



# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

## The Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

October 8, 2023



200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

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

## Prelude

*The people stand*

### The Processional Hymn

*Christ is made the sure foundation*

**H 518**

## 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.*

*The people remain standing.*

### Hymn of Praise

*Joyful, joyful, we adore thee*

**H 376**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

## Collect for the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*The people sit.*

### The First Lesson

*Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20*

Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

*Lector*                    The Word of the Lord.

*People*                    Thanks be to God!

### The Psalm

Psalm 19

*Caeli enarrant*

*The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse*

1. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork.
2. One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.
3. Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

4. Their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world.
5. In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
6. It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
7. The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.
8. The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.
9. The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
10. More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
11. By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.
12. Who can tell how often he offends? cleanse me from my secret faults.
13. Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.
14. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

## The Second Lesson

*Philippians 3:4b-14*

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the

law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

*Lector*               The Word of the Lord.

*People*                Thanks be to God!

*The people standing.*

Hymn

*Fight the good fight with all thy might*

**H 552**

The Gospel Lesson

*Matthew 21:33-46*

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

*People*        Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.’”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

    “The stone that the builders rejected

        has become the cornerstone;

    this was the Lord’s doing,

and it is amazing in our eyes'?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

*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. Steven's Church, Romney and Zion 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**

BCP 360

*The celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor

*Silence may be kept*

*The Celebrant and people say:*

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**

## **The Holy Communion**

Offertory Hymn

*And now, O Father, mindful of the love*

**H 337**

*After the Offertory piece has been played the People stand as the gifts are brought forward and sing the familiar tune of the "Old 100<sup>th</sup>"*

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 people remain standing*

## **Eucharistic Prayer A**

*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.

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*The Hymnal 1982, Service Music, #130*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is primarily chordal, with the vocal line following the text. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and".

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

The second system continues the melody. It features a long note for the word "might," followed by a rest. The lyrics are: "might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,".

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

The third system concludes the phrase. It features a long note for the word "might," followed by a rest. The lyrics are: "God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are".

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human

nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for 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 Breaking of the Bread**

*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*

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. 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 blessing, 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 reader's lectern.

### 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.

### Communion Hymn

*Thou, who at thy first Eucharist didst pray*

**H 315**

### 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

Recessional Hymn

*Awake, my soul, stretch every nerve*

**H 546**

## The Dismissal

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

*People Thanks be to God.*

## Postlude

Following our service will be Coffee Hour, hosted today by Betty Nash and Darla Olson. 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, Russ and Debbie Hatfield, Mary Lou, Brian, Don Harris, Ted Lewis, Brian, 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, Jenessa, Ameiah, and Beth Kane.

The Altar Flowers are given by Rob and Mimi Merritt in for the greater  
Glory of God and in memory of loved ones.

## Participants in Today's Liturgy

Celebrant

The Rev. Paul Barker

Organist & Choirmaster

Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Acolyte

Becky Beckett

Lector

Bill Denny

Altar Guild

Linda Ammar, Teresa Paine

## Attendance Last Sunday:

39

**Birthdays this week:** Elizabeth Clement, Don Williams, Brian McCoy, and Mike Lilly.

## Calendar of Events

Wednesday – October 11	Union Mission 4:00pm
Sunday – October 15	Children’s Sunday School 10:05 – 11:00 Adult Class Christ Church 101 noon-12:30pm
Tuesday – October 17	DOK meeting 10:30am
Wednesday – October 18	Men’s Dinner 6:00pm Vestry Meeting 7:00pm
Thursday – October 19	Food Pantry 9:00 – 11:00am
Sunday – October 22	Bishop Matthew Cowden’s Visit
Wednesday – October 25	Union Mission 3:30pm
Thursday –Saturday October 26-28	Diocesan Convention

## Announcements:

Christ Church 101: the next class is October 8 and will begin halfway through coffee hour and will last about 30-45 minutes. It is open to any adults interested in learning more about Christ Church and the Episcopal Church and is also intended to serve as preparation for adults interested in being formally confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church. Please, contact Fr. Paul at [paulb@cecblf.org](mailto:paulb@cecblf.org) with any questions. Hope you can join us!



## Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

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