

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

16 November 2025

8.00 Holy Communion

*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

Intermezzo (Founded upon an Irish Air)

C.V. Stanford (1852-1924)

All stand as the choir and ministers enter.

The Opening Hymn #11

From the Hymnal 1982

At the altar, the Celebrant says

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

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

Let us pray. Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them; that, by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

The First Reading

Malachi 4.1-2a

A reading from the Book of Malachi.

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

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

Remain seated.

The Gradual: Psalm 98

Tone I.4



1 SING TO the LORD a new song. * for he has done mar-ve-lous things.

2 **With his right hand and his ho-ly arm** * **has he won for him-self the vic-tory.**

3 The LORD has made known his vic-to-ry; * his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the na-tions.

4 **He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Is-ra-el,** * **and all the ends of the earth have seen the victo-ry of our God.**

5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; * lift up your voice, re-joyce and sing.

6 **Sing to the LORD with the harp,** * **with the harp and the voice of song.**

7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn * shout with joy be-fore the King, the LORD.

8 **Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,** * **the lands and those who dwell therein.**

9 Let the rivers clap their hands, * and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, when he comes to judge the earth.

10 **In righteousness shall he judge the world** * **and the peo-ples with equi-ty.**

The Second Reading

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

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

All stand.

The Alleluia

Tone V



Verse: Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord; Lord hear my voice.
Alleluia.

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 21.5-19

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

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls."

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

The Sermon

Jonathan Kimmel

All stand.

The Nicene Creed

**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 Church this week, we remember the Anglican Province of Alexandria in North Africa; and in the Albany Diocese, our bishop, Jeremiah, and parishes in the search process; and we give thanks for the ministry of Fr Bill Hinrichs, the diocesan deployment officer. We ask God's blessing on those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week; and those whose year's mind falls at this time.

In peace we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for all those who are alone.

For this community, our country, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth.

For all bishops, clergy and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

We pray for our own needs and those of others.

For Holly, Candance, Andrea, Catherine, Jeffrey and Jenny.

A period of silence follows

Hear us, Lord.
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

For the marriage yesterday of Sophie Ward and Nicholas Furnia.

A period of silence follows.

We will exalt you, O God our king;
And praise your name for ever and ever.

We pray for those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to you alone, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom,

For the repose of the soul of Doris Lamont.

A period of silence follows.

Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

Celebrant: O Lord God of time and eternity, who makes us creatures of time, that when time is over, we may attain your blessed eternity: with your gift of time, give us also wisdom to redeem it, so our day of grace is not lost; for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.** *(from Prayers and Poems of Christina Rossetti)*

The Confession and Absolution

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, you may greet those around you in the name of the Lord.

The Peace

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

Hymn at the Offertory #615

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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. Creator of the light and source of life, who hast made us in thine image, and called us to new life in 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. The Celebrant says the Eucharistic Prayer (p. 334 of the BCP), which concludes,

... 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

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

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 Choir sings the Agnus Dei. Communion is distributed at the high altar rail. Please move at the direction of the ushers.

The Agnus Dei from Missa Simplex

Rihards Dubra (b. 1964)

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem

*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.*

Motet: From the End of the Earth

Alan Hovhaness (1911-2000)

Hear my cry, O God; From the end of the earth will I cry unto Thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. I will trust in the covert of Thy wings. Alleluia.

Text: Ps 61: 1 – 4

Communion Hymn #635

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 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 amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Closing Hymn #7

From the Hymnal 1982

Organ Psalm 19 'The Heavens Declare'

Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)

Welcome! Thank you for joining us this morning. If you are new to the community and interested in becoming a member of Bethesda, please introduce yourself to an usher.

Today's ***Mere Christianity*** course will meet in the nave at 9am. All welcome.

Thank you to those reading and leading prayers at services:
8am Bob Bullock 10 am Genna Henderson and Mark Claverie

Refreshments follow the 10am service.

Communion elements in November are given by Lynne Priestley.

Holy Communion this Thursday, 20 November, at 12.10pm. Be advised that there is no service on Thursday 27th November.

Victorian Street Walk We are looking for a few volunteers to welcome visitors to the church on the evening of Thursday 4 December from 6pm to 8.30pm. Please call the office if you are willing to assist.

Decorating of the Church Please join us on Saturday, 13 December, to prepare the church for Advent-Christmas services.

Advent Discussion Group As we prepare to celebrate Our Lord's Nativity, we will study a selection of homilies on the Incarnation by the early Church Fathers, and how their timeless insights can deepen our faith this season. This group will be offered via Zoom at 7.30pm on **Tuesday** 2nd Dec. and **Sunday** 7th, 14th, and 21st December. To register, contact Jon Kimmel: jkimmel@cathedralofallsaints.org

The Choir of All Saints' Cathedral, Albany, presents **Handel's oratorio, 'Messiah'** on Tuesday 9 December at 7pm. For info and tickets: www.cathedralofallsaints.org

Stewardship November is traditionally the time we ask you to consider making a pledge to support the ministry of Bethesda. Bethesda relies almost entirely on weekly offerings. Please think seriously about your contribution to our ongoing work and witness for the coming year. Our financial gifts are an important way of giving thanks to God for the blessings we have received, and putting our faith into action through the stewardship of the resources God has given us. Please collect your envelope at the back of the Church and return it to the office in the collection plate or by mail.

Special Monthly Envelope Our special monthly appeal in **November** supports the work of the Saratoga County Children's Committee Empty Stocking Project. The Empty Stocking Project is the largest and most widely recognized program of the Saratoga County Children's Committee. Their mission is to embody the holiday spirit by helping to provide families in need with a joyous holiday. Each year, they are able to provide over 900 children living in Saratoga County with a wonderful holiday season.

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10.00-12.30 and Thursdays 12-3pm. The office will be closed Thanksgiving week.

From Loaves & Fishes Outreach Ministries: As we prepare for Thanksgiving, we are once again working to ensure that our neighbors have a warm and meaningful holiday meal. This year, we are inviting all the parishes throughout the Diocese to help us sponsor Thanksgiving dinner kits for families in need. See details on page 11.

LifeWorks Community Action is a non-profit established in 1965 that works to alleviate poverty by assisting local families and individuals. Bethesda is collecting canned food for Thanksgiving. Items may be placed in the box by the side entrance.

Parking The lot adjacent to the church, which is accessible via Congress Street, offers free parking for the first two hours.



**ONE GIFT,
TWO BLESSINGS**

LOAVES & FISHES' MIX IT UP

Thanksgiving Drive



Groceries in the bag. Mixer in the Kitchen. Gratitude all around.

YOUR \$25 SPONSORSHIP MAKES IT HAPPEN



Every \$25 will provide a Thanksgiving Dinner Kit to a family in need and help us purchase a commercial mixer - an essential tool to support our growing meal preparation efforts.

Every sponsor will be gratefully acknowledged on a Thanksgiving bag—unless you'd prefer to stay anonymous. Your first name, parish, or organization will be included as a heartfelt thank-you.

Sponsor a bag or bags today!



www.loavesandfishesalbany.org

Food. Dignity. Belonging.
Ending Hunger. Together.





Christmas Flowers, Greens, Wreaths and Trees

This Christmas season offers an opportunity not only to purchase flowers for the Altar, but to sponsor other decorations that adorn our church at this special time of year. If you would like to contribute, please complete this form and return it to the church office. You can place your completed form in the offering plate or mail it to:

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

I would like to purchase:

___ Poinsettia for \$25 each.

I would like to contribute towards the following:

___ Greenery and trees \$_____

Given By: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Please return form to the church office before 10 December.