



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

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(304) 327-6861

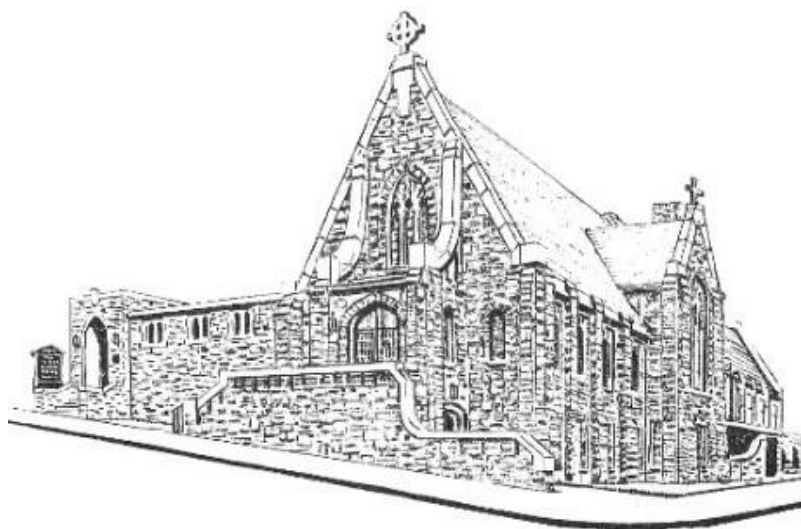
www.christchurchbluefield.org



The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

and being Proper XX of the Church Year

September 19, 2021



This bulletin contains our liturgy today.

Given the circumstances during this pandemic era our worship is somewhat different. We respectfully ask that you wear and keep a face mask on during this service. We hope that you will feel safe in this place and leave edified by our celebration of Word and Sacrament today.

The Vestry of Christ Church encourages everyone, out of love and respect to all, to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Our Parish Nurse can answer any questions you may have about the vaccine. Our ushers can direct you to a Vestry Member or the Parish Nurse for more information.

If you are new or visiting this congregation for the first time, we invite you to fill out a Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate located in the back of the church. We are honored you have chosen to worship with us today and hope that you will continue your faith journey here.

Prelude

Our Service Begins

The Opening Sentences

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

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

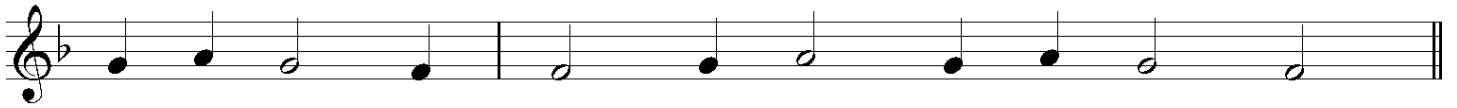
Celebrant

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.*

The Kyrie is then sung, all standing



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer -



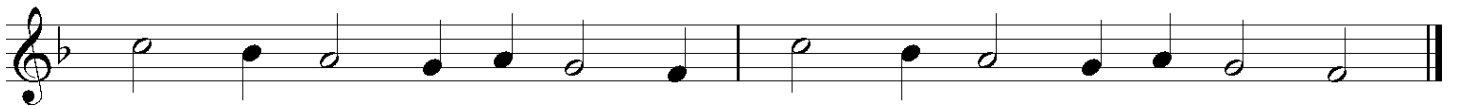
cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.



Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect of the Day

Our collective prayer for the day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.



We Hear and Respond to God's Word

The First Lesson

Wisdom of Solomon 1:16-2:1, 12-22

The ungodly by their words and deeds summoned death;

considering him a friend, they pined away
and made a covenant with him,

because they are fit to belong to his company.

For they reasoned unsoundly, saying to themselves,

“Short and sorrowful is our life,
and there is no remedy when a life comes to its end,
and no one has been known to return from Hades.

Let us lie in wait for the righteous man,

because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions;
he reproaches us for sins against the law,
and accuses us of sins against our training.

He professes to have knowledge of God,
and calls himself a child of the Lord.

He became to us a reproof of our thoughts;

the very sight of him is a burden to us,
because his manner of life is unlike that of others,
and his ways are strange.

We are considered by him as something base,

and he avoids our ways as unclean;
he calls the last end of the righteous happy,
and boasts that God is his father.

Let us see if his words are true,

and let us test what will happen at the end of his life;
for if the righteous man is God's child, he will help him,
and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries.

Let us test him with insult and torture,

so that we may find out how gentle he is,
and make trial of his forbearance.

Let us condemn him to a shameful death,
for, according to what he says, he will be protected.”

Thus they reasoned, but they were led astray,
for their wickedness blinded them,
and they did not know the secret purposes of God,
nor hoped for the wages of holiness,
nor discerned the prize for blameless souls.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

The Psalm

Psalm 54

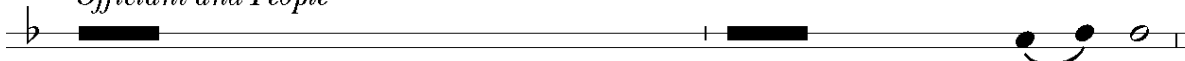
Deus, in nomine

The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse

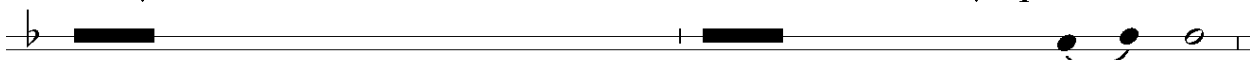
1. Save me, O God, by your Name;
 in your might, defend my cause.
2. Hear my prayer, O God;
 give ear to the words of my mouth.
3. For the arrogant have risen up against me,
 and the ruthless have sought my life,
 those who have no regard for God.
4. Behold, God is my helper;
 it is the Lord who sustains my life.
5. Render evil to those who spy on me;
 in your faithfulness, destroy them.
6. I will offer you a freewill sacrifice
 and praise your Name, O Lord, for it is good.
7. For you have rescued me from every trouble,
 and my eye has seen the ruin of my foes.

