



(Please silence all cell-phones & digital devices until after the Service! Thank you.)

PRELUDE – O filii et filiae (pt. 1)

Jean-François Dandrieu (1682-1738)


PROCESSIONAL HYMN – #399 “To God with gladness sing”

Camano

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION


S72

Celebrant



Al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en.

People



The Lord is risen indeed. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GLORIA

Malcolm Archer (b.1952)



Glo ry to God in the high est, and peace to his peo ple on
earth. Lord God, _ hea ven ly King, al migh ty God _ and _
Fath er, we wor ship you, we _ give you thanks, we
praise you for _ your _ glo ry.
Lord Je sus Christ, on ly Son of the Fath er, Lord God, Lamb of God, you

take a way the sin of the world: have mer cy on us; you are

seat ed_ at the_ right hand of the Fath er:___ re ceive our_

prayer.____ For you a lone are the Ho ly One,___

you a lone are the Lord, you a lone are the Most High,___

Je sus Christ,___ with the Ho ly___ Spi rit, in the glo ry of God the_

Fath er. A men, A men._____

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 9:36-43

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; * I shall not be in want.
- 2 **He makes me lie down in green pastures * and leads me beside still waters.**
- 3 He revives my soul * and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; * for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; * you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- 6 **Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, * and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

THE EPISTLE

Revelation 7:9-17

Reader A reading from the Revelation to John

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,

and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

All standing, as able.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:22-30

All remain standing, as able.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord**

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

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

THE SERMON

The Very Reverend Michael Hadaway

THE NICENE CREED – *All Stand, as able*

BCP page 358

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

BCP page 388

Intercessor

Gathered before the throne of the Lamb, let us give God the glory and pray for the needs of all God's flock, saying: *Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the Church: especially Sean our Presiding Bishop, and for our own Diocese as we take steps towards calling our next Bishop, and the Deans as they attend the North American Dean's Conference this weekend, that we may hear the voice of Christ the Good Shepherd and allow our lives to be shaped and guided by Jesus. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For this Cathedral family, that by our witness we may lead others to follow the Good Shepherd to green pastures and still waters. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For peacemakers, that the Holy Spirit will inspire all who are working to end violent conflicts, open pathways for the safe movement of the vulnerable, and help everyone to recognize the dignity of every human life. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For all who have shepherded us, especially parents, spouses, teachers, clergy and mentors, that God will continue to work through them and lead us to wholeness. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For all mothers and those who have been like a mother to us, that God will bless and strengthen them and inspire us to greater love by their example. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For all who walk through the dark valleys of life, remembering especially Juanita, Lisa and family, Andrea, Miles, Karl, Barbara, Larry and Diane, Byron, Chris, Tabatha, Joe, Nick, Carl, Lori, Brandy and family, Larry, Carol, Renee, Sharon, Elaine, Don, Anne, Jim, Judy, and Shirley, that they may find places of healing and refreshment. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For those who have died, remembering especially those whose anniversaries of death we remember this week, that they may rejoice forever around the throne of the Lamb. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Blessed Mary the God-bearer, Blessed Paul, and all the saints who have borne witness to the Risen Christ, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. ***Alleluia! To you, O Lord, we give praise and glory.***

Celebrant

Blessed are you, O God, the fountain of joy and peace. Hear our prayers and grant that we may never become separated from Christ our Good Shepherd who guides us to springs of life-giving water. Glory to the Holy & Undivided Trinity, now and always and unto the ages of ages. **Amen.**

THE PEACE - *All stand.*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM – The Lord is My Shepherd

Howard Goodall (b. 1958)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

SURSUM CORDA

S120

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff is for the Celebrant and the second for the People. The third staff is for the Celebrant and the fourth for the People. The lyrics are as follows:

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant continues with the Preface for Easter

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



2

Ho ly, Ho ly, Ho ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 hea ven and earth are full of your glo ry, Ho san na in the high est.
 Bles sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the name of the
 Lord. Ho san na in the high est, ho san na in the high est.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

