



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

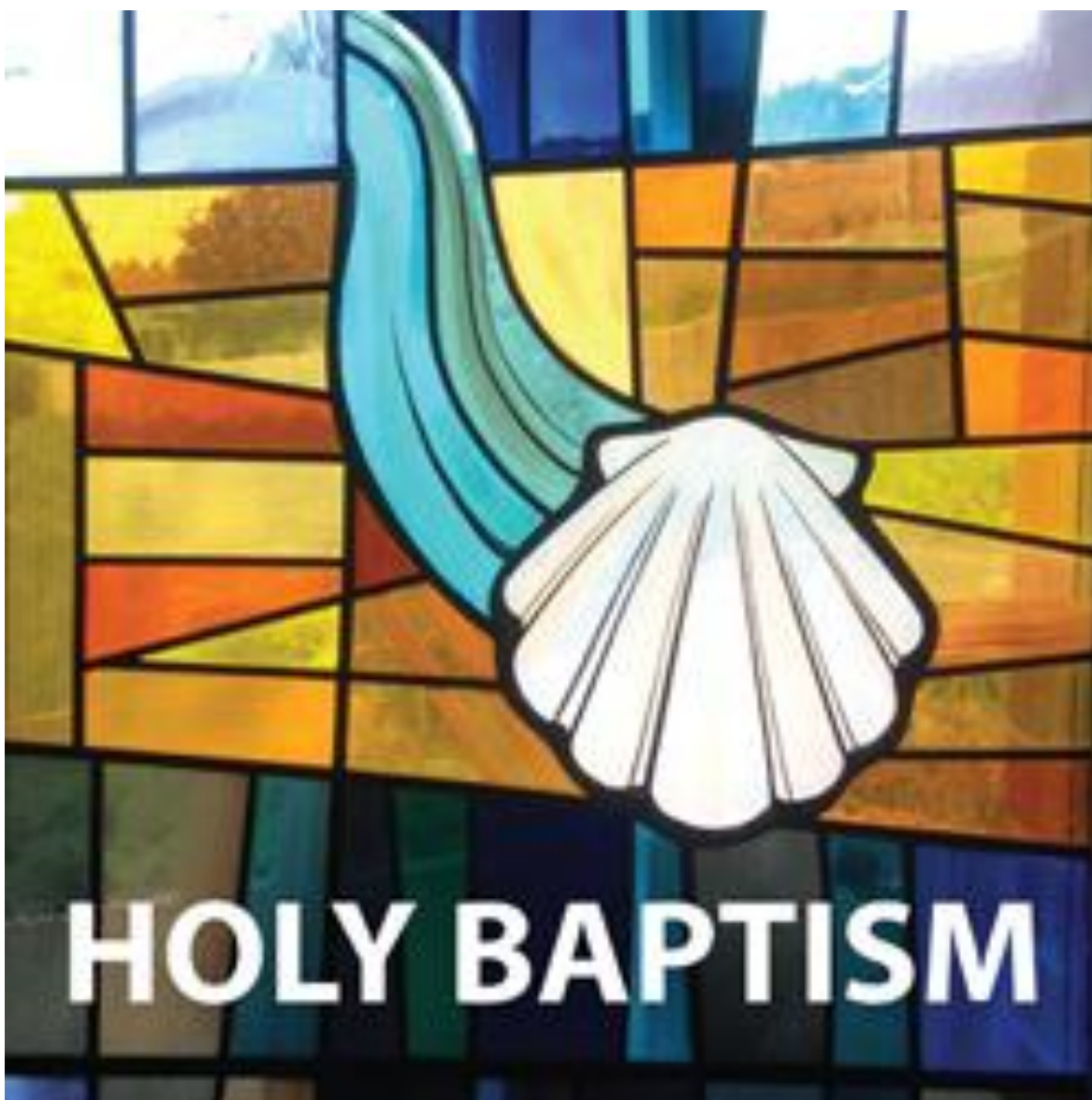
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Fourth Sunday of Easter with Rites of Holy Baptism



April 30, 2023

Prelude

The Processional Hymn

Hail, thou once despised Jesus!

H495

Welcome!

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

People The Lord is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Celebrant then continues

There is one Body and one Spirit;

People There is one hope in God's call to us;

Celebrant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People One God and Father of all.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

The Collect for 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 people may be seated.

The First Lesson

Acts 2:42-47

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.



The Psalm

Psalm 23

Dominus regit me

The Psalm will be read in unison.

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 Second Lesson

I Peter 2:19-25

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what

credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The people standing.

Hymn

Lift high the cross

H473

Gospel Lesson

John 10:1-10

The Deacon reads the Gospel, first saying

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again, Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will

come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Paul Barker



Presentation and Examination of the Candidate for Baptism

The Celebrant says

The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Then the candidate is presented by his Parents, Annie and Eric Cooper and Grandparents, Frank and Gina Wilkinson and Jan Cooper as follows

Parents and Godparents

I present ***Elijah Scott Cooper*** to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

The Celebrant then asks the parents and godparents

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

Celebrant

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents

I will, with God's help.

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the candidate

Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer I renounce them.

Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer I do.

Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer I do.

Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer I do.

The Celebrant now addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this child in his life in Christ?

People We will.

