

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Fourth Sunday of Easter
8am Holy Eucharist

25 April 2021
10:00am Sung Eucharist

Prelude

Prelude on the 23rd Psalm

Percy Whitlock (1903-1946)

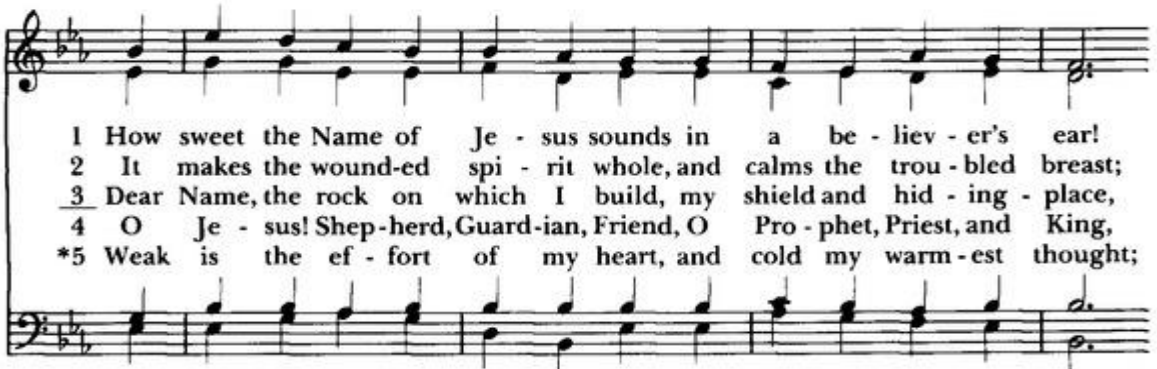
The Opening Acclamation

The people standing, the Celebrant says

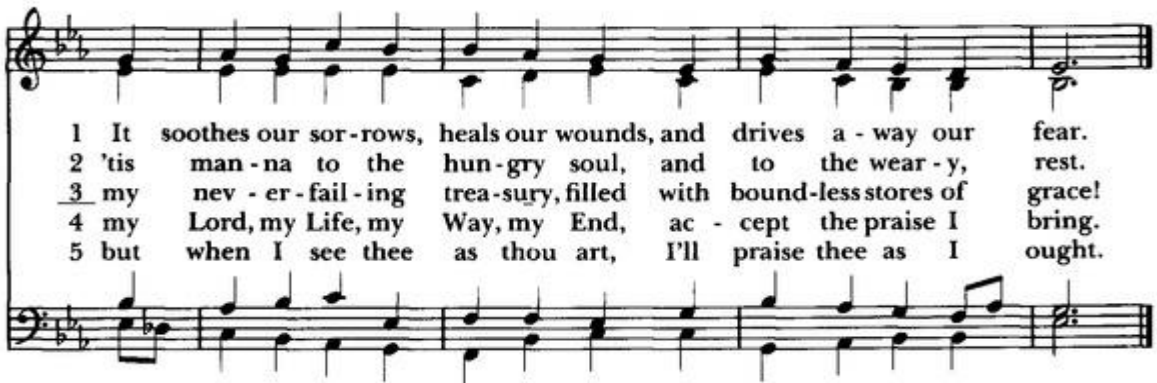
Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is Risen.
People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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.

Hymn



1 How sweet the Name of Je - sus sounds in a be - liev - er's ear!
2 It makes the wound-ed spi - rit whole, and calms the trou - bled breast;
3 Dear Name, the rock on which I build, my shield and hid - ing - place,
4 O Je - sus! Shep - herd, Guard - ian, Friend, O Pro - phet, Priest, and King,
*5 Weak is the ef - fort of my heart, and cold my warm - est thought;



1 It soothes our sor - rows, heals our wounds, and drives a - way our fear.
2 'tis man - na to the hun - gry soul, and to the wear - y, rest.
3 my nev - er - fail - ing trea - sury, filled with bound - less stores of grace!
4 my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End, ac - cept the praise I bring.
5 but when I see thee as thou art, I'll praise thee as I ough.

The Collect of The Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And with thy spirit.
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of thy people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calleth us each by name, and follow where he doth lead; who, with thee and the Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The people are seated

The First Lesson

Acts 4:5-12

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

The Lector concludes The Word of the Lord.
The People respond Thanks be to God

Gradual [Congregation says the verses in bold]

Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 **He makes me lie down in green pastures ***
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 **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.
- 5 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.
- 6 **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 Lesson

1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

*The Lector concludes
The People respond*

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The people stand, if able.