BCP page 361

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

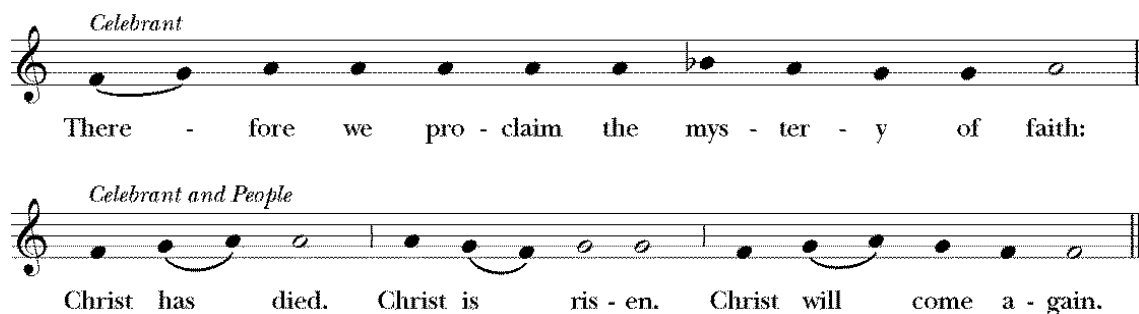
He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

S133



Celebrant

There - fore we pro - claim the mys - ter - y of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

The Eucharistic prayer concludes with the Doxology, the People respond with the following

THE GREAT AMEN

S146



The Celebrant then continues

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

S119

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

A period of silence is kept

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Archer

2

Lamb of God, you take a way the sins of the world; have
mer cy up on us. Lamb of God, you
take a way the sins of the world; have mer cy up on
us. Lamb of God, you take a way the sins of the
world; grant us your peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

We welcome all baptized persons, regardless of age or denomination to receive communion at Saint Paul's. It is our custom to receive the bread in the upturned palms of our hands, and eat it immediately. Gluten-free wafers are available; please let the minister know that you need one. Those who wish to receive wine should partake by sipping directly from the chalice (intincting, or dipping one's wafer into the wine, is no longer permitted). Please use your hands, holding the base of the chalice, to gently assist the server in guiding the chalice to your lips. If you do not wish to receive communion you are invited to come forward to receive a blessing, indicating your desire by crossing your arms over your chest.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP page 365

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

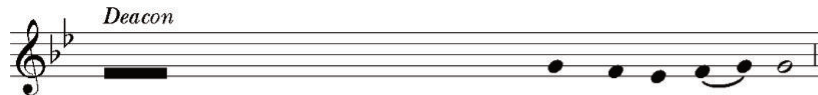
THE BLESSING

HYMN AT THE RETIRING PROCESSION – #708 “Savior, like a shepherd lead us”


Sicilian Mariners

DISMISSAL

Deacon




Let us go forth in the name of Christ, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia.

People



Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

POSTLUDE – O filii et filiae (pt. 2)

Jean-François Dandrieu (1682-1738)

CATHEDRAL LIFE | MAY 11
ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL – SPCBUFFALO.ORG

SPECIAL CONVENTION RESULTS

A Letter from the Presidents of the Standing Committees of WNY and NWPA

Dear Friends in Christ,

As the Presidents of the Standing Committees of the Dioceses of Western New York and Northwestern Pennsylvania, we write to share an update on the status of our Episcopal Partnership.

After a season of prayerful discernment, during which we listened to many voices across our dioceses, the May 3rd Joint Special Convention did not vote to extend the nature of our Partnership by electing a bishop diocesan together.

The Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania voted not to approve the resolution to begin the process of electing a bishop diocesan in partnership with the Diocese of Western New York. **The vote tally was Clerical Order: 3–25; Lay Order: 11–43.**

The Diocese of Western New York voted not to approve the resolution to begin the process of electing a bishop diocesan in partnership with the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania. **The vote tally was Clerical Order: 14–36; Lay Order: 45–68.**

This decision was made carefully and faithfully, with a deep love for the Church and a commitment to what is best for the mission and ministry of each diocese. The Partnership Evaluation, Lenten Study and multiple in-person and Zoom listening and information sessions about the Special Convention provided invaluable assistance to our individual and collective discernment.

We want to say clearly: this decision does not erase the many ways God has blessed our shared life. Over the past 6 years, we have discovered the strength that comes from walking together, learning from each other, bearing witness together, and offering the world a witness of hope and collaboration. We give thanks for every relationship formed, every ministry strengthened and every new possibility glimpsed through our partnership. We will remain one in the Spirit even as we move forward as two dioceses.

