

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

15 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 Erbarm dich mein O Herre Gott (Have Mercy on Me, O Lord God) *J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*

All stand as the choir and ministers enter.

The Entrance Hymn #379

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 Kyrie Eleison from Mass in the Phrygian Mode

Charles Wood (1866-1926)

Remain standing.

The Collect of the Day

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

Let us pray. Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

The Reading

Ephesians 5.8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All stand.

The Gradual Hymn #671

From the Hymnal 1982

The Holy Gospel

John 9:1-41

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

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone

who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

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 today, we remember the Anglican Church in Kenya; and in the Albany diocese, our bishop, Jeremiah, and the parish of Christ Church, Duanesburg. 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, 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 our country and the world, for the men and women serving 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, and in our parish, we remember Tony, Keith, Julie, Rolfe, Tyler, Candance, Linda, Joe, 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: Heavenly Father, who by the cross and passion of your Son Jesus Christ has saved and delivered us: keep us, we pray, steadfast in faith, and enable us no longer to live to ourselves, but to him who died for us and rose again, your Son, 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 #471

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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 the Phrygian Mode

Charles Wood (1866-1926)

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 Jesu, Grant Me This I Pray

Percy Whitlock (1903-1946)

Jesu, grant me this, I pray,
Ever in thy heart to stay;
Let me evermore abide
Hidden in thy wounded side.

If the world or Satan lay
Tempting snares about my way,
I am safe when I abide
In thy heart and wounded side.

If the flesh, more dangerous still,
Tempt my soul to deeds of ill,
Naught I fear when I abide
In thy heart and wounded side.

Death will come one day to me;
Jesu, cast me not from thee:
Dying let me still abide
In thy heart and wounded side.

Text: 17th c. Latin hymn, trans. H. W. Baker

Hymn #635 (*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 #690

From the Hymnal 1982

Organ

Vivace, from Sonata 1

Maurice Whitney (1909-1984)

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 an usher.

The Altar Flowers for *Laetare* Sunday are given in loving memory of William Hugh Agee by his wife, Jane, and their children.

Thank you to those **reading and leading prayers** at 8am Mary Withington; and at 10am Gabriel Francisco and Lynda Redman.

Join us for **coffee** and fellowship following the 10am service. Thanks to our hosts today, Tim and Libby Holmes, and to Fr Kriss (and other bakers!) for making simnel cake.

THIS WEDNESDAY (18th March) **Holy Communion at 7.15am** followed by a simple breakfast and a brief talk on the Passion Gospels.

THIS THURSDAY (19th 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

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 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	8am Holy Communion 10am Blessing of Palms, Procession & Sung Eucharist
Tuesday, 31 March	7pm Holy Communion
Wednesday, 1 April <i>Spy Wednesday</i>	7pm Stations of the Cross
Thursday, 2 April <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	7pm Liturgy
Friday, 3 April <i>Good Friday</i>	<i>The church is open today from 11.15am – 3pm.</i> 12.10 Liturgy
Sunday, 5 April <i>Easter Day</i>	8am Holy Communion 10am Procession & Sung Eucharist

1.

Daily Prayer in Lent — beginning Monday 16 March

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

Opening Prayer (*said daily*) Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Reading

Monday	1 Corinthians 11.23-26
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 10.14-11.1
Wednesday	Mark 14.1-25
Thursday	Matthew 26.6-29
Friday	Luke 22.1-23
Saturday	John 13.1-17

*After the reading each day, silence may be kept for a time; then read **Psalm 116** and conclude with the prayers.*

I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, * because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me; * I came to grief and sorrow.

Then I called upon the name of the Lord: * "O Lord, I pray you, save my life."

Gracious is the Lord and righteous; * our God is full of compassion.

The Lord watches over the innocent; * I was brought very low, and he helped me.

Turn again to your rest, O my soul, * for the Lord has treated you well.

For you have rescued my life from death, * my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord * in the land of the living.

I believed, even when I said, "I have been brought very low" * In my distress I said, "No one can be trusted."

How shall I repay the Lord * for all the good things he has done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation * and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord * in the presence of all his people.

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, 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 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 _____



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



The Reverend Charles Wallace, *Rector*

Office Email: office@bethesdachurch.org
Office Telephone: (518) 584-5980
Website: bethesdachurch.org