



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

www.christchurchbluefield.org



The Second Sunday of Easter



Welcome to this Place of Prayer

This bulletin contains our liturgy today. If you are new or visiting this congregation for the first time we invite you to fill out a Visitor's Card (from the usher) and place it in the collection plate located in the back of the church. We are honored you have chosen to worship with us today and hope that you will continue your faith journey here.

Prelude

Our Service Begins

Please stand as the Celebrant and altar party move to the front

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Celebrant

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 is then said, all standing

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Our collective prayer for the day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People Amen.

We Hear and Respond to God's Word

The First Lesson

Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thank be to God!

The Psalm

Psalm 133

Ecce, quam bonum!

The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse

1. Oh, how good and pleasant it is,
when brethren live together in unity!
2. It is like fine oil upon the head
that runs down upon the beard,
3. Upon the beard of Aaron,
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
4. It is like the dew of Hermon
that falls upon the hills of Zion.
5. For there the Lord has ordained the blessing:
life for evermore.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Second Lesson

I John 1:1-2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life-- this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us-- we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thank be to God!

The Gospel Lesson

John 20:19-31

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So, the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

the Very Rev. Chad Slater



The Nicene Creed

All stand as they are able

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.

**meaning the church universal, that all Christians are one people regardless of denomination*

The Prayers of the People

The intercessor greets the congregation with the following words and leads us in prayer.

The Lord calls us to draw close and examine the wounded hands and feet of the Risen One and to know the depth of his love for us. Let us therefore approach the throne of God in confidence as we pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Lord our Father, as Jesus entered the locked room to show his disciples the beginning of a new world, so enter our hearts and move us to faith in Jesus as the Risen One. Convince us of the reality and significance of the resurrection, and free us from all manner of fears and phobias. Give us courage in the face of death, knowing that this is the gateway to new resurrected life for those who trust in Christ.

Lord, in your mercy... *hear our prayer.*

Be with your church throughout the world so that its preaching and works of love may continue to testify to our Lord's resurrection. Wherever your church is faithless and lacking in courage to do the work that Jesus has given, visit it and build it up with your Spirit. Be with all our pastors so that they may listen well and then speak with Christ's authority.

Lord, in your mercy... *hear our prayer.*

Bring peace to all parts of the earth. Wherever nations are at war and people are divided, visit and bring true reconciliation. Especially protect all Christian people in these nations and help them to influence their country for the good of all.

Lord, in your mercy... *hear our prayer.*

Wherever homes are disrupted by anger and bitterness, and wherever relationships are distorted and dulled, visit and bring peace and harmony. Wherever young people are gathered in your name, visit and guide them with your holy word and wisdom.

Lord, in your mercy... *hear our prayer.*

Visit and comfort the sick and suffering too, dear Lord. Heal and strengthen weak bodies, calm and correct confused minds. We pray for those we know with particular needs including those on our prayer list. Support them all with

your great love and mercy, and be with those others known to us and whom we now name in our hearts...

Lord, in your mercy... *hear our prayer.*

Heavenly Father, we present these prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is risen from the dead, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Confession and Absolution

The Celebrant then calls the people to confess their sins to God

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.





The Holy Eucharist, sometimes call *The Mass*

Offertory

The Eucharistic Prayer

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also 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.

The Celebrant continues

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:

Celebrant and People

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Fraction

Celebrant Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

The Celebrant then breaks the Consecrated Bread

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The Celebrant then presents the Sacrament to the People

These are the Gifts of God, for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Invitation to Spiritual Communion

Celebrant

The receipt of the bread and wine, which is the body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. In as much as you would like to partake of this holy food, the spiritual grace provided by the same is supplied to you.