The Standing Committees of each diocese will now begin the work of discerning next steps in securing its own episcopal oversight. Working with our Diocesan Councils, we hope to realign staff and administrative resources to serve each diocese separately—effective on or before July 1st. We are also making plans to celebrate what we have accomplished together in Partnership at a gathering on Thursday, June 19th. More information about this will be forthcoming. We ask for your prayers in the days ahead – prayers for our dioceses, for our leaders, for our congregations, and most of all, for the Spirit's continued guidance as we move forward. We trust that the God who has carried us thus far will continue to lead us into new chapters of ministry, filled with hope and new life.

With gratitude for you and for the journey we share,

Faithfully,

The Rev. Luke Fodor & The Rev. Canon Stacey Fussell

From the Dean's Desk:

Last Friday, the Cathedral received an emergency request to temporarily offer space to the Code Blue Shelter. While Code Blue officially ended on April 30, the shelter wrote a proposal to continue services as they are caring for many of our neighbors, some who quite vulnerable. The need for the shelter to continue uninterrupted was vital due to a critical shortage of shelter space and affordable housing in Buffalo. Following a discussion with our senior warden, I emailed by Vestry and after a day of discussion back and forth, we moved forward to open our space for this purpose. An announcement was made to the congregation at both services last Sunday, May 4th.

The shelter that is run by Sylvia's House in cooperation with the Western New York Coalition for the Homeless and is a temporary 24 hour shelter. They will be renting space from us in the Walker Room and adjacent areas while they work towards moving into a permanent facility in the next few weeks. The shelter is staffed by 2-3 people at all times and there is professional security services on site at all times.

I realize that this will interrupt the normal flow of our common life here at St. Paul's, particularly on Sunday mornings, but it is a gracious act of living into the Gospel. On Sundays the coffee hour host, and those assisting, will bring refreshments to the narthex, or other designated location while the shelter is in operation. We will need to share restroom facilities; if needed, there is a small restroom in the sacristy hallway (please see a clergy person or altar guild member, for assistance).

I thank you for your anticipated flexibility as we host our guests remembering always Jesus' words, "What you did for the least of these, you did unto me."

In Christ's peace,
Dean Rebecca

A view from the pew

Dear friends,

I was at weekly Bible Study this morning with Mother Sarah Rieth, and during check-in, I reported - joyfully - that the cathedral was serving as temporary shelter for "homeless," and referred them to our Facebook page. We are studying the Book of Luke, and our first passage was 6:46 - "[Jesus said] "Why do you call me, Lord, Lord, and do not do what I tell you? I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. That one is like a man building a house who digs deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against the house but could not shake it, because it had been well built.

The words just jumped out at me, "hears my word, and acts on it." I believe this is what is happening at the cathedral, hearing God's call and acting on it. So when I think of the people temporarily housed amid our foundations, I see them as a gift from God to strengthen my faith foundation, so that I don't crumble when all of the world's troubles come flooding in.

Because I am never far from thinking like a child, I might start singing, "The wise Man Built his House upon a Rock". But I also thought of the birdwoman in Mary Poppins and might start singing, All around the cathedral the saints and apostles look down as she sells her wares, and though you can't see them, you know they are smiling every time someone shows that he cares' I believe we have a very firm foundation, and there's a lot of smiling going on.

Love in Christ,
Kathy Reiss

New SJAT Note: Scajaquada Creek Clean-up

Submitted by Estelle Siener for the Social Justice Action Team

On Saturday, April 26, ten intrepid St. Paul's volunteers ventured to the Scajaquada Creek at the foot of Peter Street to participate again this year in the Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper Annual Spring Sweep. We were among the nearly 1500 volunteers around Western New York who spent a couple of hours that morning cleaning up trash. In all, over 10,000 pounds of trash was collected that day. The aim of the event, according to its organizers, is to "Our collective action is intended to benefit the health and future of the millions of people and species that call the Great Lakes Basin their home." In addition, the data on the types of debris collected is sent to local and federal authorities to aid in conservation actions. Among the bottles, broken glass and papers our team found were car and bicycle tires, assorted clothes and a complete safety glass windshield. Pictured below in front of our trash pile are, left to right: Chuck and Chris Casto, Bill and Estelle Siener, Isabelle Li and Rob Patterson. Not pictured: Bob and Marcy Ludwig, Gary Jeffrey, and Scott Sciumeca.