Sung together

Officiant and People



Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spi - rit:



As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. A - men.

The Second Lesson

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thank be to God!



The Gospel Lesson

Mark 9:30-37

Please stand for the Gospel Lesson

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus and his disciples passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.



The Sermon

the Very Rev. Chad Slater

The Nicene Creed

All stand as they are able

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.

**meaning the church universal, that all Christians are one people regardless of denomination*

The Prayers of the People

The intercessor greets the congregation with the following words and leads us in prayer.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work, especially Becky Beckett, Don Kersey, Jr., Lynn King, Norma Mahood-Bay, Patrick Anderson, and Gina Wilkinson who celebrate birthdays this week;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For Joe, our President, Jim and Ralph, our Governors, and Ron and Donnie, our mayors. For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Mike, our Bishop, and Chad, our priest, and all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. For those on our prayer list and all those we now name before you either silently or aloud...

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, especially the loved ones of Frank and Bernadette Dragotto, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

A period of silence is kept for reflection.

Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, 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.

At this time we will greet those around us in the name of the Lord. Please refrain from physical touch during this time so as to ensure proper social distancing for all members of the congregation. Thank you.



The Holy Eucharist, sometimes call *The Mass*

Doxology

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

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.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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.

The Celebrant continues

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Celebrant and People

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major. It features a melody with several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above a bracket) and a final double bar line. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, 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."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

*We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.*

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Sarah, Rebecca, and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

The Celebrant and People together sing



A - men.



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;

People 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 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 as the physical sacrament is being distributed.

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 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 approach the priest. Each row, beginning in the front, should come up to the chancel step to receive the Blessed Bread. The Chalice cannot be offered at this time by direction of the Bishop of West Virginia. Once the priest has dropped the Blessed Bread in your hand you should return by the side aisle to your pew. Once a row has been Communed, the next is free to come to the chancel steps.

Gluten free wafers are available to those who request them.



A Prayer for the Election of a Bishop

Said together as the Celebrant kneels before the altar

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 Blessing

The Celebrant then pronounces the following blessing over the people

May the holy wisdom of God

Guard your ways and guide your paths

May the living truth of God

Enlighten your hearts and open your minds

May the living Spirit of God

Give you life, and life to the fullest!

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always.

People Amen!

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!

Postlude

The Altar Flowers are given today for the greater Glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Frank and Bernadette Dragotto.

Participants in Today's Liturgy

<u>Celebrant</u>	the Very Rev. Chad Slater
<u>Organist & Choirmaster</u>	Terry E. Whittington, Jr.
<u>Lector</u>	Teresa Paine
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Elizabeth Clement, Teresa Paine, Linda Ammar

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers: Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bea Paine, Lynn Burney, Bob and Peggy Walk, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Jay Kephart, Buck and Louisa Sowers, Mabeline Robinson, Donna Fortune, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Dean Farmer, Haddon Lazenby, Jack Burchette, Nick, JL, Randy Snider, Margarett Joplin, David, Martin, Harry, Ben Rose, Jack, Sheri, Dan, Kensley, John, Elizabeth Kane, Betty, Matt, Eric, Carol, Dave, Gail, Jean, all Healthcare Personnel and Frontline Workers, the people of Afghanistan, and John

Attendance Last Sunday:

37

Birthdays This Week: Becky Beckett, Don Kersey, Jr., Lynn King, Norma Mahood-Bay, Patrick Anderson, and Gina Wilkinson

Calendar of Events

Wednesday – September 22	Serving Dinner at Union Mission 4:00 pm
Friday & Saturday –September 24 & 25	Diocesan Convention
Sunday – October 24	CEC Building 100 th Anniversary

Announcements:

100th Anniversary: Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 24, 2021! We will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of our beautiful church building's consecration. Bishop Klusmeyer will be joining us that day to help us celebrate! A larger “homecoming” and celebration will be scheduled at a later date (post-pandemic).

Diocesan Convention: The Diocesan Convention is virtual this year. A live stream of the Electing Process on Saturday will be shared by the Diocesan and Bishop Search YouTube channel and on Facebook beginning at 9:00 am.

ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE

We will be collecting the Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) coin boxes through September. You can drop your offering in the special collection box located in the Narthex. The children of the parish are voting on which ERD project in the program's *One Thousand Days of Love Campaign* to contribute the money to. These programs are geared toward children and maternal health in developing countries. Your contributions will go to a good cause and help teach our children the value in giving and ministry. Thank you for your support!



Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

the Very Rev. Chad Slater

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Ms. Emma Bennett

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

Mr. David Kersey

Mr. Peter Richardson

Rector

Organist & Choirmaster

Parish Administrator

Sexton

Senior Warden

Junior Warden