

Bethesda Episcopal Church

Saratoga Springs, New York

10.00am A Service of Lessons and Carols for Easter

12 April 2026

Organ Andante tranquillo from Sonata III *Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)*

All stand as the Procession enters the nave.

The Entrance Hymn #180

From The Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

The Bidding

Beloved in Christ, in this joyful season of Easter, let it be our duty and delight to unite ourselves with all members of the Church throughout the world in singing the praises of Our Lord Jesus; and to hear again in Holy Scripture how he overcame death, and rose victorious from the grave.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which our Lord died, especially within this city and this country, and for goodwill among all people. And because he gave us a commandment to love one another as he loves us, let us remember in his name, the poor and unemployed, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged, and those seeking a deeper knowledge of God's love. Finally, let us remember the blessings bestowed on us through the first witnesses of Christ's resurrection and through the countless numbers of those who have proclaimed a belief in that witness down the ages.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

**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.**

All sit.

Now glad of heart be every one:
The battle o'er; the victory won.
Let songs of thankfulness be sung: Alleluia!

The women at the empty tomb,
The apostles in the shuttered room,
Christ's peace for all; away dark gloom. Alleluia!

Blest are all they who have not seen,
And yet whose faith hath stalwart been,
Inherit heaven's eternity. Alleluia!

Remain seated for the readings and music.

The First Reading

John 20:11-18

Christ appears to Mary Magdalene and she supposes him to be the gardener.

Mary Magdalene stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Thanks be to God.

Choir

Samuel Scheidt (1587-1654)

Surrexit Christus hodie. Alleluia! Mortem qui passus pridie. Alleluia!
Mulieres ad tumulum. Alleluia. Dona ferunt aromatum. Alleluia.
Quarentes Jesum Dominum, Alleluia! Album cernentes angelum. Alleluia!
Discipulis hoc dicite, Alleluia! Quod surrexit Rex gloriae. Alleluia!
Petro dehinc et ceteris, Alleluia! Apparuit apostolis. Alleluia!
Gloria tibi, Domine, Alleluia! Qui surrexisti e morte. Alleluia!

Christ is risen today Alleluia! He suffered death the day before.

The women at the tomb, bring gifts of spices.

Those seeking the Lord Jesus, seeing angels in white,

Tell the disciples that the King of Glory has risen!

When Peter was with the others, He [Jesus] appeared to the apostles.

Glory be to thee, O Lord, who rose from the dead.

Text: 14th c. Latin Carol

The Second Reading

Luke 24:13-16, 28-35

Jesus appears to two of his disciples on the road to Emmaus.

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Thanks be to God.

Choir

William Byrd (1543-1623)

Alleluia. *Cognoverunt discipuli Dominum Jesum in fractione panis.*

Alleluia. The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of bread. (Luke 24: 35)

The Third Reading

John 20:19-23; Luke 24:37-40

Christ appears to his disciples in hiding.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Thanks be to God.

Choir*Melchior Frank (1580-1639)*

Da pacem, Domino, in diebus nostri.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Text: From the Suffrages, Book of Common Prayer, 1549

The Fourth Reading*John 20:24-29*

Thomas is given convincing proof of the Lord's Resurrection.

Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Thanks be to God.

Choir*Luca Marenzio (1556-1599)*

Quia vidisti me, Thoma, credidisti: beati qui non viderunt, et crediderunt. Alleluia.

Because thou hast seen me, Thomas, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. Alleluia. (John 20.29)

All stand.

The Fifth Reading*Matthew 28:16-20; John 20:30-31*

Christ gives the disciples his final charge.

Then the eleven disciples went away to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Thanks be to God.

Remain standing.

The Collect for Easter

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray. O God, who for our redemption didst give thine only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection hast delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All sit for the Greetings.

Hymn at the Offertory #204

From The Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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 we are 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

thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed___ is he that com - eth___ in___ the



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.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

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

Agnus Dei from the *Missa Secunda*

Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)

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

Communion is distributed at the altar rail. Please move at the direction of the ushers.

