

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

5 May 2024

Organ Toccata in F Major

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

The Entrance Hymn #530

From the Hymnal 1982

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.

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.
<i>People</i>	And with thy spirit.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us pray.

O God, who hast prepared for those who love thee such good things as pass man's understanding: Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee in all things and above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

The First Lesson

Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The Lector concludes
The People respond

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Remain seated.

Gradual

A New Commandment

Richard Shepard (1949-2021)

A new commandment I give unto you:
that you love one another as I have loved you.
By this shall all men know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one Another.

(John 13: 34-35)

The Second Lesson

1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The Lector concludes
The People respond

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

All stand.

The Alleluia



Choir: I have chosen you out of the world; that ye should go forth and bring fruit,
and that your fruit should remain (John 16: 16)
All repeat: Alleluia.

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

John 15:9-17

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

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

The Sermon

Br Ephrem Arcement, OHC

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

In our prayers for the Anglican Communion, we remember the Episcopal Church of Brazil; and in the Albany Diocese, we pray for Bishop Jeremiah Williamson, and for our upcoming diocesan Convention. Today, we also remember Ephrem, and the brothers of Holy Cross Monastery, and for those discerning a call to the religious life.

We ask God's blessing on those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week; and those whose year's mind falls at this time.

In peace we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for all those who are alone.

For this community, our country, 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 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, clergy and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For our own needs and those of others.

A moment of silence is kept for people to add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord.

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

A moment of silence is kept for people to add their own thanksgivings.

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your name for ever and ever.

We pray for those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to you alone, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

A moment of silence is kept for people to remember those who have died.

Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

The Celebrant says a concluding prayer,

O Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth: Send thy Holy Ghost and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee. Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

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

Hymn at The Offertory #448

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing

The Eucharistic Prayer

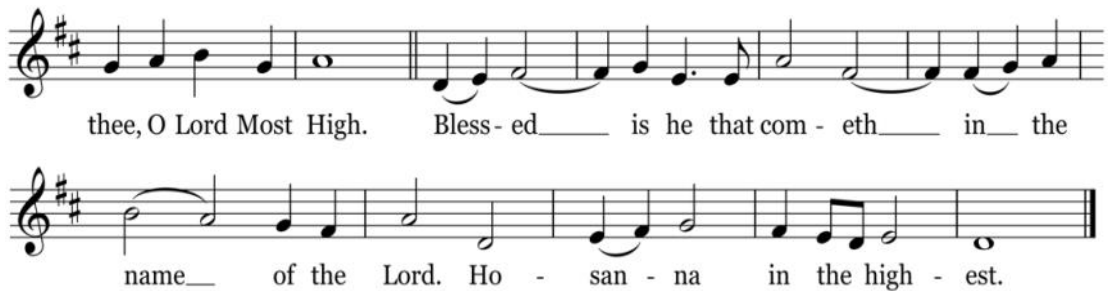
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People **It is meet and right so to do.**

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,

Sanctus and Benedictus Qui Venit

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - - - ly, Lord God of Hosts:
Hea-ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo - ry be to



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

Remain kneeling.

The Agnus Dei from Mass in F

Harold Darke (1888-1976)

*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 The Communion

Choir: If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

If ye love me, keep my commandments;
and I will pray the Father,
and He shall give you another comforter,
that He may abide with you forever, even the spirit of truth.

(John 14: 15-17)

Organ: Adagio

Tomaso Giovanni Albinoni (1671-1751)

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 #292

From the Hymnal 1982

Voluntary O God, Our Help in Ages Past (St. Anne) *Charles Callahan (1951-2023)*

Today at Bethesda

New to Bethesda? We are glad you're here! If you are interested in joining the parish and/or would like further information about our community, please complete the form on the back of the bulletin and drop it into a collection plate or hand it to an usher.

