



**Sunday, November 22, 2020**

Christ Episcopal Church

200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

[www.christchurchbluefield.org](http://www.christchurchbluefield.org)



*The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe*, commonly referred to as the *Feast of Christ the King* or *Christ the King Sunday*, is a relatively recent addition to the Western liturgical calendar, having been instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI for the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church. The Anglican, Lutheran, and many other Protestant churches also celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, which is contained in the Revised Common Lectionary. Those churches that use the Revised Common Lectionary observe Christ the King Sunday as the final Sunday of their liturgical year.

The Feast of Christ the King has an eschatological dimension pointing to the end of time when the kingdom of Jesus will be established in all its fullness to the ends of the earth. It leads into Advent, when the Church anticipates Christ's second coming.

A distinct season of Kingdomtide is or has been observed by a number of churches on the four Sundays before Advent, either officially or semi-officially. For example, in the Church in Wales, part of the Anglican Communion, these four Sundays before Advent are called the "Sundays of the Kingdom" and Christ the King is observed as a season and not as a single festal day.

## The Liturgy of the Word

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

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

*The Celebrant then says*

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 Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

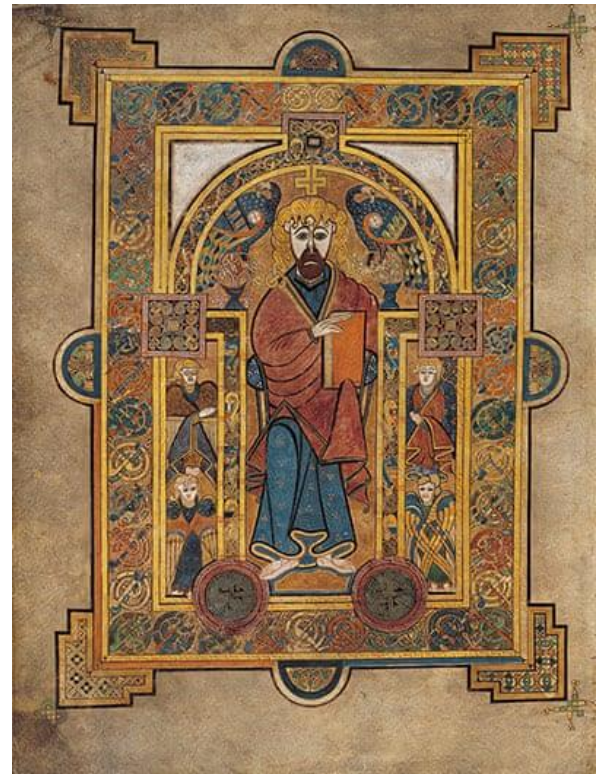
you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.



*Christ Enthroned* from the *Book of Kells*. 9<sup>th</sup> century

## The Collect

The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## The First Lesson

*Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24*

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

The word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## The Psalm

Psalm 100

*Jubilate Deo*

1. Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.
2. Know this: The Lord himself is God; he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
3. Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
4. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

*Said together*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

## Second Lesson

*Ephesians 1:15-23*

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.



## Gospel Lesson

Matthew 25:31-46

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

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.



## The Sermon

the Rev. Chad Slater

### The Nicene Creed

*Written about 325 AD, this is the ancient statement of our faith. Please stand.*

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

Through baptism we have been raised with Christ, ordained to a royal priesthood, and made citizens in a holy nation. As faithful priests serving the King of kings, let us intercede for all the world, saying: In the name of Jesus our King, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, sovereign majesty, as your humble priests we pray for all your children who do not confess you as Lord. Enable us to live the Good News convincingly, that all may inherit life eternal in the kingdom of heaven. Bless our work in the world during this uncertain time so that all the world may know we are Christians by our love. Although we must now worship apart, we do so in the hope that upon returning none of us may be absent to sing your praises. In the name of Jesus our King,

Hear our prayer.

Almighty God, ruler of all nations, cause the leaders of nations to recognize your sovereignty and to accept your gracious rule. Make them proponents of peace and lovers of justice. Crown each ruler with compassion, that all people may live in peace. We pray especially for Donald, our President, Jim and Ralph our Governors, Ron and Don, our mayors, and all those who will soon assume office in this land. In the name of Jesus our King,

Hear our prayer.

Almighty God, merciful monarch, look with pity on all who suffer: those with disease, those unjustly imprisoned, those denied dignity, the hungry, those without shelter, those who live without hope. Direct us toward them, that their royalty may be reclaimed and their lives celebrated in your grace. We pray especially for those on our Prayer List, those who suffer from the pandemic we now face, and all those whose need for healing is known to you alone. In the name of Jesus our King,

Hear our prayer.

Almighty God, Lord of the Church, we pray for your holy catholic church on earth. Gather all who bear the name of Christ into one vigorous, fruitful community of faith, that the world may see one King of glory and one kingdom of grace. We pray for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, Mike, our Bishop, and Fr. Chad, our priest. We pray

also for the discernment and call of the 8<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese of West Virginia. In the name of Jesus our king,

Hear our prayer.

