

# Bethesda Episcopal Church

**The Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**6 April 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 "Durch Adam's Fall ist ganz verderbt" J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

*All stand as the choir and ministers enter.*

**The Entrance Hymn #699**

*From the Hymnal 1982*

## **The Opening Acclamation**

**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)*



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**

**Celebrant  
People**

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

Let us pray. O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men: Grant unto thy people that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*All sit.*

***The First Reading***

*Isaiah 43:16-21*

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

***The Gradual Hymn #445***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

***The Holy Gospel***

*John 12:1-8*

*Celebrant  
People*

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

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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***

This week, in the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for the Anglican Church of Chile; and in our diocese, for our bishop, Jeremiah Williamson and the parish of St George's, Schenectady.

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 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, praying at this time for the repose of the soul of Robin. Lord, hear us.  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Celebrant:* O God, whose will it is to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. let the design of thy great love shine upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace to thy Church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts; 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, greet those around you in the name of the Lord.*

### **The Peace**

*Celebrant  
People*

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

### **Hymn at The Offertory #674**

*From the Hymnal 1982*

*Remain standing*

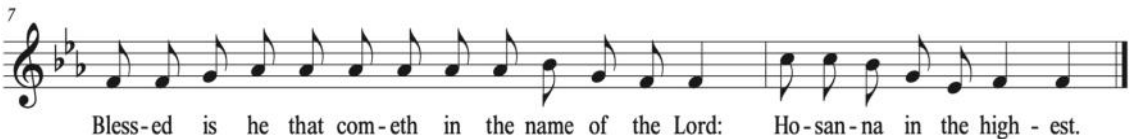
### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

*Celebrant  
People  
Celebrant  
People  
Celebrant  
People*

The Lord be with you.  
**And with thy spirit.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up unto the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.  
**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. 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*



*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 commanded and 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.**

*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.**

***The Agnus Dei*** from Mass in E Minor

*Harold Darke (1888-1976)*

*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 administered at the high altar. Please come forward at the direction of the usher.*

## ***During Communion***

***Motet:*** A Litany

*William Walton (1902-1983)*

Drop, drop, slow tears, and bathe those beauteous feet,  
Which brought from Heav'n the news and Prince of Peace.

Cease not, wet tears, his mercies to entreat;  
To cry for vengeance: sin doth never cease.

Drop, drop slow tears;  
In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears;  
Nor let His eye see sin, but through my tears.

*Text: Phineas Fletcher (1582-1650)*

## ***Hymn #693***

*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 #473***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

**Organ**

Toccata in D Minor

*Johann Jacob Froberger (1616-1667)*

## **Today at Bethesda**

**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 Bob Bullock

10am Katie Hooper & Darren Miller

Please join us for **a cup of coffee** following the 10am service. Thanks to Robyn and Violet Colonell for hosting today.

## **From Last Week: *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.

Thanks to all who turned out for yesterday's **Spring Cleaning!**

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

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

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

**Lent Course** - this Wednesday at 6.30pm at Bethesda. A simple meal is provided from 6pm.

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



**Bethesda Knitting.** Join us at 11.15am beginning Sunday, May 4th following the service. No experience necessary. This is an opportunity to learn a new skill, continue with a project or create something together while all in good company. For further information, email [office@bethesdachurch.org](mailto:office@bethesdachurch.org)

### **Community and Diocesan Events**

**Meditation on the Cross of Christ** There will be a service of readings and choral music this afternoon at 3pm 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.



Mary of Bethany Anoints Christ's Feet , 17th c. *Illuminated Manuscript*  
from the Walters Art Museum, Baltimore

*Today's Gospel from John 12.1-8, recounts a scandalous incident, when Mary of Bethany anoints the feet of Jesus with extravagantly expensive perfume and wipes them with her hair. In the similar incidents in the other gospels it is the intimacy on-lookers find so distasteful: no real prophet would allow himself to be touched by a 'sinful woman' in such a way. But in John's account, it's Judas who kicks up the fuss: 'couldn't the perfume be sold and the money given to the poor?' Even if Judas was after the cash for himself, it's a good question. To honour Christ with our all - our time, our resources and our money - in our worship is a good and beautiful thing, not a waste. But we also seek to honour him in the poor, in whom we see his face. And in this act of love, the Lord himself recognises a foreshowing of his coming death and burial, his Passion in which he will give his all for us.*

## **Daily Prayer in Lent — beginning Monday 7 April**

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

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

O Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people to love what you command, and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### ***Reading***

Monday	Luke 24.13-35
Tuesday	John 21.4-14
Wednesday	John 6.32-48
Thursday	John 6.49-51
Friday	John 6.52-59
Saturday	Revelation 19.6-9a

*After the reading each day, silence may be kept for a time; then read Psalm 126.*

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, \* then were we like those who dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \* and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, \* "The LORD has done great things for them."

The LORD has done great things for us, \* and we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, \* like the watercourses of the Negev.

Those who sowed with tears \* will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \* will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

### ***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.

Heavenly Father, who by the cross and passion of your Son Jesus Christ has saved and delivered us: keep us, we pray, steadfast in faith, and enable us no longer to live to ourselves, but to him who died for us and rose again, your Son, 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 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
Sunday, 27 April	<b>8am</b>	Holy Communion
<b>Sunday after Easter</b>	<b>10am</b>	Lessons and Carols for Easter <i>with Elizabeth Huntley, harp. Music sung by the Choir.</i>

***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*

Email: [office@bethesdachurch.org](mailto:office@bethesdachurch.org)  
Office Telephone: (518) 584-5980

Website: [bethesdachurch.org](http://bethesdachurch.org)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bethesdaepiscopalchurch>

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