Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost 20 September 2026

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 Romanza 'The White Rock' *R. Vaughn Williams (1873-1958)*

The Opening Hymn #414 *From the Hymnal 1982*

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 Celebrant introduces the Confession in these or similar words.

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to his table. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

All kneel. Silence is kept. The Celebrant begins the Confession, saying,

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against thee
and against our neighbor,
in thought, and word, and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are heartily sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past,
and grant that we may serve thee in newness of life,
to the glory of thy name.
Amen.

The Celebrant says the Absolution.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All stand.

Kyrie Eleison from Missa Tribus Vocibus (Mass for 3 Voices) *Christoph Dalitz (b. 1967)*

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.
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. Grant us, O Lord, not to mind earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to cleave to those that shall abide; 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 First Reading *Jonah 3.10-4.11*

A reading from the Book of the prophet, Jonah.

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

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

All stand.

The Alleluia

Cantor: O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; tell the people what things he hath done. **Alleluia.** *(Ps. 105:1)*

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel *Matthew 20.1-16*

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

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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 this week, we remember the Anglican Church of Australia; and in the Albany Diocese, Jeremiah, our bishop, and the people of St Matthew's Church, Latham. We ask God's blessing on those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week; and those whose year's mind falls at this time.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on the sick, and the suffering, especially Patti, Norma, Jerilyn, Paula, John and Linda.
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Celebrant: Almighty God, give us grace, we pray, to bear witness to thy Son, Jesus Christ, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; 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.**

During the hymn, a collection is taken to support the work and ministry of Bethesda Church.

Hymn at the Offertory #411

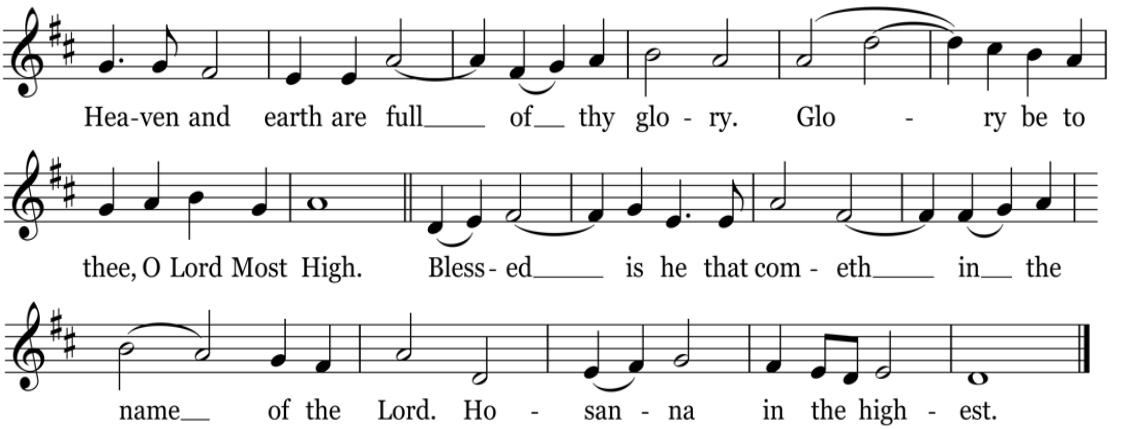
From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up unto the Lord.
Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Creator of the light and source of life, who hast made us in thine image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee and saying,



All kneel. The Celebrant says the Eucharistic Prayer printed on p. 341 of the Book of Common Prayer.

The prayer concludes … O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Fraction

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

The Prayer of Humble Access

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Agnus Dei from Missa Tribus Vocibus *Christoph Dalitz (b. 1967)*

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

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

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

During Communion, the Choir sings the following Motet.

Simile est regnum caelorum homini patri familias, qui exiit primo mane conducere operarios in vineam suam, et egressus circa horam tertiam, vidit alios stantes in foro otiosos et dixit illis: Ite et vos in vineam meam et quod justum fuerit dabo vobis.

The kingdom of heaven is like a householder who went out early to hire laborers for his vineyard, and went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace and said to them: Go also into my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.

Music : Christobal Morales (1500-1553) Text: Matthew 20.1-4

Communion Hymn #660 *(remain kneeling or seated)* *From the Hymnal 1982*

After Communion, all kneel.

The Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. **Almighty and ever living God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

The Blessing and Dismissal

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen**.

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

The Closing Hymn #541 *From the Hymnal 1982*

Organ Marche Triomphale on 'Now thank we all our God' *S. Karg-Elert (1882-1933)*

Notices

Welcome! Please join us for refreshments after the 10am service. Thank you to our hosts, Claire and Tim Wood. Thank you also to our readers today: Mary Withington (8 am), and Katie Hooper and Paula Pinion (10am).

Today's instrumental music mirrors the themes of God's quiet devotion and ultimate generosity found in our readings. We begin our service with the contemplative prelude,

Romanza 'The White Rock' by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Based on a traditional Welsh melody, its expressive, pastoral textures invite us into a space of quiet reflection on God's sustaining grace. To dismiss us, our postlude shifts from quiet reverence to exuberant celebration with Karg-Elert's Marche Triomphale on 'Nun danket alle Gott,' Op. 65, No. 59. This triumphant masterpiece builds upon a beloved hymn of thanksgiving, sending us forth into the world with a joyful noise in gratitude for God's radical abundance.

Diocesan Convention Thank you to Gabriel Francisco and Paula Pinion for serving as our delegates at last weekend's Diocesan Convention. We also extend our congratulations to Ryan Meisner on his election to the Great Chapter of the Cathedral of All Saints, and to Chuck Maze on his re-appointment to the Committee on Church Architecture and the Arts.

Special Monthly Envelope Funds raised in **September** will be divided between the feeding ministry at the local Presbyterian – United Church of Christ which provides a daily hot meal to those in need; and Christ Church Food Pantry, a ministry operated by the Episcopal parish in Ballston Spa.

Study Group *Learning from the life and witness of Bonhoeffer*. Join David and Cheryl Olsen for a three-week study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906–1945), a German pastor and theologian whose courageous faith and witness continue to challenge and inspire Christians today. Three Wednesdays - September 30, October 7 & October 14 - beginning at 6:30 p.m. For more information or to register, contact the church office.

The fall meeting of the **Bethesda Book Club** will be held Thursday, October 8th at 5:00 to discuss Joanna Cannon's delightful *The Problem with Goats and Sheep*. Please email the church office to sign up or speak to Mary Sanders Shartle if you have any questions.

The Bethesda Knitting Group welcomes anyone interested in knitting, fellowship, and outreach. For more information, please contact Carol or Jean through the Parish Office.

Choral Concert Join us Sunday, October 4 at 3pm for *In Sacred Song*, featuring the music of Michael Harrison (composer-in-residence with Saratoga Voices). Enjoy church anthems, carols, and hymn arrangements sung by an octet of some of the Capital District's finest choral singers. Free-will offering at the door to support music at Bethesda. All welcome!

Organ Recital Glens Falls Presbyterian presents its annual Beeman Organ Concert, Friday, October 2 at 7.30pm, Nathan Laube, Professor of Organ at Eastman School of Music, plays music of Bach, Franck, Liszt, and Vierne. Suggested donation $15. Reception follows.

The Office at 178 Elm Street, is open Tuesday from 10 - noon, and Thursday from 1-3pm.

LifeWorks Community Action gratefully receives donations of canned foods and personal hygiene products. Items 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.

The Reverend Charles Wallace, *Rector*

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