

A BETHESDA HOLY WEEK 2015



Bethesda Episcopal Church
Washington Street near Broadway
Saratoga Springs, New York

FROM OUR INTERIM RECTOR

My Dear People and Friends of Bethesda:

Holy Week begins and ends with a fanfare of joy and triumph: the entrance of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and his eradication of sin and death at his Resurrection. Reflecting with our mind's eye upon those who inaugurate this most sacred time in the Church Year is an exercise worthy of every effort. For there we see ourselves in varieties of expression. Curiosity seekers. Those in a hurry to be the first to see what people are saying. Doubters, tag-alongs.. Worshipers, frequent and infrequent alike, seeking a sign. Visitors, tourists. Do you see yourself?

Between March 29 and April 5, we, at Bethesda, will make together five processions, each with unique distinction:

bearing blessed branches of palm, *Hosanna*;
accompanying Our Lord on his way to Calvary;
witnessing the transfer of his Body to a place of
repose to pray and watch with him;
coming one by one to kiss the feet of the Crucified;
and announcing to the community of Saratoga
Springs and the world that Christ is risen.

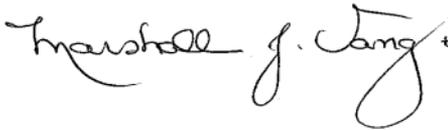
These are more than simply liturgical niceties. They unite us with the saints in heaven. In his reflections, Saint Bernard once expressed, *The holy living creatures will drop feathers from their wings, and the four and twenty elders will cast their crowns before the throne of the Lamb; and*

all the angelic powers will ascribe and attribute to him wholly, whatsoever they possess of honor and glory.

Holy Week is no time for passivity or nonchalance. Approach it with a commitment of dedication and renewal for the battle won for you and for me by the Lamb that was slain. Psalm 42 is helpful:

*As the deer longs for the water-brooks,
so longs my soul for you, O God.
My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God;
when shall I appear before the presence of God?
My tears have been my food day and night,
while all day long they say to me,
“Where now is your God?
I pour out my soul when I think on these things:
how I went with the multitude and led them into the
house of God.*

With my blessing,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marshall J. Vang" with a small cross symbol at the end of the name.

The Very Reverend Marshall J. Vang

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.”

7:00 P.M

**SOLEMN LITURGY OF
THE LORD’S SUPPER**

*with the Mandatum,
Procession of the Blessed Sacrament
to the Altar of Repose, and Vigil of Prayer*

*Music by Percy Buck, Maurice Durufle,
Orlando di Lasso, Plainsong*

GOOD FRIDAY

April 3

“It is finished.”

12:00 NOON

**SOLEMN LITURGY OF
OUR LORD’S PASSION & DEATH**

*with Veneration of the Cross and
Holy Communion*

*Music by Thomas Victoria, Giovanni
Anerio, John IV of Portugal, Antonio Lotti, Plainsong*

EASTER EVE

April 4

“Alleluia. Christ is risen.”

7:00 P.M.

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

*The Blessing & Lighting of the New Fire,
the Blessing & Lighting of the Paschal Candle,
the Paschal Proclamation, the Liturgy of the Word,
the Baptismal Liturgy, and the
First Eucharist of the Resurrection*

Music by Charles V. Stanford, Plainsong

A champagne reception will follow in the narthex.

THE SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION: EASTER DAY

April 5

*“This is the day which the Lord hath made;
We will rejoice and be glad in it.”*

8:00 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST *with Hymns*

10:00 A.M.

SOLEMN EUCHARIST

with the Great Procession

*Music by Farrell Goehring, Harold Darke, I. A. Atkins,
Edward Bairstow, Jacobus Handl,
Charles Wood*

PRAYERS FOR HOLY WEEK

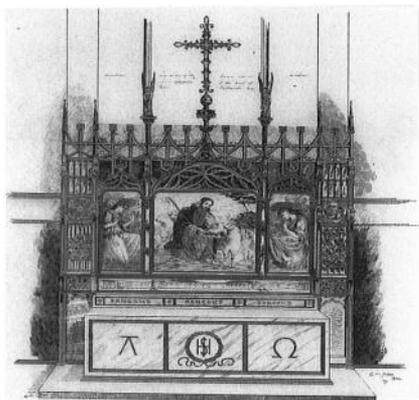
Assist us mercifully with thy help, O Lord God of our Salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby thou hast given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (*The Liturgy of the Palms*)

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world unto himself: Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen. (*Holy Cross Day*)

PRAYERS FOR EASTERTIDE

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ didst destroy death and bring life and immortality to light: Grant that we, who have been raised with him, may abide in his presence and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise for ever and ever. Amen. (*Tuesday in Easter Week*)

God of glory, by the raising of thy Son thou hast broken the chains of death and hell: Fill Bethesda Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen. (*Common Worship: Times and Seasons, adapted, Church of England*)



THE PARISH STAFF

The Very Reverend Marshall J. Vang	<i>Interim Rector</i>
The Reverend Paul F. Evans	<i>Assisting Priest</i>
The Reverend Peter H. Sweeney	<i>Deacon</i>
Farrell Goehring	<i>Organist & Director of Music</i>
Kathleen Slezak	<i>Choral Director</i>
Lynne Priestley	<i>Parish Administrative Assistant</i>
Matthew Griffin	<i>Verger</i>

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