

# Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Third Sunday of Easter

19 April 2026

## 8.00 Holy Communion

*The order of service is printed on the laminated card.  
The Reading, Gospel, and Prayers of the People can be found below.*

## 10.00 Sung Eucharist

**Music** Scottish Legend, from Two Piano Pieces, Op 54

Amy Beach (1867-1944)  
*arr. Robert Gower*

**The Entrance Hymn #191**

*From the Hymnal 1982*

**The Opening Acclamation**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

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***

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

Let us pray. 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, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*All sit.*

### ***The First Lesson***

*Acts 2:14a, 36-41*

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Remain seated.*

### ***The Gradual*** Alleluia

*Eduard Grell (1800-1886)*

### ***The Second Lesson***

*1 Peter 1:17-23*

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

## *The Alleluia*



*Verse:* The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread. **Alleluia.**

*Remain standing.*

## *The Holy Gospel*

*Luke 24:13-35*

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

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples 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. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

## ***The Sermon***

*Jonathan Kimmel*

*All stand.*

## ***The Nicene Creed***

**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 this week, we remember the Church of the Province of Myanmar; and in our diocese, Jeremiah, our bishop; and the people of Zion Church, Hudson Falls. We give thanks for the baptism of Aurelia Marion Spring, and welcome her into the fellowship of the Church.

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, *Lord, have mercy.*

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For peace in our world, especially in the Middle East, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our President, and for the leaders of all nations, that wisdom and courage may prevail in the cause of justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, oppression, and degradation; for all affected by violence and war, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the city of Saratoga Springs, and for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

*Celebrant:* Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for all who believe in him; to whom with thee, O Father and the Holy Spirit, be ascribed all honour, glory, dominion and power, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### ***The Confession and Absolution***

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against thee  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in thy will,**

**and walk in thy ways,  
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

*The Celebrant says the Absolution.*

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 Peace, please greet those around you in the name of the Lord.*

### **The Peace**

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

### **Hymn at the Offertory #182**

*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 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,

### **The Sanctus and Benedictus**

*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.**

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

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***

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

*Remain kneeling.*

***Agnus Dei*** from *Missa Sancto Albano*

*Healey Willan (1880-1968)*

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 administered at the altar rail. Please move at the direction of the ushers. During Communion, the Choir sings*

"Twas in the breaking of the bread,  
just common daily bread  
they knew their Lord.

They were so blind they failed to find him  
in sad events that crashed their world about them.  
But at the quiet close of day  
he walked beside them in the way;  
and as they sat about that simple board  
they knew their Lord.

O Master, open thou our eyes  
that we, like them in glad surprise  
may see thee in the simple things of every day,  
and find thee on our way.

"Twas in the breaking of the bread,  
just common daily bread  
they knew their Lord.

*Music: Austin C. Lovelace (1919-2010) Text: Emma R. Barnard, based on Luke 24.13-32*

***Communion Hymn #198*** (*remain seated or kneeling*)

*From the Hymnal 1982*

*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, 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.**

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

### ***The Closing Hymn #194***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

**Organ** Fanfare

*William Mathias (1934-1992)*

### **Notices**

**Welcome to Bethesda Church!** To learn more about our parish, you may speak to an usher, or complete the form on the back page and place it in the collection plate.

The **flowers on the altar** today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of L. Carlton & Lena S. Armstrong, Robert C. Sr. & Margaret Armstrong, Robert C. Armstrong Jr., Wendy Armstrong Hayes, Anthony & Marie Graae and Charles F. & Helen Towner by Jerilyn A. & Michael E. Towner.

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.

Thank you to those **reading and leading prayers:** at 8am, Bob Bullock; and at 10am, Lynda Redman and Rick Wissler.

The C.S. Lewis, ***Mere Christianity*** reading group meets in the nave today at 9am.

**Please join us for a cup of coffee** following the 10am service. Thanks to the Spring family for hosting today. Hosts needed in May! Please sign up using the sheet in the Narthex.

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

**April Special Envelope** Donations in **April** will be directed to 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 provides additional financial support to our choral program throughout the year. Thank you for your generosity to the ministry of music at Bethesda.

**Parish Office** The office re-opens this week: Tuesday and Wednesday 10-12:30pm; and Thursday 12.30– 3pm

**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](mailto:office@bethesdachurch.org)

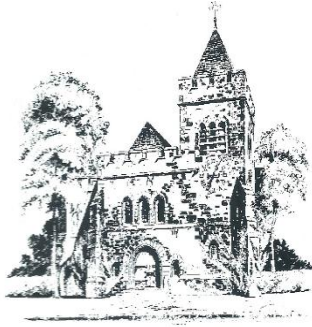
**Concert** at Bethesda on Friday 24 April at 7pm. In celebration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, the acclaimed chamber ensemble **Musicians of Ma'alwyck** announces a special concert program dedicated to the music that soundtracked the birth of the United States with works by Stamitz, Handel, and Scarlatti. For tickets, go to [musiciansofmaalwyck.org](http://musiciansofmaalwyck.org)

**Christianity 101** continues *online* this evening from 7.30- 8.30pm and on April 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. 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. The course is led by Jon Kimmel. Speak to Jon today or email him at [jkimmel@cathedralofallsaints.org](mailto:jkimmel@cathedralofallsaints.org)

**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 & Location: Saturday 25 April, from 8.30am-12.30 at the Cathedral of All Saints, Albany. Contact [jkimmel@thecathedralofallsaints.org](mailto:jkimmel@thecathedralofallsaints.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 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.



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

*Name:*

*Phone:*

*Email address:*

*Home address:*

*Preferred contact method:*

*Contact Reason:*

- 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 \_\_\_\_\_

The Reverend Charles Wallace, *Rector*

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bethesdaepiscopalchurch>

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