Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Feast of St Luke the Evangelist **18 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 Sonata in D Major, K. 225 *Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757)*

All stand as the choir and ministers enter.

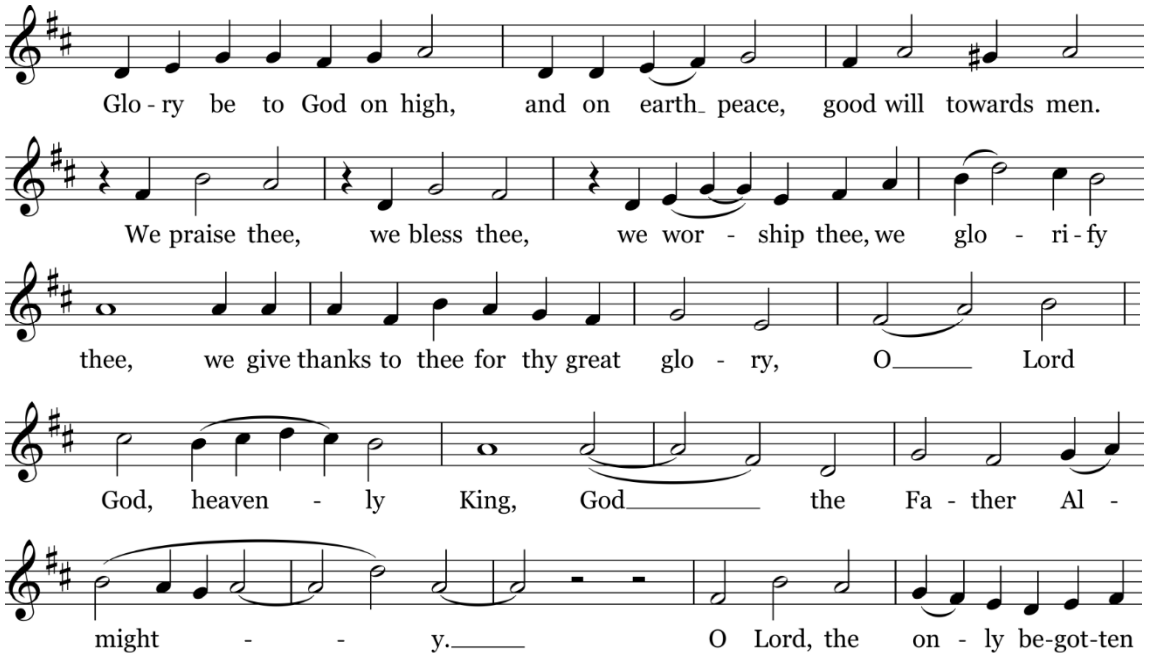
The Entrance Hymn #567 *From the Hymnal 1982*

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. Almighty God, who didst inspire thy servant Luke the physician to set forth in the Gospel the love and healing power of thy Son: Graciously continue in thy Church the like love and power to heal, to the praise and glory of thy Name; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

All sit.

The First Reading *Sirach 38:1-4,6-10,12-14*

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

Honor physicians for their services, for the Lord created them; for their gift of healing comes from the Most High, and they are rewarded by the king. The skill of physicians makes them distinguished, and in the presence of the great they are admired.

The Lord created medicines out of the earth, and the sensible will not despise them. And he gave skill to human beings that he might be glorified in his marvelous works. By them the physician heals and takes away pain; the pharmacist makes a mixture from them. God's works will never be finished; and from him health spreads over all the earth. My child, when you are ill, do not delay, but pray to the Lord, and he will heal you. Give up your faults and direct your hands rightly, and cleanse your heart from all sin. Then give the physician his place, for the Lord created him; do not let him leave you, for you need him. There may come a time when recovery lies in the hands of physicians, for they too pray to the Lord that he grant them success in diagnosis and in healing, for the sake of preserving life.

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

Remain seated.

The Gradual Psalm 147.1-7 *Frederick A. Gore Ouseley (1825-1889)*

Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!
The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; * he gathers the exiles of Israel.
He heals the brokenhearted * and binds up their wounds.
He counts the number of the stars * and calls them all by their names.
Great is our Lord and mighty in power; * there is no limit to his wisdom.
The Lord lifts up the lowly, * but casts the wicked to the ground.
Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; * make music to our God upon the harp.

The Second Reading *2 Timothy 4:5-13*

A Reading for the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy.

As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed

for his appearing.

Do your best to come to me soon, for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments.

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

All stand.

