

# Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

3 May 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** Andante, from Six Voluntaries

*Kate Loder (1825-1904)*

**The Entrance Hymn #179**

*From the Hymnal 1982*

**The Opening Acclamation**

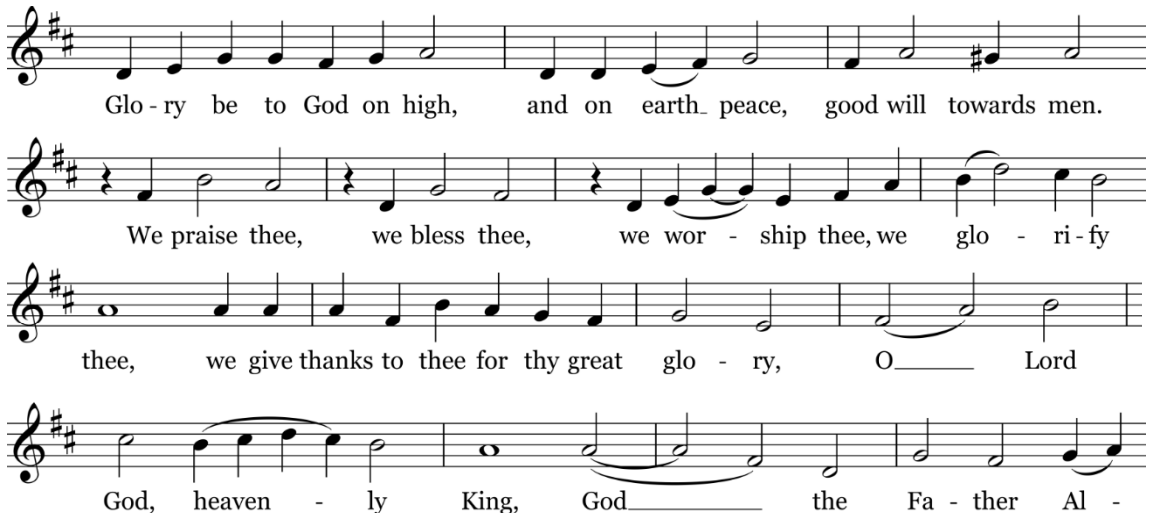
*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

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 Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know thy Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leadeth to eternal life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*All sit.*

## ***The First Reading***

*Acts 7:55-60*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Remain seated.*

## ***The Gradual***

*Heinrich Schutz (1585-1672)*

Alleluia. The right hand of the Lord hath the preeminence; the right hand of the Lord bringeth mighty things to pass. Alleluia. *(Text: Psalm 118: 16)*

## ***The Second Reading***

*1 Peter 2:2-10*

A reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner", and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

**The Alleluia**



*Verse:* Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. **Alleluia.**

*Remain standing.*

**The Holy Gospel**

*John 14:1-14*

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

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## *The Sermon*

*Starrla Lares*

*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 North India; and in the Albany diocese, our bishop, Jeremiah, and the people of St Paul's, Keesville. We ask God's blessing on those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week; and those whose year's mind falls at this time.

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 the peace of the world, 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, especially Joe, 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, remembering Nancy, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

*Celebrant:* Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth: mercifully hear the supplications of thy people, and grant us thy peace all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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, you may 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 #205**

*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 Sancti Magni

*Sydney Nicholson (1875-1947)*

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.*

***Motet*** The Call

*Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life;  
Such a Way as gives us breath,  
Such a Truth as ends all strife,  
Such a Life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength;  
Such a Light as shows a Feast,  
Such a Feast as mends in length,  
Such a Strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart;  
Such a Joy as none can move,  
Such a Love as none can part,  
Such a Heart as joys in love.

*Text: George Herbert (1593-1633)*

***Communion Hymn #300*** (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 #457***

*From the Hymnal 1982*

**Organ** Fugue in G Major

*Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)*

### **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.

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 in May, June or July, please contact the office.

**A warm welcome and thanks** to Starrla Lares, our guest preacher this morning. Starrla is in the discernment process for ordination in the Episcopal Diocese of Albany. Thank you to those reading and leading prayers: at 8am, Lynne Priestley and at 10am, Paula Pinion and Gabriel Francisco.

Join us for **coffee** and conversation following the 10am service. Thank you to the Manny family for hosting today.

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

Donations from the Monthly Envelope in **May** will be directed to the **Beaver Cross Camp Scholarship Fund.** Beaver Cross, our diocesan camp in Greenwich, NY, seeks to make its

summer programs available to every eligible child who wishes to participate in its activities, regardless of a family's financial circumstances. Each year, funds are raised to meet the need for scholarships. Please support this enriching experience for children.

**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)

**'Come and Sing' Evensong** The Cathedral of All Saints welcomes you to sing with the Cathedral Choir at an Evensong service at 4pm on Sunday May 17th. Rehearsal will begin at 1:45pm and run until 3:00pm. Those interested in participating are asked to visit the Cathedral website for more details ([www.cathedralofallsaints.org](http://www.cathedralofallsaints.org)) and to complete the [registration form](#) online.

**Excelsior Vocal Ensemble** presents *Morte E Amore*, Italian choral treasures of loss and love spanning four centuries. Featuring Pergolesi's Stabat Mater, in a dramatic arrangement for chorus and string quartet, as well as works by Monteverdi, Palestrina, and Pizzetti. Andrew Burger, artistic director. Sunday, May 17 at 3pm at Bethesda Episcopal Church. Tickets are \$25, available online or at the door.

**Zoom Lecture** You are invited to attend (virtually) a lecture by Dr Ryan Burge on his book, *The Vanishing Church*, on May 19, from 7pm – 9pm. The book reveals how political polarization transformed American Christianity over the past 50 years and why this divide impacts every aspect of society. To register go to: [samaritancounselingcenter.org/upcoming-trainings](http://samaritancounselingcenter.org/upcoming-trainings).

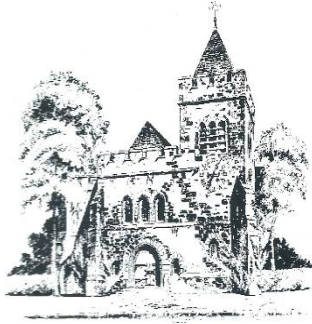
Former Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Michael Curry, will preside at a diocesan **Revival Service** at Christ the King Center, 575 Burton Road, Greenwich, on Thursday, 18 June at 7pm. The event is free and open to all. More to follow.

**Summer Program for Teens** The 65th annual Saint Michael's Conference will take place at Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford, CT from Sunday, July 26th to Saturday, August 1st. SMC 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, activities and time with new friends. For more information go to [www.saintmichaelsconference.com](http://www.saintmichaelsconference.com)

**Parish Office** hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 10-12:30pm; and Thursday 12.30– 3pm.

**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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