); tr. Allen W. Chatfield (1808-1896).  
Music: William Daman (1540-1591), *Psalmes*, 1579, alt.

SM  
SOUTHWELL

*Remain standing.*

***The Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity***

***Celebrant  
People***

**Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
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***

*John Merbecke (1510-1585)*



*Remain standing.*

### ***The Collect of the Day***

**Celebrant**      The Lord be with you.  
**People**        **And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted of Satan: Make speed to help thy servants who are assaulted by manifold temptations; and, as thou knowest their several infirmities, let each one find thee mighty to save; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*All sit.*

### ***The First Reading***

*Deuteronomy 26:1-11*

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response

before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me." You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

***The Gradual Hymn #150***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

***The Holy Gospel***

*Luke 4:1-13*

*Celebrant  
People*

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

After his baptism, Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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 Canada; and in the Albany diocese, for our bishop, Jeremiah Williamson, and the parish of Christ Church, Ballston Spa.

We remember with thanksgiving those who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week and 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 those preparing for baptism and confirmation, and for their sponsors; 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, and in our parish, we remember

Robert, Fred, Jerilyn, Frank and Nancy. 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, remembering today, friends and family of John Bennett. Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Celebrant:* Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy, but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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.**

*Celebrant:* 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 Peace, you may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

### **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 #143**

*From the Hymnal 1982*

*Remain standing.*

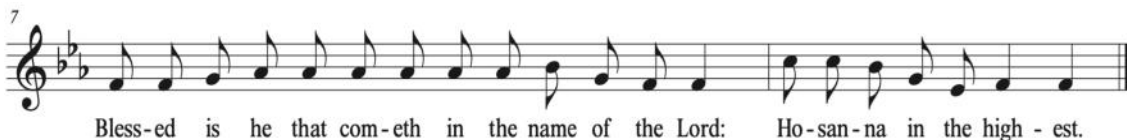
### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

<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,

### **The Sanctus and Benedictus**

*John Merbecke (1510-1585)*



*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 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*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

## ***The 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 the Communion Service

*John Merbecke (1510-1585)*

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

## ***During Communion***

***Motet:*** Almighty and Everlasting God

*Thomas Tomkins (1572-1656)*

Almighty and everlasting God, which hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of them that be penitent, create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of Thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(Text: Book of Common Prayer, 1549)*

## ***Hymn #658***

*After Communion, all kneel.*

***The Post-Communion Prayer***      *Said by the Celebrant.*

Let us pray. O Lord and heavenly Father, who has given unto thy people the true bread which comes down from heaven, even thy Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that throughout this Lent, our souls may so be fed by him, that we may continually live in him and he in us; and that day by day, we may be renewed in spirit by the power of his endless life; who gave himself for us, and now lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **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.**

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

*All stand.*

## ***The Closing Hymn #684***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

***Organ***

Vivace, from Organ Sonata I in F Minor

*Maurice C. Whitney (1909-1984)*



## **Notices**

**Welcome to Bethesda Church!** 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 at services today:  
8am Sonia Arcelay      10am Katie Hooper & Mary Shartle

Please join us for **a cup of coffee** following the 10am service. Thanks to Marcia MacDonald for hosting today.

**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.

**Office** The parish office on Elm Street will be open this week from 10—1pm on Tuesday and Wednesday; and Thursday, 1-3pm.

## **Upcoming Services at Bethesda**

**Midweek Service in Lent** A midweek service is held on Thursdays in Lent at 12.10pm. Our next Communion service is 13 March.

**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; and on 19 March, at Bethesda.** Please be sure to RSVP to office@bethesdachurch.org or 518.584.5980.

**Stations of the Cross.** On Wednesday, 26 March and 16 April at 7pm, The Stations of the Cross, a series of meditations on the Passion, Crucifixion and death of Jesus, will be said in the church. All welcome.

## **Community and Diocesan Events**

**TODAY** the Choir of All Saints Cathedral will sing **Choral Evensong at 3pm**. The service is preceded by an organ recital at 2:30pm. The Cathedral is located at the corner of South Swan and Elk Streets, in the city of Albany.

**LifeWorks Community Action** is a non-profit established in 1965 that works to alleviate poverty by assisting local families and individuals with a wide range of services. Bethesda is currently collecting the following items on behalf of **LifeWorks**:

- ◆ Canned Foods including those low in salt, fat & sugar and gluten free.
- ◆ Diapers (size 4 & 5), baby wipes, and baby care products: shampoo and soap.
- ◆ Adult personal hygiene products: soap, toothpaste/brushes, shampoo, razors, shaving cream, deodorant.

You may leave donated items in the box by the side door entrance. Thank you!

## **Daily Prayer in Lent — beginning *Monday 10 March***

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

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

Almighty God, whose Son, Jesus Christ, was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and as you know our weaknesses, let us find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### ***Readings***

Monday	Genesis 18.1-14
Tuesday	Genesis 14.13-19
Wednesday	Leviticus 7.11-15
Thursday	Exodus 25.23-30
Friday	1 Kings 7.48-51
Saturday	Hebrews 7.1-4, 15-8.2

*After the reading each day, silence may be kept for a time; then read Psalm 51.1-13.*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; \* in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness \* and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, \* and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned \* and done what is evil in your sight.

And so you are justified when you speak \* and upright in your judgement.

Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, \* a sinner from my mother's womb.

For behold, you look for truth deep within me, \* and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \* wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

Make me hear of joy and gladness, \* that the body you have broken may rejoice. Hide your face from my sins \* and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, \* and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence \* and take not your holy Spirit from me.

Give me the joy of your saving help again \* and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

### ***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, whose dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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.

### ***“To Keep a True Lent”***

*Robert Herrick (1591-1674) was an English poet and Anglican clergyman who lived during a time of enormous religious strife and bloodshed. He survived the English Civil War, a multi-layered conflict that pitted Puritan Protestants against royalist Anglicans. At the time, Herrick was vicar of Dean Prior in Devonshire. He was removed from his parish for refusing to sign an oath supporting the imposition of Puritan government and religion on England and renouncing anything resembling "papism."*

*The English Civil War had one silver lining. It brought forth a generation of poets and prose writers the likes of which have seldom been matched. Written in 1648, Herrick's poem, "To Keep a True Lent", is about the deeper meaning and practice of this 40-day season of preparation for Easter.*

**Is this a Fast, to keep  
The Larder lean?  
And clean  
From fat of veals and sheep?**

**Is it to quit the dish  
Of flesh, yet still  
To fill  
The platter high with fish?**

**Is it to fast an hour,  
Or ragged go,  
Or show  
A down-cast look and sour?**

**No: 'tis a Fast to dole  
Thy sheaf of wheat  
And meat  
Unto the hungry soul.**

**It is to fast from strife  
And old debate,  
And hate;  
To circumcise thy life.**

**To show a heart grief-rent;  
To starve thy sin,  
Not bin;  
And that's to keep thy Lent.**



***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 Reason:*

- ☐ 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, Rector*

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