Garden of Love Sorting Saturday

We don't have enough clothing to have a quarterly sorting day this quarter, but save the last Saturday of June to join us for a beginning of Summer sorting Saturday. And, speaking of Summer, we could REALLY use some good clean summer clothing for men. Shorts, tees, etc. all clean and wearable. You can bring the clothing to church on Sunday or drop it off at the FMC during the week. Thanks.

Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations – Action Alert

In this present political climate, people feel deeply that their must voices be heard: Loud and Clear. We have an official resource to endorse the views that our Episcopal Church has already articulated. The Office of Government Relations - Action Alert (<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/action-alerts/>), provides channels directly to elected representatives. Use this resource to live out our Baptismal vows that bind us to seek God's Justice in our own country, and indeed, upon the whole earth.

Music at St. Paul's and around the Diocese

Commonwealth University (PA) Choirs to perform at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral
Please note new time: 7PM!

Mixed-Voice, Treble, and Male Ensembles in Free Public Concert

The choirs of Commonwealth University-Bloomsburg in Pennsylvania will present a free public concert at 7:00 pm on Sunday, May 18, 2025 in St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral of Buffalo, NY. Performing ensembles will include the mixed-voice Concert Choir and the Male-Voice Husky Singers, both under the direction of Dr. Alan Baker, and the Golden Voices Treble Choir under the direction of Dr. Amelia Garbisch. Pianist Brian Farrell will accompany each ensemble.

The program will feature a wide variety of octavo-length repertoire, including sacred music of Daniel Elder, John Tavener, Mack Wilberg, and K. Lee Scott, as well as spirituals, folksongs, jazz arrangements from the American Songbook, Americana, Broadway, and Sea Chanties.

Free will offering will be taken to benefit the Cathedral's Garden of Love ministries.

East Aurora Chamber Music Festival

- o Friday, June 6, 2025
- o Sunday, June 8, 2025
- o Friday, June 13, 2025
- o Saturday, June 14, 2025

The time for all four concerts is 7:30 PM 9:30 PM at Saint Matthias' Church, 374 Main Street, East Aurora, NY 14052. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. For more information:
<https://www.eastauroracmf.org/concerts>

Prayer and Pastoral Care

We lift up the following in prayer especially Juanita, Lisa and family, Andrea, Miles, Karl, Barbara, Larry and Diane, Byron, Chris, Tabatha, Joe, Nick, Carl, Lori, Brandy and family, Larry, Carol, Renee, Sharon, Elaine, Don, Anne, Jim, Judy, and Shirley, We also remember all those who have died, especially those whose anniversary of death we mark this week. We pray for them and their loved ones who remember them.



May 11, 2025 – Easter 4 (C)

Reflections on the Resurrection, Week 4

During the Easter season, Sermons That Work is pleased to present reflections from some of the newest bishops of The Episcopal Church on the resurrection of our Lord. Check back each week for a brief exploration of how Jesus Christ's rising from the grave changes everything. To listen to this reflection, scan the QR code on this page and subscribe to the Sermons That Work podcast.

Easter first happened in a cemetery. Not under the sparkling sunlight of a spring morning. Not in a field of pastel tulips. Not tangled in a prolonged cellophane celebration. Easter happened in a cemetery. Surrounded by death. Incubated by stubborn shadows. Carried in a broken heart. Greeted quite unexpectedly by a woman who no longer dreamed dreams.

Mary Magdalene was a brave, bold woman. But even brave, bold women can be devastated by the shocking violence of this world. And on Easter morning, she was devastated. Though there was breath in her lungs and blood in her heart, in a way, Mary died with Jesus – because violence is never an isolated incident; there is always collateral damage; it spreads like a disease.

But resurrection is contagious, too. And on Easter, Mary came back to life with Jesus. In a cemetery, in the midst of death, there was life. Pulsing with resurrection, Mary was brave enough to see more than emptiness in the empty tomb. She had the courage to be the first citizen of the Easter world to show her resurrection, to walk her tear-stained cheeks into a locked room of downcast disciples, who knew nothing about the empty tomb, who had not yet experienced resurrection life, and testify: “I have seen the Lord!”