The Celebrant then says these words

Let us join with Elijah and his family who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the
breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin,
repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God
in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

Prayers for the Candidate

The Celebrant then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for this child who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

A Person appointed leads the following petitions

Leader Deliver him, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Open his heart to your grace and truth.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Keep him in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Send him into the world in witness to your love.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

The Celebrant says

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his

resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. *Amen.*

People Amen.

Thanksgiving over the Water

At the font, the Celebrant gives thanks over the water, first saying

The Lord be with you.

People And also, with you.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water.

Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.

Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise.

In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water

May you sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Baptism

The candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, who then pours the water upon him, saying
Elijah Scott, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

When this action has been completed, at a place in full sight of the congregation, the Deacon prays over him, saying

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. *Amen.*

When the candidate has been baptized, the Celebrant says

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

The Peace is now exchanged

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Announcements

The Holy Eucharist

Offertory

The King of love my shepherd is

H646

After the offertory piece has been played the people stand and sing the familiar tune of the "Old 100".

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Let us pray together the words our Savior Christ has taught us

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 Deacon then presents the Sacrament to the People

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 Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Should you prefer not to receive the physical elements of the Holy Communion, you are invited to read the following in silent prayer

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 Holy Communion from Reserved Sacrament

All baptized Christians, regardless of age or denomination, are invited and welcome to receive the sacrament. Communion is distributed at the altar rail. 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 by asking the priest. If you do not wish to receive the sacrament but would like to receive a prayer, please join us at the rail and cross your arms over your chest. Depart through the doors at either side of the rail, returning to your pew through the door by the readers' lectern.



Communion Hymn

My God, accept my heart this day

H697

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 Easter Season Prayer

The Celebrant then offers the following prayer to the people

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

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

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

And, may the blessing of God Almighty be upon us and remain with us for ever. *Amen!*

Recessional Hymn

Faith of our fathers! living still


H558

The Dismissal


Celebrant Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude



Following our service will be Coffee Hour, hosted today by Mike Lilly and 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!



Attendance Last Sunday:

38

Birthdays This Week: Paul Broyles, Hunter Sloane, Pat McCoy, Vick Bowman, and Theron Lewis.

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers: Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bob and Peggy Walk, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Jay Kephart, Buck Sowers, Donna Fortune, Ed and Gladys Fortune, Ivy and the Gaines Family, Fr. Russ Hatfield, Brian, Becky Steorts, Lane, Sherry, Scot, Max, Brad, Sandi, Joan, Mike Boosier, Pam Spracher, Barry Dinger, Joel Hammond, Martin and Ethan, Jim, Brenda Payne, Joan Gray, and Rosemary.



The Altar Flowers are given today for the greater Glory of God
by Terry Whittington in loving memory of his parents
Terry E. and Thelma Kelly Whittington.



Participants in Today's Liturgy

<u>Celebrant</u>	The Rev. Paul Barker
<u>Organist & Choirmaster</u>	Terry E. Whittington, Jr.
<u>Acolyte</u>	Rob Merritt
<u>Lector</u>	Mike Lilly
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Chris Justice, Betty Nash, Linda Ammar

Calendar of Events

Sunday – May 7	Parish Life Meeting after Coffee Hour
Wednesday – May 10	Union Mission 4:00pm
Tuesday – May 16	DOK meeting 10:30am
Wednesday – May 17	Men's Dinner 6:00pm
	Vestry Meeting 7:00pm
Thursday – 18	Food Pantry 9:00 -11:00am
Wednesday – May 24	Union Mission 3:30pm

Announcements:

Coffee Hour: A Coffee Hour host or hostess is needed for **May 1st**. Please sign up on the whiteboard located outside the Library. Contact Mary Catherine

Williams (276-326-2411) or mkw@dlwco.com) if you have any questions. Thank you for helping Christ Church in this important ministry.

CEC Recycling Program: Christ Church is doing recycling of things at the church. We have two recycling bins on the main floor besides the Men's Restroom and two in Rowley Hall for cardboard/ paper and plastic. The Food Pantry have cardboard boxes that needs to be recycled also. The schedule for Bluefield is every Thursday at Tractor Supply 9am -1pm and Mitchell Stadium 2pm-3:30pm. They have a Facebook page "Love Where You Live-Keep Mercer Clean" and post the schedule at the beginning of each month. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex if you would like to help. Thanks to everyone for helping with this project.

Parish Life: There is a signup sheet in the Narthex for Parish Life. If you want to be a part of this very important ministry at our church, consider signing up. You can contact Mary Catherine Williams at mkw@dlwco.com or 276-326-2411 with any questions.

Sunday School Volunteers Needed: The Children's Sunday School begins today, so please consider giving of your time for this ministry on May 14th and May 28th . There's a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Parish Life: There will be a Parish Life meeting in St. Mary's Conference Room on May 7th, after Coffee Hour.

Columbarium Garden Flowers: We will be planting flowers in the Columbarium Garden early in June. If you would be interested in helping to plant and water these flowers, please contact Linda Ammar. Thank you!

Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

The Rev. Paul Barker

Pastor

Ms. Emma Bennett

Parish Administrator

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Organist & Choirmaster

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

Sexton

Mrs. Becky Beckett

Senior Warden

Mr. Peter Richardson

Junior Warden

