

Bethesda Episcopal Church

Parish Barbeque at the MacVane Farm

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

28 September 2025

11.00am Sung Eucharist

All stand.

The Hymn We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing #433 Hymnal 1982

**We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to His name, He forgets not His own.**

**Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning:
the Lord was at our side- the glory be Thine!**

**We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant,
and pray that Thou still our defender wilt be.
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!**

The Celebrant says

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

**The Lord be with you.
And also with you.**

Remain standing. The Celebrant introduces the Confession. After a period of silence, the Celebrant begins,

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Celebrant says the Absolution.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered by your Holy Spirit into one, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

The Reading

1 Timothy 6:6-19

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to Timothy.

There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time-- he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

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

*Remain seated. The congregation says the verses in **bold**.*

The Gradual

Psalm 146.4-9

- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! * whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- 5 **Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; * who keeps his promise for ever;**
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, * and food to those who hunger.
- 7 **The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; * the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;**
- 8 The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger; * he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- 9 **The LORD shall reign for ever, * your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

All stand.

The Alleluia



Cantor: Your word, O Lord, is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
All: **Alleluia.**

The Holy Gospel

Luke 16.19-31

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

Jesus said, "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.'

But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here,

and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house-- for I have five brothers-- that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

All sit for the Sermon.

After the sermon, all stand.

The Prayers of the People

Let us give thanks to God our Father, always and for everything, saying, "*We thank you, Lord.*"

For the beauty and wonder of creation, **We thank you, Lord.**

For our daily food, for our homes and families and friends, **We thank you, Lord**

For our parish community, and for the unity and fellowship we share in Christ Jesus, **We thank you, Lord.**

For those to be baptised, received and confirmed, **We thank you, Lord.**

For minds to think and hearts to love, **We thank you, Lord.**

For health, strength, and skill to work, and for leisure to rest and play, **We thank you, Lord.**

For those who are brave and courageous, patient in suffering and faithful in adversity, **We thank you, Lord.**

For all who pursue peace, justice, and truth, **We thank you, Lord.**

For the angels and archangels who guard and protect us; and for all the saints, whose lives reflect the light of Christ, **We thank you, Lord.**

Celebrant: Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being. Guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

We are the Body of Christ. In the one spirit, we were all baptised into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace, and builds up our common life.

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

You may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Hymn

#304 in the Hymnal 1982

**I come with joy to meet my Lord,
forgiven, loved, and free,
in awe and wonder to recall
his life laid down for me.**

**I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread.**

**As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
That love that made us makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.**

**And thus with joy we meet our Lord.
His presence, always near,
is in such friendship better known:
we see, and praise him here.**

Remain standing. The Celebrant says the following Prayer.

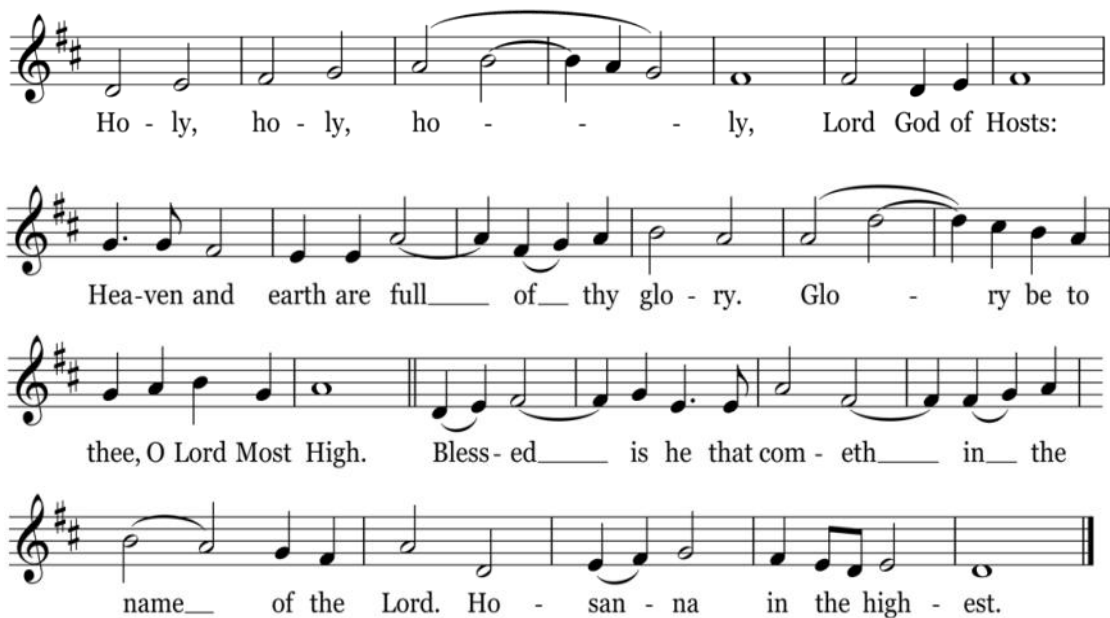
Let us pray. Eternal God, receive the offering of your people gathered before you, and make us worthy servants, strong to follow in the pattern of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues with the Preface.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior taught us, so we pray

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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

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

The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

The priest and people receive Communion. After Communion, all stand. The Celebrant first says

The Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. Almighty God, may we who have been strengthened by this eucharist remain in your steadfast love, and show forth in our lives the saving mystery that we celebrate. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

All say the following prayer.

**Almighty and ever-living God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father,
send us out to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing and Dismissal

The peace of God, which passes 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 Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

Hymn

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render, O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.**

Thank you to our wonderful hosts, David and Kimberly MacVane, and to the staff of Fred the Butcher, for their warm welcome and generous hospitality today.

Thank you to Fr Kriss for baking the bread for the Eucharist; and to all those who have assisted with preparations for today's picnic.

Thank you to Jonathan Kimmel, our preacher today, and to those reading and leading prayers at 10am: Chris Lyons and Peter Brooks.

The **Eucharistic Vestments** (chasuble and stole) worn at today's 10am service were originally a gift to the Reverend Warner C. White, from a Nigerian delegation visiting the diocese of Western Michigan in November 1986. Fr White, who was serving at that time as Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Marshall, Michigan, hosted the group. In 2022, Sumner Warner White, David Garfield White, Elizabeth White Sawyer, Andrew Cox White and Catherine White Berheide gave the vestments to Bethesda in memory of their parents, Phyllis and Warner.

Our **Special Monthly Envelope** in September supports *Mary's Haven*. Opened in 2003 and located in Saratoga Springs, Mary's Haven, is a residence serving persons with terminal illness who are within the last 3 months of their lives in a peaceful, loving and homelike environment, while supporting families and friends as they cope with the impending loss of a loved one.

The **office** will be open this week on Tuesday and Wednesday morning, and Thursday afternoon.

NEXT SATURDAY: Church Cleaning Volunteers needed to assist with the church interior and grounds on Saturday, 4 October, from 9-11am.

NEXT SUNDAY: Jeremiah Williamson, Bishop of Albany, will visit Bethesda on Sunday 5 October. He will preach and celebrate at both services.