

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Feast of the Ascension of the Lord

12 May 2024

Organ Prelude on "Wondrous Love"

Peter Pindar Stearns (1931-2016)

The Entrance Hymn #214

From the Hymnal 1982

The Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity

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

O God, the King of glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven: We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless, but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Savior Christ is gone before; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

All sit.

The First Lesson

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

*The Lector concludes
The People respond*

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Remain seated.

The Gradual Ascendit Deus

Christoph Dalitz (b.1967)

Ascendit Deus in jubilatione; Dominus in voce tubae. Alleluia.
God is gone up with a jubilant shout; the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.

(Ps 47: 5)

The Second Lesson

Ephesians 1.15-23

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

*The Lector concludes
The People respond*

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

All stand.

The Alleluia



Choir: I will not leave you comfortless; I go away and come again unto you, and your heart shall rejoice.

All: **Alleluia.**

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 24.44-53

*Celebrant
People*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke.
Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you-- that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

*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

In our prayers for the Anglican Communion, we remember the Church of the Province of Burundi; in the Albany Diocese, we pray for Jeremiah, our bishop, and the ministry of Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen, Arbor Hill. We remember especially today the role that our mothers have played in our lives: for the love and nurture they have given; the sacrifices they have made; and the guidance they have provided, we give thanks to God.

Let us join our prayers with those of our Savior Jesus Christ, seeking the Father's blessing, and the gifts of the Spirit, saying, *Lord, graciously hear us.*

Jesus Christ, our great high priest, living for ever to intercede for us, pray for the Church, your broken body in the world. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, king of righteousness, enthroned at the right hand of your majesty on high, pray for this troubled world, and make it subject to your just and gentle rule. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Son of Man, drawing humanity into the life of God, pray for your brothers and sisters in any need, distress or sorrow. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, pioneer of our salvation, bringing us to glory through your death and resurrection, surround with your saints and angels those who have died trusting your promises, remembering especially at this time, Paul McMorris. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things, ascended far above the heavens and filling the universe, pray for us who bear witness to your glory and power. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

The Celebrant says a concluding prayer.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery has established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who are reborn into the fellowship of Christ's body, may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession and Absolution

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 #483

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

The Eucharistic Prayer

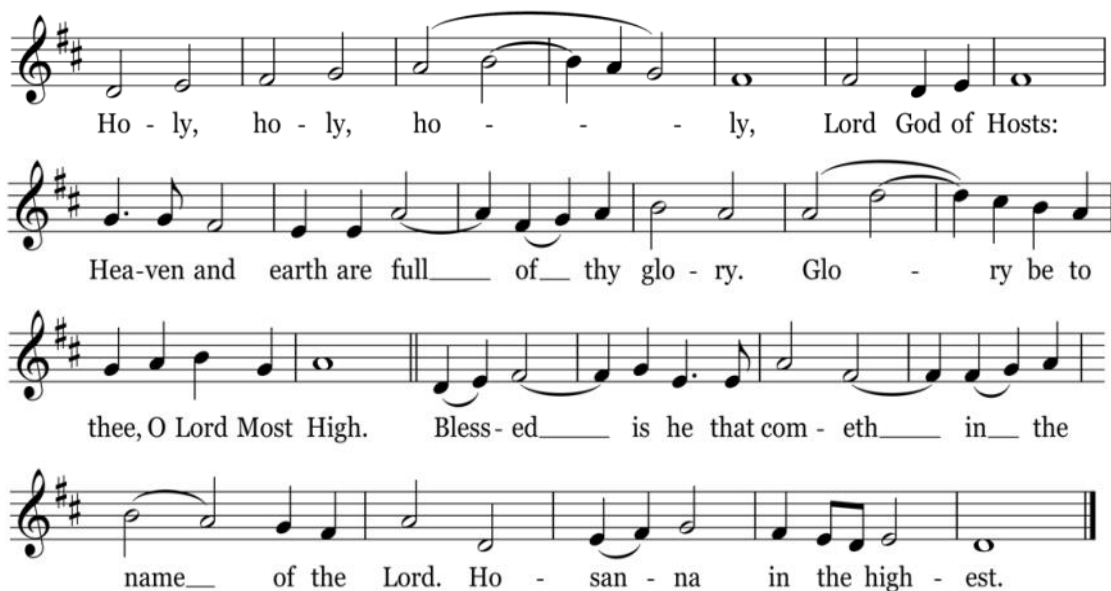
Celebrant
People
Celebrant
People
Celebrant
People

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. Through thy dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who after his glorious resurrection manifestly appeared to his disciples; and in their sight ascended into heaven, to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory. 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
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 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 Missa Exoniensis (Exeter Mass) *Lionel Dakers (1924-2003)*

*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: Ascendit Deus *Samuel Webbe, Sr. (1704-1816)*

Ascendit Deus in jubilo: et Dominus in voce tubae.

Psalite Deo nostro, psalite.

Quoniam rex omnis terrae Deus, psalite sapienter.

Psalite Deo nostro, psalite.

Regnavit Deus super gentes, Deus sedet super sedem sanctam suam.

Psalite Deo nostro, psalite.

God is gone up with a shout; the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.

Sing praises to our God, sing praises.

For God is King over all the earth, sing praises with understanding.

Sing praises to our God, sing praises.

God reigneth over the peoples; God sitteth upon the seat of his holiness.

Sing praises to our God, sing praises. (Ps 47: 5-9)

Organ: Adagio, from Sonata No. 6, Op. 56 *Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)*

After Communion, all kneel.

The Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. **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 into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

The Closing Hymn #494

From the Hymnal 1982

Organ

‘Sing Praise to God’

Paul Laubengayer (b. 1946)

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.

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 Mary Withington 10 am Genna Henderson & Max Ascitutto

Please join us for a **cup of coffee** following the 10am service. Thank you to Kathy and Jay Higle for hosting today.

We are looking for volunteers to host refreshments (lemonade and cookies) beginning May 19 through October 13. If you're able to assist, please add your name (and phone number) to the rota at the back of the church.

The Old Testament **Bible Study** meets this morning at 9.20am. Thank you to Libby Smith-Holmes for leading today. All welcome.

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.

Our annual weekend **Retreat** at Holy Cross Monastery, West Park, NY will take place from 1st-3rd November. Br Ephrem, who preached for us last Sunday, will be the speaker. For further information about the weekend, speak to Fr Wallace. For further information about Holy Cross, please consult the website: www.holycrossmonastery.com

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

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!

Organ Recital by Elizabeth and Raymond Chenault at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish, 1803 Union St., Schenectady, NY, on **Sunday, June 2 at 3pm**. This concert is co-sponsored by St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish, Allen Organ Studios, and the Eastern NY chapter of the American Guild of Organists. It is free and open to the public.





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

Email: office@bethesdachurch.org
Office Telephone: (518) 584-5980

Website: bethesdachurch.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bethesdaepiscopalchurch>

Bethesda Episcopal Church Office
178 Elm Street, Suite 5
Saratoga Springs NY 12866