Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost **11 October 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 Nun danket alle Gott *Justin Heinrich Knecht (1752-1817)*

All stand as the choir and ministers enter.

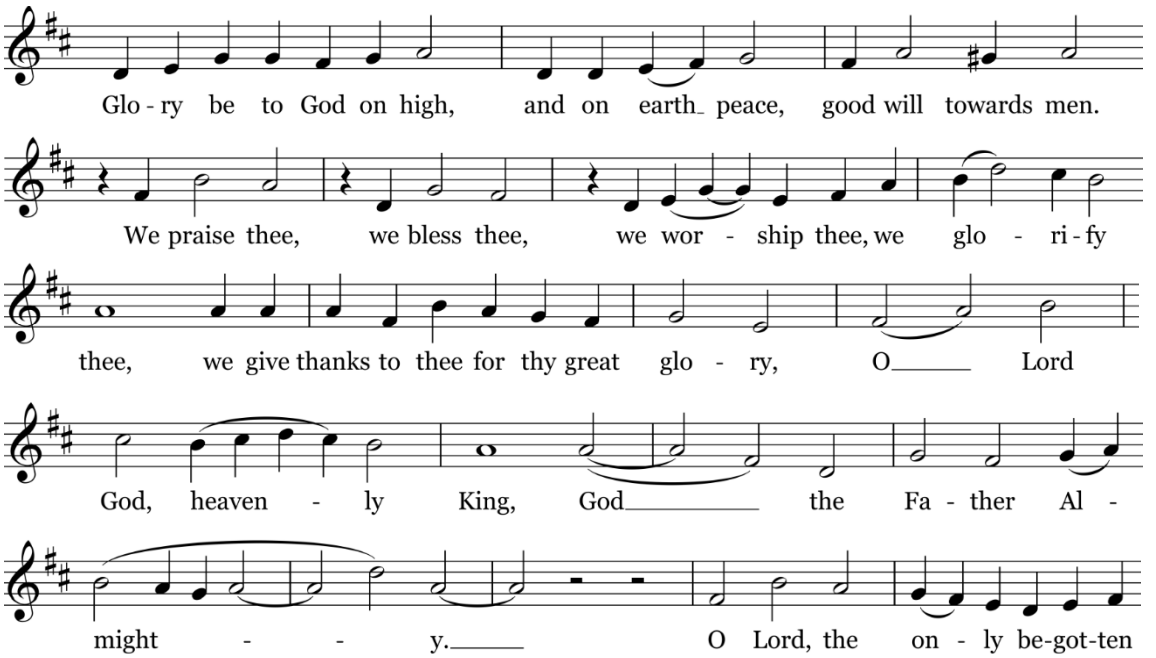
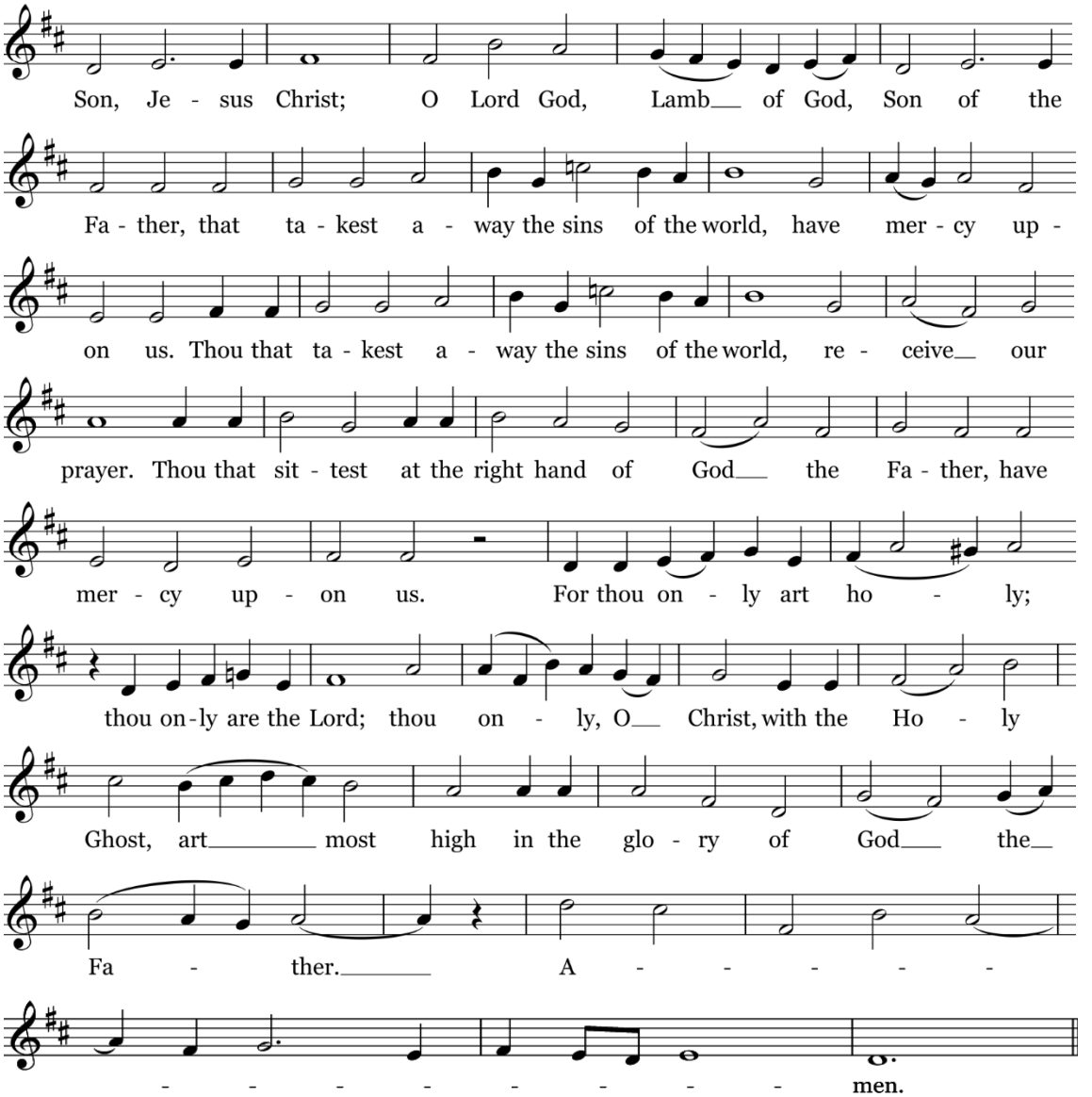
The Entrance Hymn #646 *From the Hymnal 1982*

