The congregation is seated.

2 That he may rule your people righteously * 
and your righteousness to the King’s Son; 
1 Give the King your justice, O God, * 
(read responsively) 
Psalm 72:1

Lesson
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you
The Lord be with you. 
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us. 
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us. 
Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach
repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed
out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of
judges the poor, and decide with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide by what his
ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. 

Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19 (read responsively) 

1 Give the King your justice, O God, * 
and your righteousness to the King’s Son; 
2 That he may rule your people righteously * 
and the poor with justice; 
3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, * 
and the little hills bring righteousness. 
4 He shall defend the needy among the people; * 
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor. 
5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, * 
from one generation to another. 
6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, * 
like showers that water the earth. 
7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; * 
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. 
8 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, * 
who alone does wondrous deeds! 
9 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! * 
and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen. 

The congregation stands as the Gospel is introduced. 

Gospel Matthew 3:1–12 

Draco The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. 

People Glory to you Lord Christ. 

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, 
proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This
is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice
of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, 
make his paths straight.” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a 
leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 
Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all
the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, 
confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees
coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who
warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. 
Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for
I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 
Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that
does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” I baptize
you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming
after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you
with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he
will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary;
but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” 

Draco The Gospel of the Lord. 

People Praise to you Lord Christ. 

The Sermon The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead Carroll 
A brief period of silence follows the Homily. 

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heavens and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. 

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; with the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen. 

The Prayers of the People: Form VI 
The Leader and People pray responsively. 
In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. 
Silence 
For all people in their daily life and work; 
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone. 
For this community, the nation, and the world; 
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace. 
For the just and proper use of your creation; 
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression. 
For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble; 
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy. 
For the peace and unity of the Church of God; 
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth. 
For all bishops and other ministers; 
For all who serve God in the Church. 
For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. 
Silence. The People may add their own petitions. 
Hear us, Lord; 
For your mercy is great. 
We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. 
Silence. The People may add their own thanksgivings. 
We will exalt you, O God our King; 
And praise your Name for ever and ever. 
We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. 
Silence. The People may add their own petitions. 
Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them; 
Who put their trust in you. 
The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect. 

Confession of Sin and Absolution (congregation kneeling) 
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. 
Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, 
word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. 
We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may 
delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen. 
The Celebrant pronounces absolution and then the congregation stands. 

The Peace 
The peace of the Lord be always with you. And also with you. 

Greeting and Announcements 

The Holy Communion

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has 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 Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion
Everyone is invited to Communion. Please come forward at the direction of the usher. Our normal practice is to kneel at the rail, however, you may also stand. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of Communion, please cross your arms over your chest to indicate your preference. To receive a gluten-free wafer, please request one from the minister.

Postcommunion Prayer

O God, who bids us wait in this season of longing: as you have fed us with the body of Christ, make us hungers for Christ’s justice in the world; As you have given us drink from the cup of salvation, make us thirsty for the fullness of your kingdom; In these days of expectation, stir our hearts and awaken hope that we may share the gifts of your reconciling love with all creation. Amen.

Blessing

The Dismissal

Let us pray.

Prayers for healing and wholeness have been asked for... Abby, Abigail, Angela, Bailey, Bettina, Bill, B.J., Bob, Bobby, Boone family, Brygida, Carmen, Caroline, Caroline, Carter, Casey, Dan, Dyna, Ed, Edward, Eleanor, Gloria, Grafton family, Heidi, Izy, lane, Jodie, Joseph, John, Kathleen, Kathryn, Kemp family, Lane, Larry, Lee family, Lourdies, Lucas, Lynn Elaine, Marcia, Mariela, Mariette, Marilyn, Martie, Martin family, Mary Elizabeth, Maverick, Missy, Nicholas, Nita, Norma, Pat, Regine, Ricky, Sebastian, Shannon, Shawn, Sophie, Stephanie, Susan, Valerie, and those serving our community... Alex, Austin, Benjamin, Christian, Elizabeth, Eric, George, Harold, Herbert, John, Lorne, Luster, Michael, Mantis, Sean, Thomas, Tommy, and William.

Give Now Online!
You may “Give Now” electronically in one of three ways: (1) Scanning the QR code with your smartphone; (2) Visiting bbts.org and clicking the “Give” button; or (3) Testing IBTTs and a dollar amount (example: IBTT 5.00) to 73256 to give to Bethesda using text messaging.


CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Tim Schenck, Rector
The Rev. Susan Beeke, Associate Priest
Dr. Stuart Fonte, Associate for Music & Liturgy
The Rev. Dr. Cecily Titcomb, Deacon
Douglas Kueka, Communications Coordinator
Agnieszka Biczuk, Worship & Pastoral Care Coordinator
Laure Mader, Outreach & Stewardship Coordinator

Wardens, Officers, and Vestry

Lisa Hastey, Senior Warden
Chuck Zettler, Junior Warden
Sara Griffen, Treasurer
Lisa Hastey, Receiving Specialist
Joel Pena, Receiving Specialist
Laurie Kasprzyk, Receiving Specialist
Katie Vandell, Receiving Specialist
Lisa Hester, Receiving Specialist

The Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea
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_The Church Mouse Staff_

The Rev. Dr. Cecily Titcomb
The Rev. Susan Beeke
The Rev. Peter Straley
The Rev. Dr. Emily Travis
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