



**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

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[www.christchurchbluefield.org](http://www.christchurchbluefield.org)



## The Fourth Sunday of Easter

*sometimes called*

### **Good Shepherd Sunday**

April 25, 2021



### 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.

As a sign of love and respect during this pandemic era our worship is somewhat different. We are observing social distancing, mask wearing, and enhanced cleaning protocols. As time and circumstances permit these changes to our worship will be amended. We hope that you will feel safe in this place and leave edified by our celebration of Word and Sacrament.

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## 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.

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.

*People* Amen.

## **We Hear and Respond to God's Word**

### **The First Lesson**

*Acts 4:5-12*

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."

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thank be to God!

### **The Psalm**

Psalm 23

*Dominus regit me*

*The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse*

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.

*Said together*

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

*1 John 3:16-24*

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.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thank be to God!

### The Gospel Lesson

*John 10:11-18*

*Celebrant*    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.”

*Celebrant*     The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*        Praise to you, Lord Christ.



## 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.*

We rejoice in the One who leads us beside still waters and gives us refreshment of soul. Christ our Shepherd shows us the way we should go, so that the name of God will be glorified. Though all manner of evil may befall us, we will not be afraid, for the Great Shepherd of our souls is with us. We are never far away from the love and mercy of the Lord. Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd of your people and our souls shall never be in want. Hear the cry of your flock as we pray,

Good Shepherd, in your mercy...*Hear our prayer.*

Good Shepherd, you call us to follow where you lead. Give us ears to hear and know your voice. Give our Bishops and other ministers the courage and strength to preach your gospel and minister to your flock.

Good Shepherd, in your mercy...*Hear our prayer.*

Good Shepherd, gather to yourself the people of the world so there will be one flock under your reign. Help us to mend our hatred and divisions.

Good Shepherd, in your mercy...*Hear our prayer.*

Good Shepherd, even when wolves attack, you never leave your loved ones; even in the valley of the shadow of death, you are present. Be with all victims of violence. Prepare a table before them in the presence of all trouble.

Good Shepherd, in your mercy...*Hear our prayer.*

Good Shepherd, guide the leaders of this and every land in right pathways for your name's sake. Touch the minds and hearts of those in civil authority so that there may be peace and charity in all the world.

Good Shepherd, in your mercy...*Hear our prayer.*

Good Shepherd, remind us daily that our cup runs over in the many blessings you bestow. Help us to share these blessings and reach out as you have and anoint the heads of our brothers and sisters with the healing oil of your love.

Good Shepherd, in your mercy...*Hear our prayer.*

Good Shepherd, you love us so much that you call us each by name. We pray for the healing of our brothers and sisters in your name, especially those on our prayer list and those whom we remember before you now either silently or aloud.

Good Shepherd, in your mercy...*Hear our prayer.*

Good Shepherd, you are our salvation. Grant all who have died a dwelling place in your house forever.

Good Shepherd, in your mercy...*Hear our prayer.*

O Lord, our Shepherding God, come close to us now and hear the fervent prayer of your flock for your rod and your staff comfort us. *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*

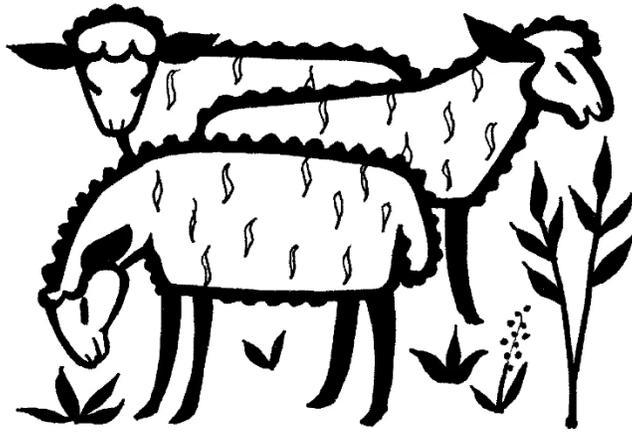
Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

### **The Peace**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

*At this time we will greet those around us in the name of the Lord. Please refrain from physical touch during this time so as to ensure proper social distancing for all members of the congregation. Thank you.*



## The Holy Eucharist, sometimes called *The Mass*

Offertory      *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*      presented by the abridged choir

### 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*

Go now with your trust in the good shepherd, and let us love, not just in words, but in truth and action. Believe in the name of Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he has commanded us. And may God be at your side, even in valleys of death. May Christ Jesus be the cornerstone of your life. And may the Holy Spirit abide in you and tend you with love and mercy all the days of your life.

And may the blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit—be with you now and evermore.

*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 loved ones by Frank and Bernadette Dragotto.



**Participants in Today's Liturgy**

<u>Celebrant</u>	the Very Rev. Chad Slater
<u>Organist &amp; Choirmaster</u>	Terry E. Whittington, Jr.
<u>Acolyte</u>	Benjamin Slater
<u>Lector</u>	Delia Kersey
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Betty Nash
	Delia Kersey

**Attendance Last Sunday:**

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**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, and Kathleen Nieman, Alan Riggins, and Brenda Payne.

**Birthdays This Week:** Clay Sudduth, Dorene Dimes, John Moir, Zachary Toohey, Paul Broyles, Jr., and Muriel Mead

**Calendar of Events**

Wednesdays in April	Bible Study 10:30am
Sunday—May 2	Rogation Sunday
Wednesday – May 12	Serve Dinner at Union Mission 3:00pm
Thursday—May 13	Ascension Day Service 7:00 pm
Thursday – May 20	Food Pantry 9:00am—11:00am
Wednesday –May 26	Serve Dinner at Union Mission 4:00pm

## **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.

**Food Pantry Donations:** We will be collecting personal hygiene items for our May Food Pantry. A basket will be located in the Narthex to collect the items. Toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, lotion, shampoo, hand sanitizer, body wash, mouthwash, razors, feminine products, and the like are much appreciated.

**Bluefield Union Mission:** We will resume serving the evening meal at the Bluefield Union Mission on both the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month beginning in May. In the month of April we resumed our 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday service with success. Thank you to all our volunteers!

**Volunteers to Assist with In-Person Worship Needed:** Now that we have returned to in-person worship we need volunteers to help enrich our services and make them operate well. If you would like to serve as an usher, lector, acolyte, or even as a musician at any of our in-person services please let Fr. Chad know. You may call, text, or email him at [chad@cecbf.org](mailto:chad@cecbf.org). Other worship ministry opportunities will be opening up as circumstances permit.

**Parish Survey:** Christ Church is undertaking the process to survey the parish for the needs and hopes for our future as a community of faith. In the next week or two a link to a survey will be emailed out to all members and friends of Christ Church and posted to social media. If you do not regularly get our emails, the web address will be posted in our bulletins. If you do not use a computer, a paper copy can be mailed to you. Everyone at the parish is encouraged to participate so that we can best understand where we are as a group and what direction the Spirit is calling us to move in.

**Rogation Sunday:** This day and the proceeding "Rogation Days" are associated with the blessing of the fields at planting. On Sunday, May 2, we will offer prayers for planting, agriculture, and seasonable weather. You are invited to bring your gardening tools for a blessing as a sign of our cultivation and care of creation.



## **Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish**

the Very 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