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)*



Remain standing.

The Collect of the Day

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

Let us pray. Lord, we pray thee that thy grace may always precede and follow us, and make

us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

All sit.

The First Reading *Isaiah 25.1-9*

A reading from the Book of the Prophet, Isaiah.

O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

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

Remain seated. The Choir sings

The Gradual: *Psalm 23* *John Goss (1800-1880)*

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.
He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

The Second Reading *Philippians 4.1-9*

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled

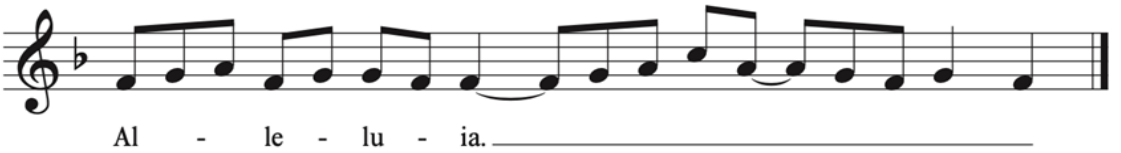
beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

All stand.

The Alleluia

Cantor: Ye that fear the Lord, put your trust in him; He is their helper and defender. **Alleluia.**

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel *Matthew 22.1-14*

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

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

The Sermon *Fr Kriss*

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 pray for the Anglican Church of Burundi; and in the Albany Diocese, for the Saint Francis Mission and the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen. We ask God's blessing on those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week; and those whose year's mind falls at this time.

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For Jeremiah, our bishop, and for the clergy and people of this diocese, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our country, our President, and for good government in our land, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this city of Saratoga Springs, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel at this time, and for their safety, let us pray to the Lord**. Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, especially Mike, Tom, Marie, Fran, and Doug, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord**. Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant: Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

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.

The Celebrant pronounces 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.**

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

Hymn at the Offertory #481

From the Hymnal 1982

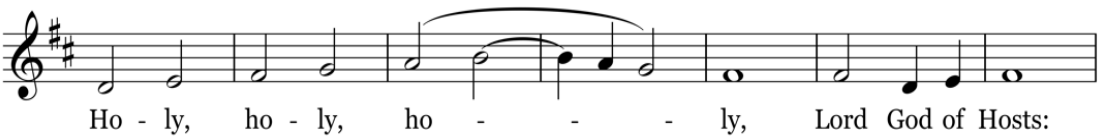
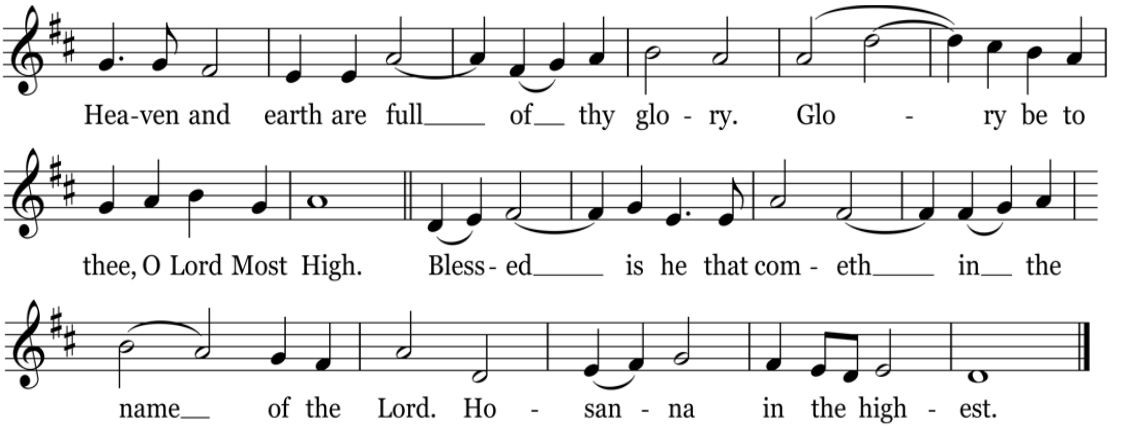
Remain standing.