The Holy Gospel

John 10:11-18

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to John
People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

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

The Sermon

Fr Russo

The Nicene Creed *Said by all, standing if you are able.*

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.

The Prayers of The People *Pease kneel, if you are able.*

In joy and hope let us pray to the Father:
That our risen Savior may fill us with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection, we
pray to the Father:
Hear our prayer.

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of East-
er, we pray to the Father:
Hear our prayer.

That God may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love,
we pray to the Father:
Hear our prayer.

That he may provide for those who lack food, work, or shelter, we pray to
the Father: *Hear our prayer.*

That by his power war and famine may cease through all the world, we pray to
the Father: *Hear our prayer.*

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak, and the dying, to
comfort and strengthen them, especially those afflicted by the Corona Virus:
we pray to the Father:
Hear our prayer.

That, according to his promises, all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be
raised on the last day, we pray to the Father:
Hear our prayer.

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection, we pray to the Father:
Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant concludes with a Collect

The people respond Amen.

The Celebrant introduces the Confession

The people say

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 Absolution

The Celebrant says

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.**

The Peace

Please stand, if you are able.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And with thy spirit.

At The Offertory The King of Love My Shepherd Is Healey Willan (1880-1968)

The Great Thanksgiving *Please stand, if you are able.*

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

Proper Preface of Easter

But chiefly are we bound to praise thee for the glorious resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Sanctus and Benedictus Qui Venit *Sung by all*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of
 Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -
 - ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth -
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Eucharistic Prayer *Please kneel, if you are able.*

The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer, which concludes

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

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

People and Celebrant

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 Breaking of The Bread

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

Prayer of Humble Access *Said by all*

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.

At The Communion Brother James' Air Dale Wood (1934-2003)

The Post Communion Prayer *Said by all, kneeling if you are able.*

Almighty and everliving 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

The peace of God, which passeth 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 Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. Amen.

Dismissal

Celebrant Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

Please stand as the ministers depart, if you are able.

Voluntary The Lord is My Shepherd Barbara Harbach (b. 1946)

Notices

In our Intercessions for the Church and Parish this week, we pray for

Anglican Communion	The Nippon Sei Ko Kai
Albany Diocese	St. Matthew's Church, Unadilla, The Rev'd Dale Van Wormer
	The Rev'd Charles Bailey
Our Parish	The sick and the suffering

We remember with thanksgiving those who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week. We also pray for those who have died recently and those whose year's mind falls at this time.

The flowers on the Altar this morning are given in loving memory of Paul Parobeck by Audrey Parobeck.

Financial Update: Year to Date March 2021

Income: Year to Date March, total Pledge and Plate giving was \$55,798. This was \$2,343 over our Budget of \$53,455.

Operational Expenses year to date were \$72,256. This was \$3,940 under the budget of \$76,196, driven by underruns across multiple line items (building, fees, etc)

Year to Date March, Expenses have exceeded Pledge and Plate Income by \$16,458.

In the Community

Volunteer Caregivers Needed for Mary's Haven, a community home for the dying, a program of Catholic Charities, located in Saratoga Springs. Just 2- 4 hours a week of your time and talents will assist us in providing care and comfort to the terminally ill. Initial and ongoing training are provided. For more information please contact: Robin or Nancy @ #518-584-9397 or email us at: maryshaven@swwcc.org

Upcoming Services and Events at Bethesda

Today:	Services at 8am & 10am
Wednesday, 28 April	12pm Eucharist
Saturday, 1 May	9am Parish Work Day
	5pm Vigil Eucharist (Rite II)
Sunday, 2 May	Services at 8am & 10am.

Legs Miserables. Bethesda's walking group is planning three Wednesday afternoon outings for May 5, 12 and 19. Rain date is June 16. The first week, we will walk about a mile, the second two miles, and the third three miles. Call the parish office to register: 518-584-5980.

Work Day: The vestry is hoping that you can make it for a socially distanced work day on Saturday May 1st. The projects will include interior painting, with some use of ladders, some carpentry, some landscaping maintenance, including the courtyard, and interior cleaning. Your participation, whatever your skills, is greatly appreciated. All are welcome and encouraged to attend starting at 9:00am.