

# Bethesda Episcopal Church

**The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**7 May 2023**

**Prelude** Fantasia con Imitazione

*J. S. Bach (1685-1750)*

**The Entrance Hymn #191**

*From the Hymnal 1982*

**The Opening Acclamation**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

*Celebrant*  
**People**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
**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.**

**The Gloria in excelsis**

*Healey Willan (1880-1968)*

Glo - ry be to God on high, and on earth. peace, good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee, we wor - ship thee, we glo - ri - fy

thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glo - ry, O Lord

God, heaven - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al -

might - - y. O Lord, the on - ly be - got - ten

Son, Je - sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the

Fa - ther, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Thou that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, re - ceive our  
prayer. Thou that sit - test at the right hand of God the Fa - ther, have  
mer - cy up - on us. For thou on - ly art ho - ly;  
thou on - ly are the Lord; thou on - ly, O Christ, with the Ho - ly  
Ghost, art most high in the glo - ry of God the  
Fa - ther. A - - - - -  
men.

*Remain standing.*

**The Collect of The Day**

|                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Celebrant</i> | The Lord be with you.       |
| <b>People</b>    | <b>And with thy spirit.</b> |
| <i>Celebrant</i> | 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.*

*All sit.*

***The First Lesson***

*Acts 7:55-60*

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

*The Lector concludes  
The People respond*

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

*Remain seated.*

***Gradual*** ‘Dextera Domini’

*Cesar Franck (1822-1890)*

Dextera Domini fecit virtutem; dextera Domini exaltavit me. Alleluia.

*The right hand of the Lord has wrought strength;  
the right hand of the Lord hath exalted me. Alleluia*

***The Second Lesson***

*1 Peter 2.2-10*

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner”, and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

*The Lector concludes  
The People respond*

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

*All stand.*

## **The Alleluia**



*Choir:* Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

*All repeat:* **Alleluia.**

*Remain standing.*

## **The Holy Gospel**

*John 14.1-14*

*Celebrant  
People*

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

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

*Celebrant  
People*

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

## **The Sermon**

*All stand.*

**The Nicene Creed**    *Said by all*

**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***

As we celebrate the good news of Christ's Resurrection, let us pray that the power of his risen life may be known throughout the world. We continue to pray for a peaceful end to the conflicts in Ukraine and Sudan, and for those working to bring relief and comfort to lives shattered by violence, hunger, and oppression.

In our prayers for the Anglican Communion, we remember the Church in Wales; and in the Albany Diocese, the ministry of our hospital chaplains. We ask God's blessing on those 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 Lord, saying, *Lord, hear our prayer:*

That our risen Savior may fill us with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection, we pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter,

we pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

That by his power war and famine may cease through all the world, we pray to the Lord: **Lord, 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, Bruce Solenski, Bruce McMorris, Jerilyn, Paul, and Linda, we pray to the Lord: **Lord, 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 Lord: **Lord, 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 Lord: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant says a concluding prayer, followed by the invitation to Confession.*

*The people say together*

**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 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.**

*All stand. At the exchange of the Peace, please remain in your pew.*

**The Peace**

*Celebrant*  
*People*

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

**Hymn at The Offertory #195**

*From the Hymnal 1982*

*Remain standing*

**The Eucharistic Prayer**

*Celebrant*  
*People*  
*Celebrant*  
*People*  
*Celebrant*  
*People*

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. 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 hath 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. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee and saying,

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.

*All kneel.*

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did

institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

### ***Our Father***

And now, as our Savior Christ hath commanded and 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***

*Celebrant  
People*

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

*Remain kneeling*

***The Agnus Dei*** from 'Messa a tre voci'

*Antonio Lotti (1667-1740)*



*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, grant us thy peace.*

*Communion is distributed at the chancel step.*

**At Communion** ‘Come My Way, My Truth, My Life’ William H. Harris (1883-1973)

*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:  
Such a Way, as gives us breath:  
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:  
Such a Life, as killeth death.*

*Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:  
Such a Light, as shows a feast:  
Such a Feast, as mends in length:  
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.*

*Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:  
Such a Joy, as none can move:  
Such a Love, as none can part:  
Such a Heart, as joys in love.*

*Text: George Herbert: The Call (1633)*

*After Communion, all kneel. All say together*

### ***The Prayer after Communion***

**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 God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, 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.**

***The Closing Hymn #210***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

***Voluntary*** Ceremonial March

*Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)*

***Today at Bethesda***

**Readers.** Thank you to those reading and leading prayers at services today:

8am Tom Remington  
10am Katie Hooper & Mary Shartle

The **flowers on the High Altar** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Virginia and David Danforth Wilder and Lillian and Edward O'Boyle by Nancy and David Wilder.

The **Eucharistic elements** in May are given in memory of Daniel Briggs Thornton by his wife, Patricia. Daniel died in the autumn of 2022. We pray for Daniel's family and give thanks to God for his life.

**Coffee** will be served after today's 10am service. Thank you to Judy and Grady Aronstamm. If you are able to host an upcoming Coffee Hour, please sign up using the sheet in the Narthex.

**Bethesda** Church gratefully acknowledges a generous gift of \$25,000 from an anonymous donor to assist the parish with building work.

**Special Monthly Envelope** Funds raised in May's special envelope will go 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.

**Flowers and Communion Elements** If you would like to contribute flowers for the altar or eucharistic elements (bread and wine) as a memorial, or in thanksgiving for a birthday or anniversary, please contact the office.

**Pastoral Care** If you know of someone in hospital or housebound who would appreciate hearing from the Church, please contact the office by phone (518.584.5980) or email (office@bethesdachurch.org).

The **parish office** is normally open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 10am to 1pm. If you plan to visit in person, we advise that you call in advance in case there is any change to this schedule: 518.584.5980.

**Parking.** The lot adjacent to the church offers free parking for the first two hours. You will require a credit card to enter and exit the lot which is accessible via Congress Street.



*Fr Tom Malionek, President of the Standing Committee, Diocese of Albany, writes:*

The Profile and Search Committee for the Tenth Bishop of Albany has reported to the Secretary of Convention with an initial list of candidates to be placed in nomination for the Tenth Bishop of Albany.

The initial list of nominees comprises:

**The Reverend Geoffrey Ward**, Rector of Saint Christopher's Episcopal Church, River Hills, Wisconsin (Diocese of Milwaukee)

**The Reverend Jeremiah Williamson**, Rector of Grace and Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church, Colorado Springs, Colorado (Diocese of Colorado)

**The Very Reverend Neal Longe**, Rector of Saint Ann's Episcopal Church, Amsterdam, New York (Diocese of Albany)

**The Reverend Scott Garno**, Rector of Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church, Delmar, New York (Diocese of Albany)

A 30-day Independent Nomination Period, in which further nominees may be brought forward, opens on Monday, May 8, 2023. Independent nominees must meet the same requirements as the nominees identified by the Profile and Search Committee. More extensive information will be posted after the Independent Nominees have been identified and have met the nomination requirements.

Before the Electing Convention, the Diocese will schedule a number of opportunities at which members of the Electing Convention and other members of the diocese can meet the nominees. Further information regarding opportunities to get to know the candidates will be posted on the Episcopal Transition page of the diocesan web site. The Electing Convention is scheduled to open on Friday, September 8, at the Cathedral of All Saints in Albany.

Information will be published as it becomes available.

*The full text of Fr Malionek's letter is posted on the diocesan website.*

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

*Name(s):*

*Phone:*

*Email address:*

*Home address:*

*Preferred contact method:*

*Contact Reason(s):*

- 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
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

*Fr Charles Wallace, Priest in Charge*

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