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,

The Sanctus and Benedictus

Healey Willan (1880-1968)



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.

Remain kneeling. The Choir sings

Agnus Dei from Missa Simile est Regnum *Tomas Luis Victoria (1548-1611)*

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 Motet *Brian Hoffman*

O sacrum convivium, in quo Christus sumitur; recolitur memoria passionis ejus; mens impletur gratia; et futurae gloriae nobis pignus datur. Alleluia!

O sacred banquet, wherein Christ is received; the memorial of his passion is renewed; the soul is filled with grace; and a pledge of future glory is given to us. Alleluia!

Communion Hymn #549 *(sung 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 #656 *From the Hymnal 1982*

Organ Toccata in G Minor *Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)*

Notices

Welcome to Bethesda Church! Join us for **refreshments** following the 10am service. Thanks to Tim Holmes and Libby Smith-Holmes for hosting. If you are new to the parish and wish to be added to our mailing list, complete the form on the back page and place it in the collection plate.

Thank you to those **reading and leading prayers**, at 8am Mary Withington, and at 10am, Libby Smith-Holmes and Rick Wissler.

Church School for children is available during the 10am service. For more information, please contact Roxanne Baugh or Sara Manny, via the church office: 518.584.5980.

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

Music Notes Today's music brings together three composers from very different periods, united by their attention to worship and the expressive possibilities of sacred music. The prelude, *Nun danket alle Gott* by Justin Heinrich Knecht (1752–1817), is a setting of the familiar hymn "Now Thank We All Our God." Knecht was a German composer and organist whose music stands at the transition between the Baroque and Classical eras, and his treatment of the hymn allows the congregation to hear a familiar tune through the more elaborate language of the organ. The choir anthem, *O Sacrum Convivium*, by local composer Brian Hoffman of St. Pius X in Loudonville, sets the ancient Latin text celebrating the mystery of the Holy Eucharist; Hoffman's music connects this centuries-old text with a modern musical voice. The service concludes with Johann Pachelbel's *Toccata in G Minor* (1653–1706), a brilliant example of the freedom and energy of the Baroque organ tradition.

Together, these works invite us to hear how composers across more than three centuries have used the organ and the human voice to express thanksgiving, mystery, and celebration.
The **Special Monthly Envelope** in October supports RISE Housing and Support Services, a local nonprofit serving Saratoga County and the surrounding area. RISE helps individuals and families facing homelessness, mental health and substance-use challenges, and other times of crisis. Through housing, outreach, recovery services, and practical assistance, it helps people in our community find greater stability and independence. As a donor-supported organization, RISE depends upon the generosity of individuals and local organizations to continue this important work. Thank you for your support.

Parking The lot adjacent to the church offers free parking for the first two hours.

At first glance, ***The Great Banquet***, painted in the Netherlands around 1535 and attributed to Jan van Amstel, is anything but an elegant wedding reception. Inspired by this morning's parable, the painting depicts a crowded, untidy gathering of ordinary people. In Matthew's account, the original guests had already declined the king's invitation—some even turning violently upon his servants. Undeterred, the king sends others into the streets to bring in whomever they can find, "both good and bad." The result is an extraordinary gathering: the high and lofty alongside the disreputable, an unlikely assortment of guests somehow finding themselves at the same table—and, it would seem, having a grand old time together!

And that detail is, in fact, central to the parable. The invitation to God's Kingdom reaches much further than anyone had supposed. But just when we are beginning to feel comfortable with that thought, St Matthew tells us that someone present is not wearing appropriate attire for the occasion. Is this the original Party Crasher? Well, not exactly. Like the others, he too has been invited to the banquet, but merely accepting the invitation is not enough. God's grace may indeed be free to one and all, but it is not inconsequential. The invitation itself calls for our response: a life increasingly shaped by the generosity of the One who has welcomed us.

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 Reasons:

□ 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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