

# Bethesda Episcopal Church

**The Feast of Christ the King**

**23 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**

Improvisation on 'St. Agnes'

*Maurice Whitney (1909-1984)*

*All stand as the choir and ministers enter.*

### **The Opening Hymn #410**

*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. Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in thy well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*All sit.*

### **The First Reading**

*Jeremiah 23.1-6*

A reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Remain seated.*

### **The Gradual: Psalm 46**

*Maurice Bevan (1921-2006)*

*The Congregation sings the refrain, printed in **bold**:*



God is our refuge and strength, \* a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, \* and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea; Though its waters rage and foam, \* and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

**The Lord of hosts is with us; \* the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, \* the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown; \* God shall help her at the break of day. The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; \* God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

**The Lord of hosts is with us; \* the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

Come now and look upon the works of the Lord, \* what awesome things he has done on earth. It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; \* he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire. "Be still, then, and know that I am God; \* I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."

**The Lord of hosts is with us; \* the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

*Remain seated.*

## **The Second Reading**

*Colossians 1.11-20*

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians.

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers-- all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

## **The Alleluia**

*Tone V*



*Verse:* His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away; and a kingdom which shall not be destroyed. **Alleluia.**

*Remain standing.*

## **The Holy Gospel**

*Luke 23:33-43*

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

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. The people stood by, watching Jesus on the cross; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved

others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

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

### ***The Sermon***

*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 Intercessions this week, we pray for the Anglican Communion, and the Episcopal Church of Brazil. In the Albany Diocese, we remember Jeremiah, our Bishop, and the staff of Christ the King Center in Greenwich. As we prepare to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday, we ask God to bless our country, that we may live together in justice, freedom and peace. Let us join our prayers with those of our Savior Jesus Christ, seeking the Father's blessing, and the gifts of the Spirit.

Jesus Christ, our great high priest, living for ever to intercede for us, pray for the Church, your broken body in the world. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, king of righteousness, enthroned at the right hand of your majesty on high, pray for this troubled world and make it subject to your just and gentle rule.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Son of Man, drawing humanity into the life of God, pray for your brothers and sisters in any need, distress or sorrow, and especially for Holly, Candance, Andrea, Catherine, Jeffrey, Francisco and Jenny.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, pioneer of our salvation, bringing us to glory through your death and resurrection, surround with your saints and angels those who have died trusting your promises.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things, ascended far above the heavens and filling the universe, pray for us who bear witness to your glory and power.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Celebrant* Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## ***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 #494**

*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. 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 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.*

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for 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 to thee, he broke 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 this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, 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, we thy people do celebrate and make, 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; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory. And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in 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.**

*Communion is distributed at the high altar rail. Please move at the direction of the ushers.*

### ***Music during Communion***

***The Agnus Dei*** from Communion Service in D      *Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)*

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*** Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence      *Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and stand with fear and trembling,  
And lift itself above all earthly thought. For the King of kings and Lord of lords,  
Christ our God, cometh forth to be our oblation, and to be given for food to the faithful.

Before Him come the choirs of angels, with every principality and power;  
The Cherubim with many eyes, and winged Seraphim, who veil their faces  
As they shout exultingly the hymn: Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia!

*Text: from the Orthodox Liturgy of St James*

***Communion Hymn #492*** *(remain kneeling or seated)*

*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 #290***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

***Organ***      Improvisation on 'Miles Lane'

*Maurice Whitney (1909-1984)*

**Welcome** to Bethesda Church. Thank you for joining us this morning. If you are interested in becoming a member of the parish, introduce yourself to an usher, or complete the form on the back page of this bulletin and place it in the collection plate.

**Flowers** The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for those who have served our country.

**Thank you** to those reading and leading prayers at services today:  
8am Sonia Arcelay 10 am Tom Remington and Mary Shartle

**Communion elements** in November are given by Lynne Priestley.

**Coffee** Please join us for coffee and refreshments following the 10am service. Thank you to Daniel Beach for hosting.

**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.

**No midweek service** this Thursday, 27 November.

**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 meet via Zoom at 7.30pm **Tuesday** 2nd Dec. and **Sunday** 7th, 14th, and 21st December. To register, contact Jon Kimmel: [jkimmel@cathedralofallsaints.org](mailto: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](http://www.cathedralofallsaints.org)

**Decorating of the Church** Please join us on Saturday, 13 December, for our annual decorating of the church. We'll need help hanging wreaths and garland and arranging trees. Please bring work clothes and gloves.

Our study of C.S. Lewis' text, ***Mere Christianity*** continues on 21 December at 9am. Please contact the office for more information. All welcome.

**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.

**The office will be open** Tuesday from 10.00-12.15. Please call ahead if you wish to visit in person, or email [office@bethesdachurch.org](mailto:office@bethesdachurch.org)



***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.***

## Advent—Christmas Services at Bethesda 2025

Sunday, 30 November

Sunday, 7 December

Sunday, 14 December

Sunday, 21 December

**Christmas Eve**

**Christmas Day**

Sunday, 28 December

Sunday, 4 January 2026

**Advent Sunday.** Services at 8am and 10am

8am Holy Communion & 10am Sung Eucharist

8am Communion & 10am Sung Eucharist and **Pageant**

8am Communion & 10am **Lessons and Carols**

**4pm** Sung Eucharist

**10pm** Blessing of the Crib & Sung Eucharist

**9am** Holy Communion (said service)

**9am** Holy Communion (said service)

8am Holy Communion & 10am Sung Eucharist

***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
- ☐ Would like information about pledge envelopes or regular giving to Bethesda
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

*The Reverend Charles Wallace, Rector*

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