

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

15 May 2022

We continue to recommend that masks are worn throughout the service.

Prelude

Pastorale

Philip Hayes (1738-1797)

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.**

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

O Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know thy Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leadeth to eternal life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The people are seated

The First Lesson

Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

The Lector concludes
The People respond

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

- 1 Hallelujah!
Praise the Lord from the heavens; *
praise him in the heights.
- 2 Praise him, all you angels of his; *
praise him, all his host.
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon; *
praise him, all you shining stars.
- 4 Praise him, heaven of heavens, *
and you waters above the heavens.
- 5 Let them praise the Name of the Lord; *
for he commanded, and they were created.
- 6 He made them stand fast for ever and ever; *
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.
- 7 Praise the Lord from the earth, *
you sea-monsters and all deeps;
- 8 Fire and hail, snow and fog, *
tempestuous wind, doing his will;
- 9 Mountains and all hills, *
fruit trees and all cedars;
- 10 Wild beasts and all cattle, *
creeping things and winged birds;
- 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, *
princes and all rulers of the world;
- 12 Young men and maidens, *
old and young together.
- 13 Let them praise the Name of the Lord, *
for his Name only is exalted,
his splendor is over earth and heaven.
- 14 He has raised up strength for his people
and praise for all his loyal servants, *
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.
Hallelujah!

The Second Lesson

Revelation 21:1-6

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

The Lector concludes
The People respond

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The people stand, if able.

Hymn #450

From The Hymnal 1982

The Holy Gospel

John 13:31-35

Celebrant
People

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

At the last supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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

The Sermon

Fr Belton

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 *Please kneel.*

This week, in our Anglican cycle of prayer, we remember the Scottish Episcopal Church; in the Albany diocese, we pray for Christ the King Center, Greenwich and in our parish we pray for those involved in our Sunday School.

We remember with thanksgiving those who are celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week and those whose year's mind falls at this time.

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 Easter, 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 at this time, John, Laura, Bruce and Janice. 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 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 *All stand. At the exchange of the Peace, please remain in your pew.*

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

At The Offertory Hymn #529

From The Hymnal 1982

The Great Thanksgiving *Please stand.*

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 very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. Who by his death hath destroyed death, and by his rising to life again hath 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 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.

Agnus Dei:

Messa a tre voci

Antonio Lotti (1667-1740)

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

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 on us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Communion is distributed at the chancel step. Please remain seated until directed by an usher.

At The Communion

In Thee Is Gladness

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)

In thee is gladness, amid all sadness, Jesus, sunshine of my heart.
By thee are given the gifts of heaven, thou the true Redeemer art.

Our souls thou makest, our bonds thou breakest;
who trusts thee surely hath built securely;
He stands forever. Alleluia!

Our hearts are pining to see thy shining;
dying or living, to thee are cleaving;
naught can us sever. Alleluia!

The Post Communion Prayer

Said by all.

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 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.

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

Please stand as the celebrant departs.

Voluntary

Postlude in C

Henry Smart (1813-1879)

Today at Bethesda

We welcome Fr Colin Belton as preacher and celebrant today. Fr Belton recently retired from Saint Sacrement Church in Bolton Landing .

May special monthly envelope: Donations from the Monthly Envelope in May will be directed to the Beaver Cross Camp Scholarship Fund. Beaver Cross, our diocesan camp in Greenwich, NY, seeks to make its summer programs available to every eligible child who wishes to participate in its activities, regardless of a family's financial circumstances. Each year, funds are raised to meet the need for scholarships. Please support this enriching experience for children

The study of Genesis meets today and throughout the month of May at 9:20. All welcome.

Upcoming at Bethesda

Legs Misérables. is open to anyone interested in a leisurely walk and lively fellowship with fellow parishioners, friends and family. Please register with the church office if you want to go on one or more of these walks, via email (office@bethesdachurch.org) or phone (518) 584-5980. If you are registered, we can notify you if the walk plans change. Our first scheduled walk was cancelled due to rain, so the new schedule follows with further information about the first walk.

May 17—Pitney Farm

May 24—Hudson Crossing

On Tuesday, May 17, we will meet at 2:00 PM at Pitney Farm (223 West Avenue). Take the second road past the main entrance into the farm and park on the right where there is a grassy area for walkers' cars. The trail is about one mile long and is paved. It is largely unshaded, so wear a hat and bring a water bottle.

News

Roof Update

The lower portion of the east-facing side of the church has had the old roof removed and replaced with new decking and ice/water barrier.



Below is what awaits the Holy Rollers when they arrive to remove the plastic and clean up. It might be difficult to see but the plastic catches the debris that rains down from the roof work. The efforts by the Holy Rollers have been remarkable!



Now that the old roof has been removed, we will no longer need to cover the pews!

Remember, more work remains – as the metal clad roofing, trim and gutters still need to be installed. The tentative completion date is early July.

A **big thank you** to the Holy Rollers who have given up some of the weekend to clean and prepare the church for Sunday services.