

# ***Bethesda Episcopal Church***

**The Third Sunday in Lent**

**8 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***

*All stand as the choir and ministers enter.*

### ***The Entrance Hymn #372***

*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.**

*Remain standing. The Choir sings*

### ***The Kyrie Eleison*** from the Mass in F

*John Stainer (1840-1901)*

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

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

Let us pray. Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through

Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*All sit.*

### **The Reading**

*Exodus 17:1-7*

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

**The Gradual Hymn #692** (Tune: Kingsfold #292)

*From the Hymnal 1982*

### **The Holy Gospel**

*John 4:5-42*

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

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is

true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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 prayers, we remember the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East; and in the Albany diocese, our bishop, Jeremiah, and the parish of St John's, Delhi.

We remember with thanksgiving 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, our 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 our country and the world, for the men and women in our Armed Forces at home and abroad; that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples, and that God will bless us and give us peace. 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 Kevin, Tony, Tyler, Linda, Joe, 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.  
Lord, hear us.  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Celebrant:* O God, help us to see ourselves in the light of your holiness, that we may turn from sin, receive your grace and forgiveness, and learn to love and serve you with our whole heart; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### ***The Confession and Absolution***

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, 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 #149**

*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)*



*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 G

*Francis Jackson (1917-2022)*

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***

*Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)*

Schaffe in mir Gott ein rein Herz und gib mir einen neuen gewissen Geist.  
*Create in me, O God, a pure heart, and grant anew a right spirit within me.*

***Hymn #581*** (*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 #697***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

***Organ***

## **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 Fr Wallace, or complete the form on page 11 and place it in the collection plate.

Thank you to those **reading and leading prayers** at 8am Lynne Priestley; and at 10am Genna Henderson and Mark Claverie.

Join us for **coffee** and conversation following the 10am service. Thanks to the Beach family for hosting!

**THIS TUESDAY** (10<sup>th</sup> March) **Stations of the Cross at 7pm.**

**THIS WEDNESDAY** (11<sup>th</sup> March) **Holy Communion at 7.15am** followed by a simple breakfast and a brief talk on the Passion Gospels.

**THIS THURSDAY** (12<sup>th</sup> March) **Holy Communion at 12.10.**

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!

**Concert at Christ Church, Hudson** Christ Church Arts is proud to host River Valley Baroque as they present Johann Sebastian Bach's *St. John Passion* on Thursday, March 26, at 7.30pm at Christ Church Episcopal in Hudson, NY. For tickets or more information, go to [rivervalleybaroque.org](http://rivervalleybaroque.org)

**Evensong** at All Saints' Cathedral, Albany on Palm Sunday, 29 March at 3.30pm.

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

Bethesda's **Special Appeal** for the month of **March** supports the local charity, FEASST - Family Emergency Assistance of Southern Saratoga County. **FEASST** is a coalition of faith communities which works together with CAPTAIN Community Human Services to meet the needs of those facing crisis. Together, area 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 (including those low in salt, fat & sugar and gluten free) and personal hygiene products (soap, toothpaste/brushes, shampoo, razors, shaving cream, deodorant). 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>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>8am</b> Holy Communion <b>10am</b> Blessing of Palms, Procession & Sung Eucharist
Tuesday, 31 March	<b>7pm</b> Holy Communion
Wednesday, 1 April <b>Spy Wednesday</b>	<b>7pm</b> Stations of the Cross
Thursday, 2 April <b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>7pm</b> Liturgy
Friday, 3 April <b>Good Friday</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>Easter Day</b>	<b>8am</b> Holy Communion <b>10am</b> Procession & Sung Eucharist

### **Daily Prayer in Lent – beginning Monday 9 March**

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

**Opening Prayer** (*said daily*) Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Readings**

Monday	Matthew 6:1–18
Tuesday	Matthew 6:19–34
Wednesday	Luke 10:25–37
Thursday	Luke 11:1–13
Friday	John 6:35–40
Saturday	Mark 2:1–12

*After the reading each day, silence may be kept for a time; then read **Psalm 78.1-8***

Hear my teaching, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.  
I will open my mouth in a parable; I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.  
That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, \* we will not hide from their children.  
We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, \* and the wonderful works he has done.  
He gave his decrees to Jacob and established a law for Israel, \* which he commanded them to teach their children;

That the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn; that they in their turn might tell it to their children;  
So that they might put their trust in God, \* and not forget the deeds of God, but keep his commandments;  
And not be like their forefathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, \* a generation whose heart was not steadfast, and whose spirit was not faithful to God.

### ***Daily 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.

O God, whose will it is to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. let the design of your great love shine upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace to your Church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts; through 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.

***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*  
Office 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>



## ***Holy Week & Easter 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 March 27, 2026:**

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