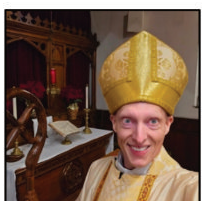
It was a stunningly audacious statement given the circumstances. She journeyed to the graveyard to visit a corpse. She found the body missing. Before she ever spoke a word about resurrection, she told a story of grave robbers. And as that bad situation grew worse, she lingered to weep while the guys went home.

But then Easter happened, in a cemetery, where the dying and the burying happen. Because that was where Easter was needed. And it is still needed. In this Good Friday world, in this world in which the dying and the burying happen, in this world in which despair holds a place of prominence, we need a Church that has experienced Easter, and has felt the breath of the Risen Christ. We need Christians who are brave enough and bold enough to show the world their resurrection.

We do not have to settle for a Good Friday world. We do not have to accept the death and violence, the nightmares and the despair. We do not have to resign ourselves to the scourge of war, to the plague of addiction, to shelter-in-place drills in kindergarten classrooms, to partisan discord, to racism and hateful prejudice. Those things are all too real, but they are not the reality God wants for us or for this world.

And that is the miracle of Easter: Easter happens in this world, with these heartaches. Easter happens in the shadow of the cross. It happens in the cemetery. It is watered by tears. It does not deny the reality of pain and death; Easter defies pain and death. It is the sun that scatters the clouds. It is a dream so much truer than any nightmare.

The Easter God is daring us to dream that impossible dream. To believe that impossible dreams can come true. In this world. God is calling us to listen for the voice of the Risen Christ, still whispering resurrection, still speaking forth new life, in this world. Jesus is still telling that ancient and eternal story – a story in which love wins, and life is stronger than death, and hope is never in vain.



This is the story that means to transform your life and spill from your lips. Be brave enough to see more than emptiness in that empty tomb; be daring enough to dream impossible dreams. And then be foolish enough to live as if those dreams will come true.

The Rt. Rev. Jeremiah D. Williamson is the tenth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany. He is married to Jennifer, a United Methodist pastor. They have two sons and a small dog.

The Choirs of Commonwealth University-Bloomsburg

The Concert Choir
The Golden Voices
The Husky Singers

Make a Joyful Noise!

Spring Tour 2025

St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral
Buffalo, NY

Sunday, 18 May 2025

7:00 pm

FREE ADMISSION



*Sacred & Secular Art Music
Spirituals, Folksongs,
Jazz, Americana,
Broadway, Sea Chanties and
more*

New or visiting today? Everything you need to participate in worship is in this bulletin and the Hymnal in the pew (red or blue). We invite you to join in praying, singing, and responding, as you are comfortable.

Restrooms are located on the lower level. From the elevator, proceed through the double glass doors and look to your right for an accessible restroom. Additional restrooms are on the same level, to the left, near the kitchen.

Children are always welcome in worship and are invited to explore! Greeters can provide activity kits, available in the back of the church. Godly Play is also offered. For details: cathedral@spcbuffalo.org.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Elenora Heffner, Evelyn Smigelsky; Altar Guild
Frank Smigelsky, Robert Ludwig; Ushers
Estelle Siener; Coffee Hour Host
Kourosh Karami; Live Stream Coordinator

Latanya Jacob, Elenora Heffner, Latanya Jacob; Readers
Latanya Jacob, Elizabeth Salvatori; Intercessors
Charles Casto Jr., Latanya Jacob; Eucharistic Ministers
Tim Socha; Guest Organist

The Rev. Phil Cunningham, Deacon
The Very Rev. Michael Hadaway; Guest Celebrant and Preacher

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<https://episcopalpartnership.org/>

CATHEDRAL CLERGY / STAFF

The Very Rev. Rebecca A. Barnes, Dean • deanrebecca@spcbuffalo.org • 646-533-1836
The Reverend Philip Cunningham, Cathedral Curate • 716-713-9738
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CATHEDRAL WARDENS

Estelle Siener, Warden (estelle.siener@gmail.com) • Michael Bonilla, Warden (bonz5647@yahoo.com)

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

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139 Pearl Street, Buffalo, New York 14202 • Offices and Mailing Address: 4 Cathedral Park

The people of St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral strive to be a beacon
of God's love in Western New York through transformative worship, inclusive fellowship,
and active service in partnership with the wider community.



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