Welcome to Brother Ephrem, a member of the Order of the Holy Cross, West Park, who will be preaching this morning. Br Ephrem led our parish retreat last year and we look forward to him doing so again in November 2024. If you're interested in joining fellow parishioners at Holy Cross this year, please speak to Fr Wallace about registration.

Br Ephrem Arcement, OHC, spent eleven years as a Benedictine monk of St. Joseph Abbey in Louisiana before transferring to Holy Cross Monastery where he now serves as guest master and Junior master. Br Ephrem has years of experience in retreat ministry and has a particular interest in helping make the vitality of the Christian spiritual tradition understood and made accessible to all who are interested in deepening their spiritual lives. Br Ephrem holds a PhD in Spirituality from The Catholic University of America. His two books are *Intimacy in Prayer: Wisdom from Bernard of Clairvaux* and *In the School of Prophets: The Formation of Thomas Merton's Prophetic Spirituality*. His new book, *The Shape of the Church: The Seven Dimensions of Ecclesial Wholeness* is currently being prepared for publication.

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 David and Nancy Wilder.

The **Eucharistic elements** (wine and bread) for the month of May are given in loving remembrance of Daniel Thornton by his wife Patty.

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

8am Lynne Priestley

10am Tom Remington & Darren Miller

Today at 9.20am, in place of our regular Sunday Bible Study, Br Ephrem, OHC, will lead a discussion on the writings of **Thomas Merton**. All welcome.

Sunday Bible Study resumes **12 May** at 9.20am.

Please join us for a **cup of coffee** following the 10am service. Thank you to Kathleen and Mark Anspach for hosting today.

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.

Special Monthly Envelope donations in May will be directed to **Mary's Haven**. Mary's Haven, located in Saratoga Springs, is a residence serving persons with terminal illness who are within the last 3 months of their lives. Opened in 2003, Mary's Haven has assisted over 325 residents to live out their final days with dignity in a peaceful, loving and compassionate homelike environment, while supporting families and friends as they cope with the impending loss of a loved one. Referrals come from several sources including Hospice, health care agencies, hospitals, physicians, and social workers. Preference is given to those with the greatest need and the fewest options, regardless of race, gender, religion or age. Bereavement care, before and after the death of the resident, is an essential part of the journey to assist loved ones dealing with their loss. Because its services are provided free of charge to residents, Mary's Haven relies on funds raised through community contributions, memorial donations, and other fundraising efforts. Thank you for your generous support.

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.

Office The parish office on Elm Street will be open this week from 10—1pm on Tuesday and Wednesday; and on Thursday, from noon to 3pm.

Community and Diocesan Events

Interfaith Garden Luncheon You are cordially invited to an Interfaith Garden luncheon being held **today at 1:30pm** at the Presbyterian-United Church of Christ located at 24 Circular St. Please join us to learn more about the Interfaith Garden and decide if you would like to volunteer a few hours this summer. The produce from the garden is used to feed the backstretch workers as well as others in need. For more information, please contact Judy Beers at judybeers53@gmail.com.

Concert The Choir of All Saints' Cathedral, Albany sings Felix Mendelssohn's oratorio, *Elijah*, with guest soloists on Tuesday, 14 May at 7pm. To purchase tickets, go to the Cathedral website: www.cathedralofallsaints.org

LifeWorks Community Action is a non-profit established in 1965 that works to alleviate poverty by assisting local families and individuals with a wide range of services. Bethesda is currently collecting the following items on behalf of **LifeWorks**:

- ◆ Household cleaning supplies. Laundry detergent, dishwasher detergent
- ◆ Canned Foods including those low in salt, fat & sugar and gluten free.
- ◆ Diapers (size 4 & 5), baby wipes, and baby care products: shampoo and soap.
- ◆ Adult personal hygiene products: soap, toothpaste/brushes, shampoo, razors, shaving cream, deodorant.

Please leave donated items *in the box by the side door entrance* of the church. Thank you!



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
- Would like information about pledge envelopes or regular giving to Bethesda
- Other _____

Fr Charles Wallace, Priest-in-Charge

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