Motet during Communion

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away; for lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear upon the earth, the time of singing of birds is come. Arise my love, my fair one, and come away. (*Text: Song of Solomon 2.10-13*)

Communion Hymn #206

From The Hymnal 1982

After Communion, all kneel. The Celebrant says

The Prayer after Communion

O God, whose blessed Son did manifest himself to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open, we pray thee, the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 good 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 upon you, and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

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

The Closing Hymn #188

From The Hymnal 1982

Organ

Fanfare

Jacques Lemmens (1823-1881)

Welcome to Bethesda! To learn more about our parish community, speak to an usher or contact the parish office: office@bethesdachurch.org

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Edward C. and Audrey Ball by Nancy, Larry, Jonathan & Stephen.

Thank you to our 10am **readers**: Peter Brooks, Katie Hooper, Leo Parini, and Evelyn Reese.

Join us for refreshments following the 10am service. Thanks to Tim and Claire, our hosts today. Hosts needed in April-May. See rota at the back of the church.

A tremendous **thank you** to all who have labored with devotion and dedication this Holy Week and Easter: musicians, readers, office volunteers, ushers, flower donors, altar guild

members, acolytes, Fr Kriss *and everyone* who prayed and journeyed with Our Lord from the cross and grave, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Calling All Knitters! A mini-prayer shawl ministry is starting, and we hope you'll join us! You can pick up the pattern at the back of the church. Our first set of mini-prayer shawls will be blessed on Pentecost before being distributed to those in need. If you have any questions, please contact Carol or Jean for more information at office@bethesdachurch.org

There is a weekday service of Holy Communion **Thursdays at 12.10pm**. All are welcome.

Concert at Bethesda on Friday 24 April at 7pm. In celebration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, the acclaimed chamber ensemble **Musicians of Ma'alwyck** announces a special concert program dedicated to the music that soundtracked the birth of the United States. Works by Stamitz, Handel, and Scarlatti. You may purchase tickets at the door or via the website: www.musiciansofmaalwyck.org

The **April Special Envelope** supports the **Thomas T. Parke Music Fund**. Fr Parke was Rector of Bethesda from 1968 to 2012. In recognition of his commitment to the liturgical and musical life of the parish, a fund was established in his name which would provide additional financial support to our choral program throughout the year.

Please be advised that the parish **office is closed** until 21 April.

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 canned foods and personal hygiene products. Donations may be left in the box by the side door entrance.

Parking The lot adjacent to the church, which is accessible via Congress Street, offers free parking for the first two hours.

Two Courses:

Christianity 101 Four Sundays, from 7.30- 8.30pm on April 19, 26, May 3 & 10. As the Church continues to celebrate the joy of Eastertide, we reflect on Christ's victory over sin and death and what it means for our lives today. This season of resurrection is a time not only of celebration, but of deeper understanding and renewed faith. If you are new or interested in a deeper exploration of the faith, this class offers a welcoming space to explore Christianity, ask meaningful questions, and grow in your understanding of the hope and new life proclaimed in the Resurrection. This course, which is led by Jon Kimmel, is offered online.

Effective Compassion training, led by Ismael Hernandez, encourages participants to move beyond models of aid that unintentionally foster dependency and toward approaches that empower individuals and strengthen communities. Through practical insights and real-world examples, Hernandez explores principles such as dignity-based outreach, reciprocity in service, and locally driven solutions that cultivate long-term flourishing. This thought-provoking event will be of particular interest to those engaged in ministry, social service, education, and community development who seek a deeper and more sustainable vision of compassion in action. Drawing on years of experience in community work and faith-based outreach, Hernandez challenges the prevailing model of charity and offers a more effective approach rooted in dignity, responsibility, and personal transformation. Date: Saturday 25 April, from 8.30am-12.30 at the Cathedral of All Saints, Albany. For more information regarding either course, contact jkimmel@thecathedralofallsaints.org