

# ***Bethesda Episcopal Church***

**The Second Sunday in Lent**

**1 March 2026**

## **8.00 Holy Communion**

*At 8am, 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** Herzlich tut mich verlangen (*My heart is filled with longing*) *J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*

*All stand as the choir and ministers enter.*

### ***The Entrance Hymn #142***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

*Remain standing.*

### ***The Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity***

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.'

**Lord, have mercy upon us, and write both these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.**

*The Choir sings*

**Kyrie Eleison** from the Mass for 3 Voices

*William Byrd (1540-1623)*

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

*Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

*Remain standing.*

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

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

Let us pray. O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from thy ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of thy Word, Jesus Christ thy Son; who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*All sit.*

***The Reading***

*Genesis 12:1-4a*

The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

***The Gradual Hymn #691***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

***The Holy Gospel***

*John 3:1-17*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.

**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*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 today, we remember the Anglican Church in Japan; and in the Albany diocese, our bishop, Jeremiah, and the parish of Christ Church, Cooperstown.

We remember those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week and whose year's mind falls at this time.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, *Lord, graciously hear us.*

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; in our parish, we remember at this time Linda, Julie, Rolfe, Candance, and Holly. 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, remembering today Barbara and John Clement. 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***

Draw near with faith and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

**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, you may greet one another 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 #337***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

*Remain standing.*

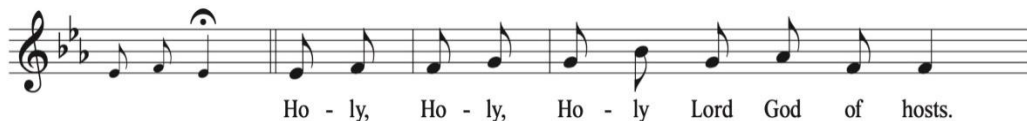
### ***The Eucharistic Prayer***

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 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,

### ***The Sanctus and Benedictus***

*John Merbecke (1510-1585)*



5

Hea-ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord Most High.

7

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, 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***

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

### ***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 administered at the altar rail. Please move at the direction of the ushers.*

***Agnus Dei*** from Mass in F

*John Stainer (1840-1901)*

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***

*John Stainer (1840-1901)*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

*Text: John 3: 16-17*

***Hymn #577*** *(Remain seated or kneeling)*

*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 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 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.**

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

*All stand.*

***The Closing Hymn #675***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

**Organ**      Voluntary in G, Op 8, No 6

*Thomas Sanders Dupuis (1733-1796)*

***Notices***

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

Thank you to Dr David Olsen, our **preacher** this morning and to those **reading and leading prayers**, at 8am Bob Bullock; and at 10am Jason Brooks and Daniel Beach.

Join us for **coffee** and conversation following the 10am service. Thank you to Rowan and Armando Spring for hosting.

**THIS WEDNESDAY** (4th March) **Holy Communion at 7.15am** followed by a simple breakfast and a brief talk on the Passion Gospels.

**THIS THURSDAY** (5<sup>th</sup> March) **Holy Communion at 12.10.**

**Stations of the Cross** next Tuesday, 10 March at 7pm.

In preparation for Holy Week and Easter, a **Spring Cleaning** of the church (interior and grounds) is planned for Saturday 21 March at 9am. Please mark your calendars!

**Parish Office** is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10-noon, and Thursdays 1pm– 3pm.

**Bethesda's Special Monthly Envelope for March** benefits the charity, FEASST. FEASST is a coalition of faith communities which works together with CAPTAIN Community

Human Services to meet the needs of those facing crisis. Together, local churches and charities pool resources to better provide and coordinate efforts for those in need, particularly for needs that cannot be met through traditional support programs and services. The Family Assistance Program provides initial assessment of applications, and one-time, emergency financial assistance to eligible individuals and families experiencing hardship that could leave them without heat, shelter, or other essential needs. Bethesda has been a coalition member since 2021.

**LifeWorks Community Action** is a non-profit established in 1965 that works to alleviate poverty by assisting local families and individuals with a wide range of services. Bethesda is currently collecting canned foods and personal hygiene products. Donations may be left in the box by the side door entrance.

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

**Holy Week and Easter Services 2026**

Sunday, 29 March <b><i>Palm Sunday</i></b>	<b>8am</b> Holy Communion <b>10am</b> Blessing of Palms, Procession & Sung Eucharist
Monday, 30 March	<b>6pm</b> Chrism Mass at All Saints' Cathedral, Albany
Tuesday, 31 March	<b>7pm</b> Holy Communion
Wednesday, 1 April <b><i>Spy Wednesday</i></b>	<b>7pm</b> Stations of the Cross
Thursday, 2 April <b><i>Maundy Thursday</i></b>	<b>7pm</b> Liturgy
Friday, 3 April <b><i>Good Friday</i></b>	<i>11.15am Church opens for private prayer</i> <b>12.10</b> Liturgy <i>The church remains open for prayer until 3pm.</i>
Sunday, 5 April <b><i>Easter Day</i></b>	<b>8am</b> Holy Communion <b>10am</b> Procession & Sung Eucharist

The Reverend Charles Wallace, *Rector*

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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

## Daily Prayer in Lent — beginning Monday 2 March

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

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

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Readings

Monday	Matthew 5:1–12
Tuesday	Matthew 5:38–48
Wednesday	Luke 13:1–9
Thursday	Matthew 6:1–18
Friday	Matthew 6:19–34
Saturday	Luke 10:25–37

*After the reading each day, silence may be kept for a time; then read **Psalm 132.1-10***

Lord, remember David, \* and all the hardships he endured;  
How he swore an oath to the Lord \* and vowed a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:  
"I will not come under the roof of my house, \* nor climb up into my bed;  
I will not allow my eyes to sleep, \* nor let my eyelids slumber;  
Until I find a place for the Lord, \* a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob"  
"The Ark! We heard it was in Ephratah; \* we found it in the fields of Jearim.  
Let us go to God's dwelling place; \* let us fall upon our knees before his footstool."  
Arise, O Lord, into your resting-place, \* you and the ark of your strength.  
Let your priests be clothed with righteousness; \* let your faithful people sing with joy.  
For your servant David's sake, \* do not turn away the face of your anointed.

### 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.

Almighty God, give us grace, we pray, to bear witness to your Son, Jesus Christ, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through the same, 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 and flowers as a memorial or in thanksgiving for loved ones. If you wish to contribute towards the cost of decorating the church for Holy Week and Easter, please complete this form and return it to the office before the end of March. You may place the completed form in the offering plate or mail it to 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 March 27, 2026:**

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



HUDSON NEW YORK  
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Tickets

*Johann Sebastian Bach*  
**ST. JOHN  
PASSION**  
(1725 VERSION)

Thursday  
March 26  
7:30 P.M.

Christ Church Episcopal  
431 Union Street  
Hudson, NY

[Rivervalleybaroque.org](http://Rivervalleybaroque.org)

"Among New York's choruses, few could have shown up for work as confidently and so well-prepared as under Eric Milnes's direction. He achieved a remarkable fineness..." - Bernard Holland, THE NEW YORK TIMES



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