



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024



200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701
(304) 327-6861
www.cecblf.org

Prelude

The people stand

The Processional Hymn *Come, gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove* **H 512**

Officiant Alleluia. Christ is risen. BCP 355

People The Lord is Risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Collect for Purity

Officiant

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 people remain standing.

Hymn of Praise *Jesus lives! thy terrors now* **H 195**

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

The people remain standing.

Collect for the Day

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The people sit.

The First Lesson

Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.)

So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

The Psalm

Psalm 22:24-30

Deus, Deus meus

The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse

24. My praise is of him in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25. The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: "May your heart live for ever!"
26. All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
27. For kingship belongs to the LORD; he rules over the nations.
28. To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before him.
29. My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.
30. They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done.

Second Lesson

I John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen,

cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

The people standing.

Hymn

Thou are the Way, to thee alone

H 457

The Gospel Lesson

John 15:1-8

A Reading from the Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Officiant The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Meditation

Bill Denney

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

The people may stand or kneel.

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

BCP 387

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 Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Matthew, our Bishop, for Paul our Priest, 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 St. Mark's, Berkley Springs and St. Mark's, St. Albans.

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

Officiant

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord *Amen.*

The Confession is omitted during the season of Easter.

The Peace

Officiant 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

Offertory Hymn

What wondrous love is this

H 439

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

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.

The Officiant receives the offertory plate and places it on the credence table.

Officiant May the Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Let us pray the words our Savior Christ taught us:

People and Officiant

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.

Recessional Hymn

In Christ there is no East or West

H 529

The Dismissal

Officiant 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 John and Sandy Moir. This is a time for us to have fellowship, share our joys, learn ways we can pray for each other, 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, Martha Linkous, Buck Sowers, Donna Fortune, Ed and Gladys Fortune, Jim and Chris Justice, Ivy and the Gaines Family, Fr. Russ and Debbie Hatfield and family, Mary Lou, Brian, Don Harris, Ted and Katherine Lewis, Brian, John and Becky Beckett, Jim Paine, Lane, Sherry, Scot, Max, Brad, Sandi, Joan, Mike Boosier, Pam Spracher, Barry Dinger, Joel Hammond, Martin and Ethan, Jim, Joan Gray, Rosemary, Eddie

Hughes, Doug Truter, Beth Kane, Debbie H., Kimberly Norriss, Mark, Donna Thompson-Whitehead, Liz, Joan, Dave, and Elvin Sanders.

Participants in Today's Liturgy

Officiant

Bill Denney

Organist & Choirmaster

Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Acolyte

Teresa Paine

Lector

Ted Lewis

Altar Guild

Chris Justice, Becky Beckett, Patty Richardson



The Altar Flowers are given by
Terry Whittington for the greater Glory of God.



Birthdays this week: Eddie Fortune, Paul Broyles, Hunter Sloane, and Pat McCoy.

Attendance Last Sunday:

49

Calendar of Events

Wednesday – May 8

Union Mission 4:00pm

Sunday – May 12

Mother's Day

Wednesday – May 15

Men's Dinner 6:00pm

Vestry meeting 7:00pm

Thursday – May 16

Food Pantry 9:00am

Sunday – May 19

Celebrate Rev. Russ Hatfield's ministry
with reception after services in Rowley Hall

Tuesday – May 21

DOK meeting 10:30am

Wednesday – May 29

Union Mission 3:30pm

Announcements:

Directory: If you haven't returned your completed Questionnaire yet, please do so. Thank you!

Coffee Hour: A Coffee Hour host will be needed for **May 5, 12, 26**. Please sign up on the whiteboard located outside the library. Contact Mary Catherine Williams at: (276-326-2411) or mkw@dlwco.com if you have any questions. Thank you for helping Christ Church in this important ministry.

Food Pantry: The Food Pantry will be collecting cleaning supplies for the month of April!

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

Priest
Organist & Choirmaster
Parish Administrator
Sexton
Senior Warden
Junior Warden

