



# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2023



200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

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

## Prelude

### The Processional Hymn

*Jesus lives! thy terrors now*

**H195**

*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.

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 may be seated.*

### The First Lesson

*Acts 7:55-60*

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt

down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.”  
When he had said this, he died.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God!

### The Psalm

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

*In te, Domine, speravi*

*The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse*

1. In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.
2. Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.
3. Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
4. Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.
5. Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.
15. My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
16. Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your loving-kindness save me.

### The Second Lesson

*I Peter 2:2-10*

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner”, and

“A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God’s people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God!

*The people standing.*

Sequence Hymn

*He is risen, he is risen!*

**H180**

The Gospel Lesson

*John 14:1-14*

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

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father

who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

*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 St. Mark's Church, Glenville  
and St. Phillip's Church, Charles Town.

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

*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life*

**H487**

*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

*Holy God we praise thy Name*

**H366**

## 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

*Christ is made the sure foundation*

**H518**

### 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:

36

Birthdays This Week: Patty Richardson, Pat Wimmer, Chris Justice, Joyce  
Morgan.

Following our service will be Coffee Hour, hosted by Sheila Brooks and Mary Catherine Williams. 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, Buck Sowers, Donna Fortune, Ed and Gladys Fortune, Ivy and the Gaines Family, Fr. Russ Hatfield, Brian, Art Mead, Becky Steorts, Lane, Sherry, Scot, Max, Brad, Sandi, Joan, Mike Boosier, Pam Spracher, Barry Dinger, Joel Hammond, Martin and Ethan, Jim, Brenda Payne, Joan Gray, and Rosemary.

The Altar Flowers are given today for the greater Glory of God  
by Dr. James Paine.

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

<u>Celebrant</u>	The Rev. Paul Barker
<u>Organist &amp; Choirmaster</u>	Terry E. Whittington, Jr.
<u>Acolytes</u>	Becky Kersey
<u>Lectors</u>	Ted Lewis
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Patty Richardson and Becky Beckett

### **Calendar of Events**

Sunday – May 7	Parish Life Meeting after Coffee Hour
Wednesday – May 10	Union Mission 4:00pm
Tuesday – May 16	DOK meeting 10:30am
Wednesday – May 17	Men's Dinner 6:00pm
	Vestry Meeting 7:00pm

Thursday – 18  
Wednesday – May 24

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

### **Announcements:**

**Coffee Hour:** A Coffee Hour host or hostess is needed for each Sunday in **June**. Sign up on the white board located outside the Library. Contact Mary Catherine Williams (276-326-2411) or [mkw@dlwco.com](mailto: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 besides 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](mailto: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