



# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

## The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 25, 2024

**The Christ Church Annual Parish Picnic**



200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701 • (304) 327-6861 • [www.cecbf.org](http://www.cecbf.org)

**Welcome!**

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

**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.*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**The Collect 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.*

*The people sit*

**The Old Testament 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.”

*Lector*        The word of the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God.

### The Psalm

Psalm 34:15-22

*Benedicam Dominum*

*The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse*

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.

### The New Testament 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.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God!

### The Gospel Lesson

*John 6:56-69*

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

*People*        Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.”

*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 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. Bartholomew's, Leetown.

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**

BCP 360

*The Celebrant says*

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 Celebrant 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.

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

### **Announcements**

**Offertory Hymn**

Rock of ages, cleft for me

**Handout**

### **The Holy Communion**

#### **Enriching Our Worship, Prayer 1**

*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.

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever say 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.

*The Celebrant continues*

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all 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*

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and 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

*The Celebrant then breaks the Consecrated Bread and says*

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*The People then respond*

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 Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

All baptized Christians, regardless of age or denomination, are invited and encouraged to receive the sacrament.

## 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 Blessing

Closing Hymn

*Onward Christian soldiers vs 1-3*

**Handout**

## The Dismissal

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People* Thanks be to God.

The Altar Flowers today were given by Mr. Bill Davis  
in memory of loved ones.

**Birthdays this week:** Brian Tracey, Dee Puckett, Delia Kersey.

## **Participants in Today's Liturgy**

Celebrant	The Rev. Paul Barker
Acolyte	Mike Lilly
Lector	Katherine Lewis
Altar Guild	Altar Guild Members

**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, Becky Steorts, Julie Blevins, Lane, Sherry, Scot, Max, Brad, Sandi, Joan, Mike Boosier, Pam Spracher, Barry Dinger, Joel Hammond, Jim, Joan Gray, Eddie Hughes, Doug Truter, Beth Kane, Debbie H., Kimberly Norriss, Mark, Donna Thompson-Whitehead, Liz, Joan, Dave, Mopsy Shott Forbes, Allen, Everly Nowlin, Sandra, Felicia, Leo Maial, and Parker Anderson.

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

The Rev. Paul Barker	Priest
Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.	Organist & Choirmaster
Ms. Emma Bennett	Parish Administrator
Ms. Gina Vescio	Sexton
Mrs. Becky Beckett	Senior Warden
Mr. Peter Richardson	Junior Warden