Almighty God, benevolent judge, we pray for all your people gathered together to seek your grace. By your mercy, prepare us for the day of judgment, that we may accept it as a rich and royal gift for the eternal pleasure of the faithful. We pray for all those who have departed this life in faith that the light of your radiance may shine upon them. In the name of Jesus our king,

Hear our prayer.

*The Celebrant then stands and concludes the prayers.*

Grant these petitions, O God, according to your perfect will, that you holy name be praised and proclaimed until that day when all the faithful shall gather before your throne in heaven, through the merits of Christ the King.

*People Amen.*

### Confession & Absolution

*We confess our sins and are reassured of our pardon*

*The Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Celebrant 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 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

*We share the joy of the Good News!*

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

### Announcements

*Information for the good of the parish is shared at this time.*





## The Liturgy of the Eucharist, sometimes called *the Mass*

### Eucharistic Prayer “D”

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.

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing (say),

*Celebrant and People*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection

and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

*Celebrant and People*

We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.

*The Celebrant continues*

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light. And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with Wanda Myers, Stella Stultz, Paul Cole, Joe Graham, and those we now name before you either silently or aloud...and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. *AMEN.*



*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 Breaking of the Bread

*Officiant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

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.



*Cast our Crowns* by Jim Janknegt. modern.

## A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

*Celebrant*

The receipt of the bread and wine, which is the body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. In as much as you would like to partake of this holy food, the spiritual grace provided by the same is supplied to you.

Let us pray. 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.

## 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 and Dismissal

*The Celebrant stands and pronounces the following over the People*

It is not enough to acclaim Jesus Christ as our Lord and King.

Our mission in life is to make his kingdom a reality among us and to bring it to those around us by our words and deeds.

The way to do this is to live as he lived: for others, in love and service.

May almighty God bless you for this task:

the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and to give shape to his kingdom.

*People* Thanks be to God!

**Birthdays This Week:** Linda Ammar, Bill Denney, Patrick Paine, Grey Kiser

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The Altar Flowers are given today by  
Paul and Rebecca Broyles with Thanks for the Christ Church family.

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**Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers:** Dorene Dimes, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Lee Puckett, Sr., Mabeline & Elton Robinson, Bea Paine, Lynn Burney, Marilyn Denney, Donna Fortune, Bob and Peggy Walk, Susan Jewell, John Kersey, Martha Linkous, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Kelly Cox, Maxine Stevenson, Dean Farmer, Haddon Lazenby, Jack Burchette, Nick, JL, Cis Barrett, Kathy, Randy Snider, Lane, Loraine, Sherry, Margarete Joplin, Emily Broome, David, Joe Graham's family, Cady, Martin, Marion Lowe, Margaret Westfall, Harry, Ben Rose, Rev. Mark Seitz, Jay Kephart

### **Calendar of Events**

Wednesdays in November

Online Bible Study (Zoom) 10:30am

Thursday – November 26

Happy Thanksgiving!

### **Announcements:**

Online Bible Study: Join us on Wednesday's at 10:30 am for Bible study via Zoom. A link to the Zoom meeting is included in each week's email. A link to a tutorial on how to use Zoom, if you are new to it, is available in the email as well. For more information please see Fr. Chad.

Masks: We are still accepting masks to give to church members who would like to attend services but do not have one. If you would like to contribute, please see Fr. Chad.

Special Prayer: If you'd like to send Dorene a card of encouragement and let her know you're praying for her, please address it to: Ms. Dorene Dimes – Mercer Nursing & Rehab Center - 1275 Southview Dr. – Rm. A10B, Bluefield, WV 24701.

Cyber Sunday School: While Sunday School is not able to meet in person for many churches, we would like to extend the opportunity to all families to enroll in our Cyber Sunday School program. This weekly video will offer Bible stories and lessons for children ages 4 through 11 (and all who are children at heart). This is an ecumenical program that we hope will be a benefit for Christians of all traditions. There is no cost. Please email [info@cecblf.org](mailto:info@cecblf.org) to provide your email address for the link to be sent to and the first name of the child or children who will be participating. Thank you.

2021 Stewardship Program: This year's theme is "Hope Grows Here". Estimates of Gifts and Tithes cards will be collected in the month of November. Cards may be mailed to the church office.

Poinsettias for Christmas: If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia for the Church on Christmas, in honor or memory of a loved one, please email the Parish Administrator, Ms. Emma Bennett, at [secretary@cecblf.org](mailto:secretary@cecblf.org) or call the church office at 304-327-6861 and let her know. Poinsettias will be \$15 each this year. Checks may be made out to Christ Episcopal Church. Requests for Poinsettias must be in the church office by Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.



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

the Rev. Chad Slater

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Ms. Emma Bennett

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

Mrs. Becky Beckett

Mr. Tom Coughlan

Rector  
Organist & Choirmaster  
Parish Administrator  
Sexton  
Senior Warden  
Junior Warden