

# Bethesda Episcopal Church

**The Fourth Sunday in Lent: *Laetare***

**30 March 2025**

## **8.00 Holy Communion**

*The Reading, Gospel, and Prayers of the People can be found below.*

## **10.00 Sung Eucharist**

**Organ** Chorale Prelude on "Herzlich tut mich verlangen" *J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*

*All stand as the choir and ministers enter.*

## ***The Entrance Hymn #379***

## ***The Opening Acclamation***

**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***

*John Merbecke (1510-1585)*



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

*Remain standing.*

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

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

Let us pray. Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*All sit.*

**The Reading**

*2 Corinthians 5:16-21*

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

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

**The Gradual Hymn #671**

**The Holy Gospel**

*Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*

*Celebrant  
People*

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

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So Jesus told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he

became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

***The Sermon***

*Fr Kriss*

*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 Episcopal Church of Sudan; and in our diocese, for our bishop, Jeremiah Williamson.

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.

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, remembering especially, Robert, Fred, Jerilyn, Frank, Nancy and Robin. 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. 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.

*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 Peace, you may greet those around you in the name of Christ.*

### ***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 #471***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

*Remain standing.*

### ***The Eucharistic Prayer***

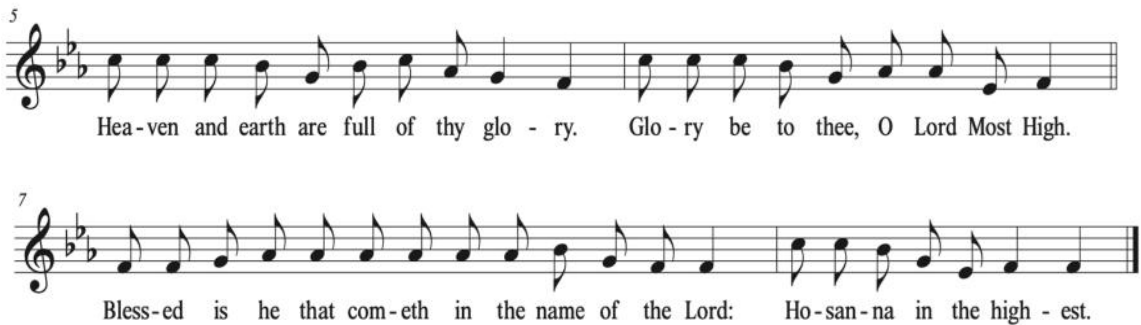
<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	<b>And with thy spirit.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	<b>We lift them up unto the Lord.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
<i>People</i>	<b>It is meet and right so to do.</b>

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,

***Sanctus and Benedictus Qui Venit***     *Sung by all, standing*

*Merbecke*





*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.**

### ***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***

<i>Celebrant</i>	Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
<i>People</i>	<b>Therefore let us keep the feast.</b>

*Remain kneeling.*

### ***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.**

***Agnus Dei*** from Missa Sancto Albano

*Healey Willan (1880-1968)*

*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.*

***Motet:*** Lord, Let Me Know Mine End

*Maurice Greene (1696-1755)*

Lord, let me know mine end and the number of my days,  
That I may be certified how long I have to live.  
Behold, thou hast made my days as it were a span long;  
And mine age is as nothing in respect of Thee,  
And verily, ev'ry man living is altogether vanity,  
For man walketh in a vain shadow and disquieteth himself in vain,  
He heapeth up riches and cannot tell who shall gather them.  
And now, Lord, what is my hope? Truly my hope is even in Thee.  
Hear my pray'r, O Lord and with Thy ears consider my calling,  
Hold not Thy peace at my tears!  
O spare me a little, that I may recover my strength before I go hence  
And be no more seen.

*Text: Ps 39: 4-7, 12-13*

## ***Hymn during Communion #635***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

*After Communion, all kneel.*

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

Let us pray. O Lord and heavenly Father, who has given unto us 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 #690***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

*Following the hymn, remain standing.*

### ***The Blessing of Simnel Cake***

Let us pray. Almighty God, giver of all joy: Receive at our hands this cake, that it may be to us a symbol of our communion with thee and with one another; as its flour was once scattered over our land as wheat and now is one, so let us be one in anticipation of thy gift of the new Jerusalem which, as thy redeemed people, is our joy, our hope, our destiny, and our home. Hear us, O Lord, through Jesus Christ thy Son, to whom with thee and the Holy Spirit be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Organ**      Prelude and Fugue in E Minor ("The Cathedral")      *J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*

## ***A Letter from the Rector and Wardens***

The owner of Bethesda's former rectory, at 23 Washington Street, no longer has a need for the building and has offered to gift it back to Bethesda. This offer includes moving the building to the vacant lot on the west side of the church. While not amenable to future use as a rectory, this building could readily be refurbished for use for parish functions, Sunday school and administrative offices.