The Alleluia

Cantor: I have chosen you out of the world; that ye should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain. (Jn 15:16)

All repeat: **Alleluia.**

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel *Luke 4:14-21*

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

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

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

The Sermon *The Reverend Dr David Olsen*

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 in Canada; and in the Albany Diocese, for our bishop, Jeremiah, and for all those involved in healing ministries and hospital chaplaincy.

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, 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 our country and 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 all who give their energies and skill for the healing of those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick, especially Edward, 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 the departed, remembering Deborah at this time; let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

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**.

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.

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 #665 *From the Hymnal 1982*

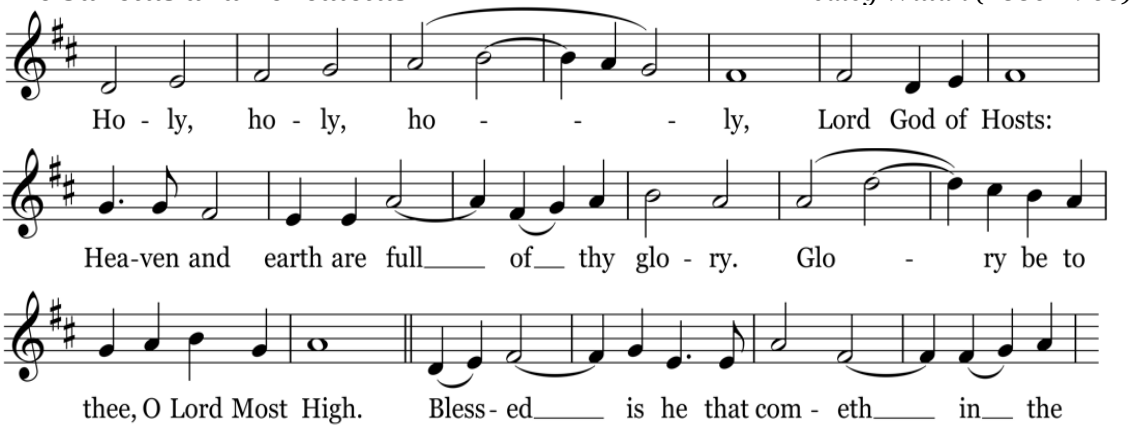
Remain standing.

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. Who, in the multitude of thy saints, hast compassed us about with so great a cloud of witnesses, that we, rejoicing in their fellowship, may run with patience the race that is set before us; and, together with them, may receive the crown of glory that fadeth not away,

The Sanctus and Benedictus *Healey Willan (1880-1968)*



All kneel. The Celebrant says the Eucharistic Prayer which 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.

Remain kneeling.

Agnus Dei from Communion Service 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.

Communion is distributed at the high altar rail. Please move at the direction of the ushers. During Communion, the Choir sings

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that publisheth salvation;that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

Music: John Stainer (1840-1901) Text: Isaiah 52:7

Communion Hymn #677 *(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 #493 *From the Hymnal 1982*

Organ Toccata in C Major *Johann Pachelbel (1653–1706)*

Welcome! Please join us for refreshments following the 10am service. Thanks to Kim Kealy and Joyce Cole for hosting. If you are new to the parish and wish to be added to our mailing list, please complete the form on the back page of the bulletin and place it in the collection plate.

Thank you to Dr David Olsen, our **preacher** today; and to those **reading and leading prayers**, at 8am Lynne Priestley, and at 10am, Paula Pinion and Mark Claverie.

Music Notes This morning's prelude, Domenico Scarlatti's (1685–1757) Sonata in D Major, K. 228, reflects the elegance and lively rhythmic character of the Italian keyboard tradition, with nimble passagework and a clear, dance-like energy. The two works by English composer John Stainer (1840–1901) offer contrasting expressions of faith: Agnus Dei in F Major sets the traditional Latin prayer asking the Lamb of God for mercy and peace, while How Beautiful Upon the Mountains draws on Isaiah 52:7, celebrating those who bring good news and proclaim God's reign. The anthem's successive vocal entries build toward an expressive climax at "Thy God reigneth," before settling into a quiet conclusion on "that publisheth peace." Choral conductor Ralph Allwood has observed that Stainer "writes beautifully for the voice," a quality evident in this setting's balance of joyful proclamation and gentle reassurance. The service concludes with Johann Pachelbel's (1653–1706) Toccata in C Major, a lively example of the German Baroque organ tradition, featuring flowing passagework and a bright, affirmative character.

Midweek Communion service **Thursdays at 12.10pm** begins 5 November.

We will observe the **Commemoration of the Faithful Departed** (All Souls) on Sunday, 8 November, at both services. If you would like us to remember a loved one who died in the past twelve months, please write their name clearly on the sheet provided on the tract table. **The Office** at 178 Elm Street, is open Tuesday 10 - noon, and Thursday from 1 - 3pm.