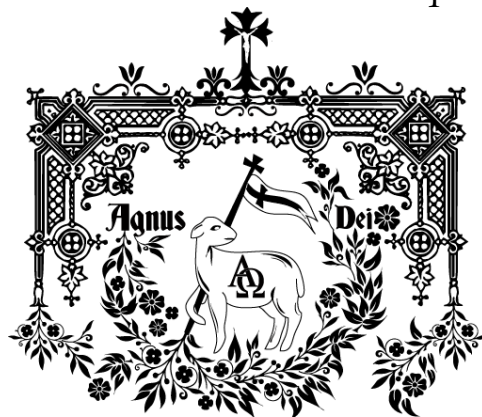
Reader

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

All baptized Christians, of any tradition, are welcome to receive the sacrament. Everyone, regardless of faith, is welcome to receive a blessing— simply cross your arms in front of you approach the priest. Each row, beginning in the front, should come up to the chancel step to receive the Blessed Bread. The Chalice cannot be offered at this time by direction of the Bishop of West Virginia. Once the priest has dropped the Blessed Bread in your hand you should return by the side aisle to your pew. Once a row has been Communed, the next is free to come to the chancel steps.

Gluten free wafers are available to those who request them.



Our Prayer after Communion

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.

The Blessing of the Easter Season

The Celebrant then pronounces the following blessing over the people

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through
the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his
blessing.

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into
newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever.

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting
freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance.

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

People Amen!

The Dismissal

We are dismissed from this gathering to go into the world to spread the
Good News and the love of Christ! We respond to this instruction with:

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

The Altar Flowers are given today for the greater Glory of God and in memory of past members by The Altar Guild.

Participants in Today's Liturgy

Altar Guild: Betty Nash and Delia Kersey

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers: Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Lee Puckett, Sr., Mabeline Robinson, Bea Paine, Lynn Burney, Marilyn Denney, Donna Fortune, Bob and Peggy Walk, Susan Jewell, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Kelly Cox, Dean Farmer, Haddon Lazenby, Jack Burchette, Nick, JL, Cis Barrett, Kathy, Randy Snider, Lane, Loraine, Sherry, Margarete Joplin, Emily Broome, David, Cady, Martin, Marion Lowe, Margaret Westfall, Harry, Ben Rose, Jay Kephart, Rick Longworth, all Healthcare Personnel and Frontline Workers, Jack, Sheri, Dan, Kathy, Hamilton Jones, Kensley, John, Emily, Kathleen Nieman, and Alan Riggins.

Birthdays This Week: Cici Dyer, Katherine Lewis, Jim Paine, Cameron Clement, Rob Snidow, Beka Steorts, Phil Mahood, Betty Nash, and Jeffrey Brannon.

Calendar of Events

Wednesdays in April

Sunday – April 11

Thursday – April 15

Wednesday – April 21

Bible Study 10:30am

Bagging Groceries after Church

Food Pantry 9:00am – 11:00am

Vestry Meeting 7:00pm

Announcements:

Online Bible Study: Join us on Wednesday's at 10:30 am for Bible study via Zoom. A link to the Zoom meeting is included in each week's email. A link to a tutorial on how to use Zoom, if you are new to it, is available in the email as well. For more information, please see Fr. Chad.

Diocesan Prayer Shawl Ministry Formed: Please join us as we begin a new ministry where the love of knitting and crochet will be combined with prayer to reach out to those in need of comfort and solace. At this time, the group plans to meet regularly via Zoom and will spend time in prayer and friendship while knitting or crocheting lap blankets and shawls to be given to others. Completed shawls or blankets are for anyone in need of comfort such as those undergoing medical procedures; as a comfort after a loss or in times of stress; during bereavement; prayer or meditation; commitment or marriage ceremonies; birth; adoption; bridal shower or wedding gift; during an illness and recovery; ministering to others; graduation, birthday, anniversary, ordination, holiday gifts; or simply friendship. The Prayer Shawl Ministry is an opportunity to offer others compassion and love and to learn that God works through us when we care for friends and strangers alike. Please contact Karen Klein at mansiongal@gmail.com for more information on how you can get involved and links for the upcoming Zoom meeting.



Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

the Rev. Chad Slater
Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.
Ms. Emma Bennett
Mrs. Vanessa Hall
Mr. David Kersey
Mr. Tom Coughlan

Rector
Organist & Choirmaster
Parish Administrator
Sexton
Senior Warden
Junior Warden