



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2023



200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

www.christchurchbluefield.org

Prelude

The Processional Hymn

See the Conqueror mounts in triumph

H215

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

People The Lord is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Collect for Purity

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.*

Hymn of Praise

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!

H205

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

The people may be seated.

The First Lesson

Acts 1:6-14

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said,

“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James, son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

The Psalm

Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36

Exsurgat Deus

The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse

1. Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him.
2. Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.
3. But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; let them also be merry and joyful.
4. Sing to God, sing praises to his Name; exalt him who rides upon the heavens; YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!
5. Father of orphans, defender of widows, God in his holy habitation!
6. God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; but the rebels shall live in dry places.
7. O God, when you went forth before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,
8. The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
9. You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; you refreshed the land when it was weary.
10. Your people found their home in it; in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.

33. Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.
34. He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.
35. Ascribe power to God; his majesty is over Israel; his strength is in the skies.
36. How wonderful is God in his holy places! the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people! Blessed be God!

The Second Lesson

I Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

The people standing.

Sequence Hymn

Fight the good fight with all thy might

H552

The Gospel Lesson

John 17:1-11

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority

over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.”

“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Paul Barker

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

All stand as they are able and say together

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.

The Prayers of the People, Form III

BCP 387

The people may stand or kneel.

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for Matthew, our Bishop, for Paul our Pastor, and for all bishops,
priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

In our Diocesan Cycle of prayer, we pray for the Church of the Ascension,
Hinton and the Holy Trinity Church, Logan.

We pray for all who are on our parish prayer list, and for any others that we
might now name, either silently or aloud

Pause

We pray for all who have died, especially our loved ones who have gone
before us, and for any others that we might now name, either silently or
aloud.

Pause

We give thanks for all of the blessings of this life, for our family, friends and
loved ones, and for any other thanksgivings we might now name, either
silently or aloud.

Pause

The Celebrant concludes the prayers

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude
of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for
help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father,
Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Confession of Sin is omitted during the Season of Easter

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of God's love.

Announcements

The Holy Eucharist

Offertory

The head that once was crowned with thorns

H483

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 the words our Savior Christ 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 Hymns

Thou, who at thy first Eucharist didst pray

H315

Our Prayer after Communion

BCP 365

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

Jesus shall reign where e're the sun

H544

The Dismissal

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

People Thanks be to God. *Alleluia, alleluia!*

Postlude

Attendance Last Sunday:

44

Birthdays This Week: Laurie Arthur, Patricia Taylor, and Nancy Faris.

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

Please join us!

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

The Altar Flowers are given today for the greater Glory of God
by Don and Mary Catherine Williams.

Participants in Today's Liturgy

<u>Celebrant</u>	The Rev. Paul Barker
<u>Organist & Choirmaster</u>	Terry E. Whittington, Jr.
<u>Acolytes</u>	Mike Lilly
<u>Lectors</u>	Brian Tracey
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Patty Richardson and Becky Beckett

Calendar of Events

Wednesday – May 24	Union Mission 3:30pm
Wednesday – June 14	Union Mission 4:00pm
Saturday – June 17	Pastor Paul's Ordination to the Priesthood 10:00am
Tuesday – June 20	DOK meeting 10:30am
Wednesday – June 21	Men's Dinner 6:00pm
	Vestry Meeting 7:00pm

Thursday – June 22
Wednesday – May 28

Food Pantry 9:00 -11:00am
Union Mission 3:30pm

Announcements:

Coffee Hour: A Coffee Hour host or hostess is needed for **June 11, 18, and 25**. Sign up on the white board 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 beside 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.

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

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Ms. Emma Bennett

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

Mrs. Becky Beckett

Mr. Peter Richardson

Pastor

Organist & Choirmaster

Parish Administrator

Sexton

Senior Warden

Junior Warden