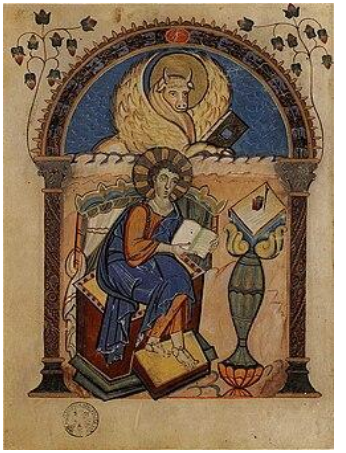
Concert at Bethesda on 1 November Capital District composer/lyricist, Maria Riccio Bryce will present her acclaimed work, *Requiem: What remains is love*, on Sunday 1 November at Bethesda at 7pm. Sung by a chorus of 25 voices, led by mezzo-soprano, Ann Marie Adamick, the performance will be accompanied by the Musicians of Ma'alywyck, with Maria conducting from the piano. Admission is free; free-will offerings are also gratefully accepted.

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

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 consideration and support.

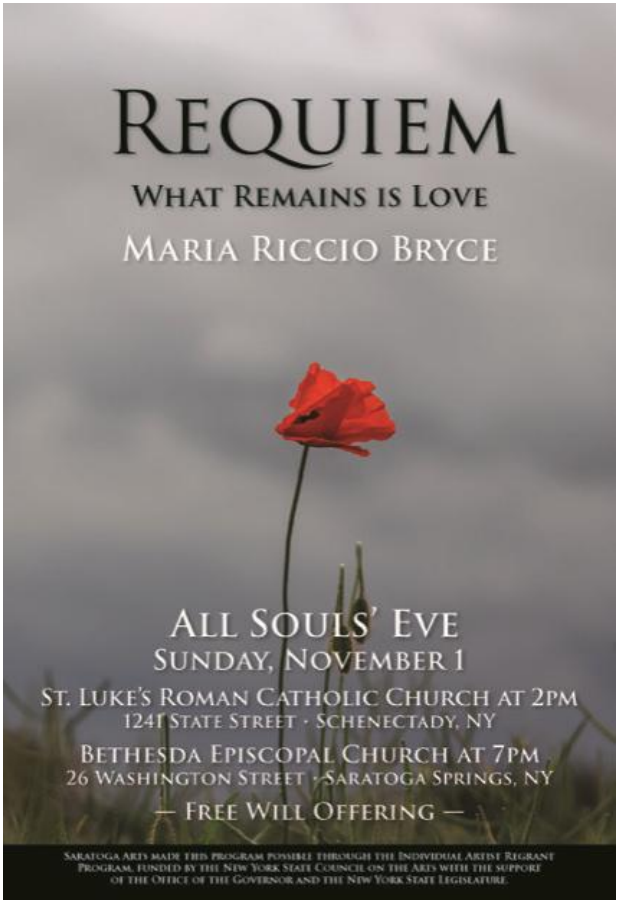
The 2026 Annual Bible Symposium at the Cathedral of All Saints, Albany on Saturday, 31 October, features the Reverend Dr Ephraim Radner, Professor Emeritus of Historical Theology at Wycliffe College, Toronto. One of the Anglican Communion's most respected theologians, Dr Radner draws on decades of scholarship in biblical interpretation, theology, and church history, inviting us to consider how Scripture reveals Christ and shapes Christian faith beyond the limits of historical inquiry alone. For information and registration, go to www.cathedralofallsaints.org/special-events

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



St Luke busy at his desk!

Today is the **Feast of St Luke the Evangelist**, one of the more intriguing figures of the early Church. A physician by profession, a travelling companion of St Paul, and a gifted writer, Luke is believed never to have met Jesus himself. Instead, he set about gathering the memories and testimony of those who had known Jesus, producing not only the Gospel that bears his name but also the Acts of the Apostles. Together, these two works account for roughly a quarter of the New Testament. Luke's writing shows a particular concern for those whom the world tends to overlook: the poor, the stranger, the outcast, and for women, whose voices and experiences figure prominently in his Gospel. It is Luke who gives us the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, and much of the familiar Christmas story.
Luke is traditionally represented by a winged ox, a symbol of sacrifice. A later tradition credits him with painting the first portrait of the Virgin Mary. Whether or not he ever took up a paintbrush, Luke certainly possessed an artist's eye for the human condition and an extraordinary gift for revealing the compassion of Christ.



Please place this form in the collection plate if you would like us to get in touch with you:

Name:
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Preferred contact method:
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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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