At a meeting on March 23rd, the Vestry agreed to accept the gift of the former rectory. We look forward to sharing more information with the parish as this process unfolds.



## **Notices**

**Welcome to Bethesda Church!** Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. If you are interested in joining the parish, please speak to Fr Wallace at coffee hour.

**Thank you** to those reading and leading prayers at services today:  
8am Sonia Arcelay 10am Daniel Beach & John Van der Veer

**The Altar Flowers** for *Laetare* Sunday are given in loving memory of William Hugh Agee by his wife, Jane, and their children.

Please join us for **coffee and simnel cake** following the 10am service. Thank you to all our bakers!

A special **thank you** to Marge and Jerry Verrigni for donating paint and their time to freshen the appearance of the church restroom.

**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. Bethesda is also **collecting canned food** and personal hygiene products on behalf of LifeWorks. Please leave items in box by the side entrance.

**The Office** is open from 10–1pm Tuesday and Wednesday, and 1-3pm on Thursday.

**Forward Day by Day** Copies available for purchase on the back table for \$2 each.

**Midweek Communion**—Thursdays in Lent at 12.10pm.

**Lent Course** - this Wednesday at 6.30pm at Christ Church, Ballston Spa. A simple meal is provided from 6pm.

**A Spring Cleaning** of the church is planned for Saturday 5th April at 9am. All welcome!

**Stations of the Cross** - a series of meditations on the Passion, Crucifixion and death of Jesus, on Wednesday 16 April at 7pm.

## **Community and Diocesan Events**

**Meditation on the Cross of Christ** There will be a service of readings and choral music at 3pm on 6 April at All Saints' Cathedral, Albany. All welcome.

**Chrism Mass** The Bishop of Albany will celebrate, preach and bless oils at the annual Chrism Mass at All Saints' Cathedral at 6pm on Monday in Holy Week, 14 April. The Cathedral is located on the corner of South Swan and Elk Streets.

## **Daily Prayer in Lent — beginning Monday 31 March**

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

**Opening Prayer** Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### ***Reading***

Monday	1 Corinthians 11.23-32
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 10.14-21
Wednesday	Mark 14.1-25
Thursday	Matthew 26.6-29
Friday	Luke 22.1-23
Saturday	John 13.1-17

*After the reading each day, silence may be kept for a time; then read Psalm 116.*

I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, \* because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me; \* I came to grief and sorrow.

Then I called upon the name of the Lord: \* “O Lord, I pray you, save my life.”

Gracious is the Lord and righteous; \* our God is full of compassion.

The Lord watches over the innocent; \* I was brought very low, and he helped me.

Turn again to your rest, O my soul, \* for the Lord has treated you well.

For you have rescued my life from death, \* my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling. I will walk in the presence of the Lord \* in the land of the living.

I believed, even when I said, “I have been brought very low” \* In my distress I said, “No one can be trusted.”

How shall I repay the Lord \* for all the good things he has done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation \* and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord \* in the presence of all his people.

### ***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.

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.

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 & Easter 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 the address below.

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 April 11, 2025:**

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



### **Holy Week and Easter Services 2025**

<b>Palm Sunday</b> , 13 April	<b>8am</b>	Blessing of Palms and Holy Communion
	<b>10am</b>	Blessing of Palms and Sung Eucharist
Monday, 14 April	<b>6pm</b>	Chrism Mass at All Saints' Cathedral, Albany
Tuesday, 15 April	<b>12.10</b>	Holy Communion
Wednesday, 16 April	<b>7pm</b>	Stations of the Cross
Thursday, 17 April	<b>7pm</b>	Liturgy
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<i>The church remains open until 9.30pm for private prayer</i>	
Friday, 18 April	<i>The church opens at 11am for private prayer</i>	
<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>12.10</b>	Liturgy
Sunday, 20 April	<b>8am</b>	Holy Communion
<b>Easter Day</b>	<b>10am</b>	Procession and Sung Eucharist



The Prodigal Son, Rembrandt (1606-1669)