

The First Lesson

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people,

“Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: “Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

The Psalm

Psalm 34:15-22

Benedicam Dominum

- 15 The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry.
- 16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
- 17 The righteous cry, and the Lord hears them and delivers them from all their troubles.
- 18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and will save those whose spirits are crushed.
- 19 Many are the troubles of the righteous, but the Lord will deliver him out of them all.
- 20 He will keep safe all his bones; not one of them shall be broken.
- 21 Evil shall slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be punished.
- 22 The Lord ransoms the life of his servants, and none will be punished who trust in him.

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.

Second Lesson

Ephesians 6:10-20

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Hymn *I love thy kingdom, Lord*

H524

Gospel Lesson

John 6:56-69

Jesus said, “Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

Written about 325 AD, this is the ancient statement of our faith

Prayers of the People VI

BCP 392

We pray together as the people of God

Confession & Absolution

BCP 360

We confess our sins and are reassured of our pardon

The Peace

We share the joy of the Good News!

The Liturgy of the Eucharist, sometimes called the Mass
Offertory

Presentation of Gifts and Tithes

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host:

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

From Hymn 380 vs. 3

Eucharistic Prayer “A”

BCP 361

Sanctus Words in BCP, Musical Setting H-S129

Memorial Acclamation Words in BCP, Musical Setting H-S132

The Lord’s Prayer Traditional version, found on BCP 364

Fraction Anthem H-S 152



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 as the priest comes by. It is the tradition of this parish that 12 to 14 people at a time receive Communion at the altar rail, at which point all are dismissed together to return to their seats, and another group may move forward to the rail. Gluten free wafers are available to those who request them.

Communion Hymns

Bread of heaven, on thee we feed H 323
I come with joy to meet my Lord H 304
Blessed Jesus, at thy word H 440

Our Prayer after Communion BCP 366

Hymn *Stand up, stand up for Jesus* H 561

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!*

Following our service today will be Coffee Hour, hosted by **the Slater family**. This is a time for us to have fellowship, share our joys and sorrows, and get to know one another. It is very much an extension of the communal feast we share in the Holy Eucharist. Please join us.

The Altar Flowers are given today by **David and Debbie Faber**, in memory of loved ones.

Participants in Today's Liturgy

Acolyte John Allen Ben Slater
Chalicer Becky Kersey Teresa Paine
Lector Cameron Clement Teresa Paine
Altar Guild Delia Kersey Linda Thomas Chris Justice



Prayer Requests

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers

Dorene Dimes—Wanda Myers—Bonnie Taylor—Joe Sanders—Marlene—Lee Puckett, Sr.—Phyllis & Nelson Walker—Linda—Valerie Mahood—Sierra—Alex B.—Toni R.—Linda Sydeski—Jared Cregger—Kerrigan Farmer—Lindsey Parsley—Daisy Bowman—Ellie Spencer—Sue Godwin—Mabeline & Elton Robinson—Ann Richardson—Sherry Mitchell—Carrie D.—Dorothy Curry—Lorraine Keffer—Sharon Cranfill—Margie Hardin—George Strike—Levertt T.—Barbara Ford-Coates—Bea Paine—Lillian Holt

Calendar of Events

Wednesday – August 29 ECW Dinner 5:30pm
Monday - Wednesday 9/10th -9/12th LARCUM Conference
Wednesday–Sept. 12 Prepare meal at Union Mission 3:00pm
Men's Dinner 6:00pm
Wednesday-September 19 Vestry 7:00pm

Attendance Last Sunday 57

Birthdays This Week: Dee Puckett, I.V. Sudduth, Delia Kersey, Peyton Wimmer

Announcements:

Missing Utensils: If you are missing utensils from the picnic there are some in the kitchen that may be yours. Take time to go check it out. To everyone who pitched in, your help was very much appreciated!

ECW Dinner: There's a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Plate Offering: Today's plate offering will go to the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

Help with the Rainbow: If you'd like to help with our monthly newsletter, the Rainbow, please see Susanne Pulse. We need volunteers to make our newsletter happen!

Prayer List: If there is anyone on our Prayer List whose name can be removed, please let the office know.

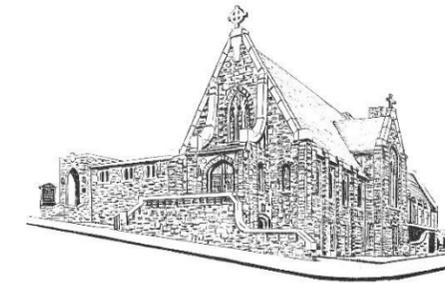
LARCUM: Lutheran Anglican Roman Catholic & United Methodist Conference at the Blessed John XXIII Center in Charleston. This year's theme is "Vows that Matter: Baptism, Confirmation, and Ordination." Registration includes lodging and meals. Please see Ft. Chad if you are interested in attending.

Vestry Meetings: Vestry Meetings have been changed from the 2nd Wednesday of each month to the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Worship Coordinator: We are needing volunteers to help with scheduling Worship assistants. Please see Cameron Clement.

Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

the Rev. Chad Slater Rector
Ms. Emma Bennett Parish Administrator
Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr. Organist & Choirmaster
Mrs. Vanessa Hall Sexton
Dr. Rob Merritt Senior Warden
Mrs. Dee Puckett Junior Warden



Christ Episcopal Church

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701-2910
(304) 327-6861

www.christchurchbluefield.org



<https://www.facebook.com/christchurchbluefield>



August 26, 2018

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

and being the Sunday designated Proper XVI of the Church Year

Welcome to this Place of Prayer

If you are new or visiting this congregation for the first time we invite you to fill out a Visitor's Card (found on the rack in front of you) and place it in the collect plate as it is passed. We are honored you have chosen to worship with us today and hope that you will continue your faith journey here.

This bulletin will help guide you through today's service. The abbreviation "H" stands for "Hymnal." This is the larger red book located on the shelf in front of you. That music noted as "H-S" followed by a number is service music, and is found in the very first pages of the Hymnal. "BCP" is our abbreviation for "Book of Common Prayer," which is the smaller red book.

The Liturgy of the Word

Hymn *Alleluia, sing to Jesus* H 460

The Service Begins BCP 355

Gloria in Excelsis H-S 280

The text to this ancient hymn of praise is found in the BCP

The Collect *Our collective prayer for the day.*

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*