

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

26 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

Organ *Prelude on 'Slane'*

Gerre Hancock (1934-2012)

The Entrance Hymn #645

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 Son Jesus is the good shepherd of thy people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calleth us each by name, and follow where he doth lead; who, with thee and the Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

The First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Remain seated.

The Gradual Ego Sum Pastor Bonus

Heinrich Isaac (1450-1517)

Ego sum pastor bonus, alleluia:
et cognosco oves meas, et cognoscunt me meae. Alleluia, alleluia.

*I am the good shepherd, alleluia:
and I know my sheep, and my sheep know me. Alleluia, alleluia (Jn 10:14)*

The Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19-25

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All stand.

The Alleluia



Verse: The Lord has sent redemption unto his people. **Alleluia.**

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

John 10:11-16

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

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

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

The Sermon

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 for the Church this week, we remember the Church of Nigeria; and in our diocese, Jeremiah, our bishop; and the people of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Elizabethtown. We ask God's blessing on those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week; and those whose year's mind falls at this time.

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father, saying, Lord, graciously hear us.

Merciful God, teach your faithful people to find the Risen Christ in the familiar places and routines of life. Fill us with the desire to come to him, accept his love, and to make known his glory in the world. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Bless our daily work and rest, our homes, and our families and friends. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Behold, O Lord, the nations of the world, and bring them the gift of your peace. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Be merciful to all who suffer or are in any way afflicted, especially those for whom our prayers are desired. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Give rest to the departed and may your perpetual light shine upon them. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Rejoicing with all the saints of every time and place, give us grace to commit ourselves and our whole life to Christ our God. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Celebrant: Be thou, O God, a bright flame before us; a guiding star above us; a smooth path below us; and a kindly shepherd behind us, today, tonight, and forever. **Amen.**

(St Columba of Iona, 6th c)

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, you may greet those around you in the name of the Risen Lord.

The Peace

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

Hymn at the Offertory #663

From the Hymnal 1982

Remain standing.

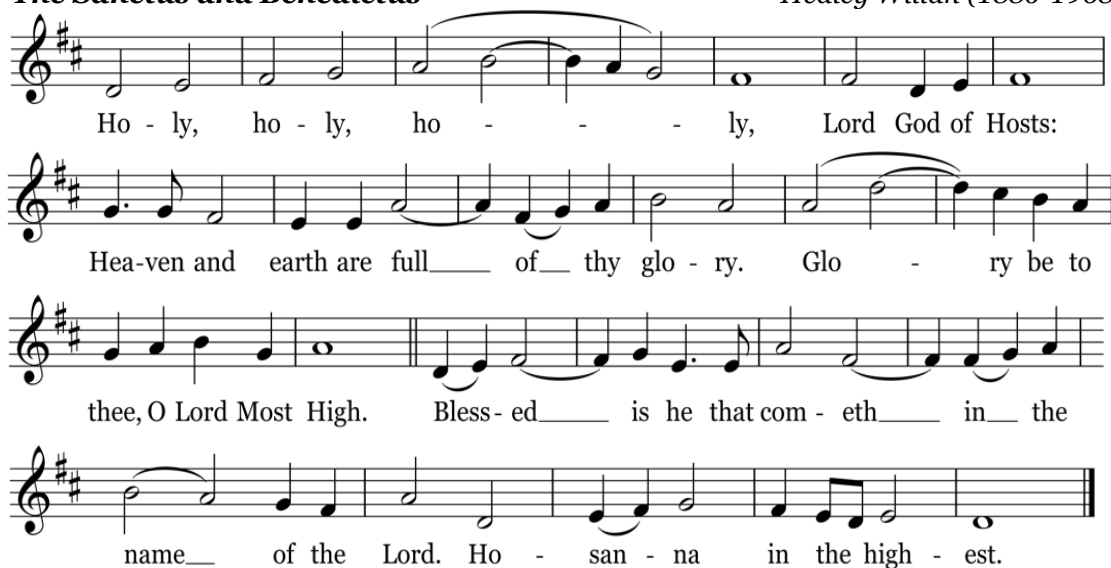
The Eucharistic Prayer

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 the Communion Service in D

Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)

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 usher.

Motet Very Bread, Good Shepherd

Randolph Currie (b. 1943)

Very Bread, Good Shepherd, tend us;
Jesu, of Thy love befriend us;
Thou refresh us, Thou defend us,
Thine eternal goodness send us
In the land of life to see.

Thou Who all things canst and knowest,
Who on earth such good bestowest,
Grant us with Thy saints, though lowest,
Where the heavenly feast Thou showest,
fellow heirs and guests to be.

Text: St Thomas Aquinas (c. 1225-1274)

Communion Hymn #664 (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 #644

From the Hymnal 1982

Organ Pièce pour grand orgue

Joseph Jongen (1873-1953)

Notices

Welcome to Bethesda! Thank you for joining us this morning. If you are interested in learning more about our parish community, please introduce yourself to an usher or to Fr Wallace following the service.

Thank you to those **reading and leading prayers** at 8am Mary Withington; and at 10am Judy Aronstamm and Libby Smith-Holmes.

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 an anniversary, please contact the office.

Join us for **coffee** and conversation following the 10am service. Thank you to the McVicker family for hosting today. If you are willing to host in May, 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 is open 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

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

Christianity 101 continues *online* this evening from 7.30- 8.30pm and on 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: jkimmel@cathedralofallsaints.org

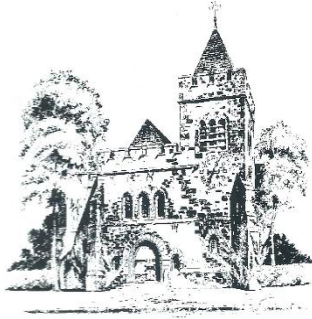
Summer Program for Teens The 65th annual Saint Michael's Conference will take place at Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford, Connecticut from Sunday, July 26th through Saturday, August 1st, 2026. Saint Michael's Conference is a not-for-profit religious conference in the Anglican-Episcopal tradition. Founded in 1960, it is a group of young people (13-19 years old) and adult leaders who come together to form a community. During this one-week residential course, they experience engaging conversations about their faith in Jesus Christ, worship, organized activities and time with new friends. For more information go to www.saintmichaelsconference.com

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.



One of three Tiffany windows in Bethesda's west gallery



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 _____

Fr Charles Wallace, *Rector*

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