

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
**Owego, NY**  
**The Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**April 25, 2021**

**Welcome**

**Prelude** "Brother James Air" by *M. Searle Wright*,  
Betty Berghorn, Organ

*People*            **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*The Celebrant says*

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.**

**Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant*            The Lord be with you.  
*People*                **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant*            Let us pray.

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.**

**First Reading**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

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

## Hymn 664 “My Shepherd will supply my need”

### Second Reading

A Reading from the Revelation of John.

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Reader        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God.

## The Holy Gospel

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

*People*        Glory to you, Lord Christ

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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

Priest        The Gospel of the Lord

*People*        Praise to you, Lord Christ

## Sermon

The Rev Trula Hollywood

## Nicene Creed

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.

## Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the needs of all God's children in the name  
of Jesus the Good Shepherd, saying: *Alleluia! Lord, hear  
our prayer.*

For the Church, especially for Michael our Presiding  
Bishop, Trula our Priest; Chris, our District Dean;  
Dorothy our District Deacon; Alice, our Lay Preacher &  
Worship Leader, that we may give bold witness to Jesus  
the source of life and salvation. *Alleluia! Lord, hear  
our prayer.*

For this parish family, that we who are known by Christ,  
may gladly welcome into this flock all who will listen to  
the Lord's voice. *Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all who are searching, that they may encounter life  
and wholeness, and so find the shepherd who searches  
and cares for them. *Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.*

For this nation, as we come to terms with our history of  
unequal justice, that together we may find the way to

walk in a new path of justice and healing. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For those celebrating birthdays, especially Caden Rapp, Gloria Milks, Thad Robertson and Marty Malmstrom. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For all who serve in the armed forces, especially Shannon Murray Tessmer, Gregory Cello, Jr., Adam Jacquet, Nick Tessmer, Daniel Murray, Emmily Botts, Jenna Keathly and Tim Garland. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For all teachers, students, and parents, and especially for our college students, Mary Standinger, Larissa Hankey, Kayla Hankey, Laura Robertson, Mikayla Sedlacek and Andrew Clark. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For all those in need of our prayers, remembering especially William Ellis, Brian Murphy, Bob Powell, Sharon Griffen, Carol Shrauger, John Lobsiger, Pauline Stoner, Susan Beattie, Esther Thomas, Julia Zepkowski, Johanna Masters, Diane Conneman, Eli Ames, Jean Radice, Joan Gibbs, Jane Cornett, Joseph Murphy, Dorette Burnham, Melanie, Noelle, Greg Cello Sr., Louise Woodburn, Gail Yost Moyka, Joan Meddaugh, Johnny Wall, Doug Worthing, Matthew Smithkors, John Wall, Florence Sawyer, Violet Geller, Father Lee Love, Anthony Fusco, Marge Jackson, Maxine Bailey, Joan Babcock, Wylie Duerson, Darlene Allen, Joan Pascuzzo, Laura Engram, Daniel Cornwell (pause) and all those who care for them, that they may be strengthened by the goodness and mercy of the Good Shepherd. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For those who have died, remembering especially, (pause)... that they may dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Mary, the God-bearer, Mark, the Evangelist, 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* God of loving care, you spread before us the table of life, hear our prayers, give us the cup of salvation to drink and keep us always in the fold of your divine love, that goodness and mercy may follow us all the days of our life. Glory to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. ***Amen.***

**Hymn 606** “Where charity and love dwell”

## **Spiritual Communion**

### **ACT OF RECEPTION**

*The Celebrant continues*

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day remembering particularly St. Paul’s and all those worshiping here today, we long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by

your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

And particularly for the blessings given us (pause) ...

We believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since we cannot at this time receive communion, we pray you to come into our hearts.

We unite ourselves with you and embrace you with all our heart, our soul, and our minds. Let nothing separate us from you; let us serve you in this life until, by your grace, we come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

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

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

*People and Celebrant*

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,  
forever and ever. Amen.

### **The Blessing**

*The Priest blesses the people, saying*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn 518** "Christ is made the sure foundation"

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

There will be a graveside service for Pat Liddington on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at the Hope Cemetery in Newark Valley. The family invites those who knew Pat to attend.

St. Paul's will be re-gathering in person beginning next Sunday! Services will also be broadcast on Facebook live from St. Paul's FB page.

### **Dismissal**

Eternal God and Father, whose Son prayed that his disciples might be one, as he is one with you: draw us closer to him, that in common love and obedience to you we may be united to one another in the fellowship of the one Spirit, that the world may believe that He is Lord, to your eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory.

**All** Alleluia!

Let us Bless the Lord

**All** Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia

**READERS:**

**This week: Laura Coppens**

**Next week: Ladd Yost**

**Thank You** to Betty Berghorn and St. Paul's Choir for today's music!

M. Searle Wright, composer of today's prelude, "Brother James Air," was a notable "self taught" organist who lived, taught, and performed in Binghamton at the end of his stellar career. He is remembered for his incredible, improvised preludes that he played before BC Pops programs on the Morton Theater Organ at the Forum during the 80's and 90's.

(Permission to stream the music in this service obtained by One License, License #729104-A)

Donations can be mailed to St. Paul's Church, 117 Main Street, Owego, NY 13827 or electronically at <https://cnyepiscopal.org/give/give-to-my-parish/> and select Owego: St. Paul's Episcopal Church.