

Bethesda Episcopal Church

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

10 May 2026

8.00 Holy Communion

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

10.00 Sung Eucharist

Organ Allegro, from Symphony in D

William Boyce (1711-1779)

The Entrance Hymn #416

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, who hast prepared for those who love thee such good things as pass man's understanding; Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee in all things and above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

The First Reading

Acts 17:22-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Remain seated.

The Gradual

Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710-1736)

Surrexit Christus vere de sepulcro. Alleluia.

Christ is truly risen from the grave. Alleluia.

The Second Reading

1 Peter 3:13-22

A reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who

demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All stand.

The Alleluia



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

Remain standing.

The Holy Gospel

John 14:15-21

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

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Canon Neal Longe

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 Anglican Church of Pakistan; and in the Albany diocese, Jeremiah, our bishop; and those preparing for ordination to the priesthood and diaconate. We remember today the role that our mothers have played in our lives: for the love and nurture they have given, and the sacrifices they have made, let us be thankful.

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 make known his glory. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Behold, O Lord, the beauty and wonder of your creation, the nations of the world, and give us the gift of your peace. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

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

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

Give rest to the recently departed, especially William, and let light perpetual 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: O Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth; Send thy Holy Ghost, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee. Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.**

The Confession and Absolution

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

**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 #200

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 F

Herbert Sumson (1899-1995)

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

Everett Titcomb (1884-1968)

I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you yet again. Alleluia.
And your heart shall be joyful. Alleluia. *(Text: John 14: 18)*

Communion Hymn #204 *(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, that 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 #292

From the Hymnal 1982

Organ Introduction and March, Battle of Britain Suite

William Walton (1902-1983)

Notices

Welcome to Bethesda on this Sixth Sunday of Easter. We also extend a warm welcome to our guest preacher, the Reverend Canon Neal Longe. Fr Longe, who is originally from Johnstown, NY, is Canon to the Ordinary for Resource Development in the Episcopal Diocese of Albany. He and his wife, Lisa, have two teenage children.

Today's organ voluntaries showcase two centuries of English musical brilliance. We begin with the "sprightly" Baroque energy of William Boyce, a Chapel Royal organist who composed this bright Allegro despite suffering from progressive deafness. We conclude with Sir William Walton's stirring March from the 1969 film *Battle of Britain*. Originally written for the silver screen and saved from the cutting room floor only by the protest of Sir Laurence Olivier, this noble work captures a sense of resilience and dignity. Together, these pieces bridge the gap between the formal elegance of the 18th century and the grand, ceremonial tradition of modern British music.

The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for all mothers, living and departed. If you would like to contribute **flowers for the altar or communion 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, Sonia Arcelay and at 10am, Mark Claverie and Mary Shartle.

Join us for **coffee** following the 10am service. Thanks to Marcia MacDonald for hosting!

Ascension Day is this Thursday, 14 May. There will be a service of Holy Communion at 12.10pm.

Donations in May from the monthly envelope support **Beaver Cross Camp Scholarships**. 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.

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

'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) 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.

The former Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Michael Curry, will preside at a **Revival Service** at Christ the King Center, Greenwich, on 18 June at 7pm. The event is free and open to all: www.albanyeiscopaldiocese.org/revival

A Summer of Dante invites you to journey through The Divine Comedy in the company of fellow readers and expert guides. Read at your own pace, or deepen your experience by joining one—or all—of our seven discussion groups led by teachers, clergy, and scholars. Our introductory session will be led by Dr. Mark Vernon, author of *Dante's Divine Comedy: A Guide for the Spiritual Journey*. Whether you're encountering Dante for the first time or returning to this masterpiece, come explore the depths of Inferno, the ascent of Purgatorio, and the glory of Paradiso this summer. For more information or to register, contact Jonathan Kimmel at jkimmel@thecathedralofallsaints.org

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

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.

Two-hour **free Parking** is available in lot adjacent to the church. Access via Congress St.

Rogation

By tradition, the Sixth Sunday of Easter is also known as Rogation Sunday. The word *Rogation* comes from the Latin *rogare*, meaning “to ask,” and refers to a time when Christians prayed for God’s blessing on the land, the growing crops, and those who worked the fields. Rogationtide refers to the three weekdays following the Sixth Sunday of Easter, and it is usually observed as a time of prayer and preparation for Ascension Day.

One old Rogationtide custom, dating back to medieval Britain, is “beating the bounds of the parish.” People walked around the parish boundaries, marking them by tapping or “beating” stones, trees, or posts with birch twigs. This practice helped everyone remember and reinforce where the parish boundaries lay, especially before accurate maps were available. It also serves as a reminder of how closely Church life has been connected with the rhythms of the land and the seasons through the centuries.



Beating the bounds!

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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