



# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

## The Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost

A Service of Confirmation and Reception  
Rt. Rev. Matthew D. Cowden, Celebrating

October 22, 2023



200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

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

## Prelude

*The people stand*

The Processional Hymn      *Come, Gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove*

**H 512**

## Welcome!

*At this time, all children are invited to follow the cross and teachers to their classrooms.*

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

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

*The Bishop then continues*

*Bishop*      There is one body and one Spirit;

*People*      There is one hope in God's call to us;

*Bishop*      One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

*People*      One God and Father of all.

*The people remain standing.*

## Hymn of Praise

*Joyful, joyful, we adore thee*

**H 376**

## The Collect for the Day

*Bishop*      The Lord be with you.

*People*      And also with you.

*Bishop*      Let us pray.

Grant, Almighty God, that we, who have been redeemed from the old life of sin by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, may be renewed in your Holy Spirit, and live in righteousness and true holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*The people sit.*

## The First Lesson

*Exodus 33:12-23*

Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." He

said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

*Lector*                    The Word of the Lord.

*People*                    Thanks be to God!

### The Psalm

Psalm 99

*Dominus regnavit*

*The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse*

1. The LORD is King; let the people tremble; he is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.
2. The LORD is great in Zion; he is high above all peoples.
3. Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; he is the Holy One.
4. "O mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."
5. Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God and fall down before his footstool; he is the Holy One.
6. Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.
7. He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.

8. O LORD our God, you answered them indeed; you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds.
9. Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God and worship him upon his holy hill; for the LORD our God is the Holy One.

The Second Lesson

*I Thessalonians 1:1-10*

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead - Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

*Lector*                    The Word of the Lord.

*People*                    Thanks be to God!

*The people standing.*

Hymn                    *He who would valiant be 'gainst all disaster*                    **H 564**

The Gospel Lesson

*Matthew 22:15-22*

*Deacon or Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People*                    Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

*Deacon or Priest* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rt. Rev. Matthew D. Cowden

## **Presentation and Examination of the Candidates**

*The Bishop says*

The Candidates will now be presented.

*Presenters* I present *these persons* for Confirmation.

*The Bishop asks the candidates*

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

*Candidates* I do.

*Bishop* Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*Candidates* I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

*After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support *these persons* in their life in Christ?

*People* We will.

*The Bishop then says these or similar words*

Let us join with *those* who are committing *themselves* to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

## **The Baptismal Covenant**

*Bishop* Do you believe in God the Father?

*People* I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

*Bishop* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People* I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

*Bishop* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People* I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

*Bishop* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*People* I will, with God's help.

*Bishop* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*People* I will, with God's help.

*Bishop* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*People* I will, with God's help.

*Bishop* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

*People* I will, with God's help.

*Bishop* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

*People* I will, with God's help.

## **Prayers for the Candidates**

*The Bishop then says to the congregation*

Let us now pray for *these persons* who have renewed *their* commitment to Christ.

*A Person appointed leads the following petitions*

*Leader* Deliver *them*, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader* Open *their hearts* to your grace and truth.

*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader* Fill *them* with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader* Keep *them* in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader* Teach *them* to love others in the power of the Spirit.

*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader* Send *them* into the world in witness to your love.

*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader* Bring *them* to the fullness of your peace and glory.

*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

*A period of silence follows.*

*Then the Bishop says*

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in *these your servants* the covenant you have made with *them* at their Baptism. Send *them* forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before *them*; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*



## **For Confirmation**

*The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says*

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your Holy Spirit; empower *him* for your service; and sustain *him* all the days of *his* life. *Amen.*

## **For Reception**

*N.*, we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. *Amen.*

*The Bishop concludes with this prayer*

Almighty and everlasting God, let your fatherly hand ever be over *these* your *servants*; let your Holy Spirit ever be with *them*; and so lead *them* in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that *they* may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The Peace is then exchanged*

*Bishop* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

## **The Peace**

*Bishop* 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 Bishop's Visitation loose offering will be designated to the Re-Opening Peterkin Fund. Please see bulletin insert for more information.*

## **The Holy Communion**

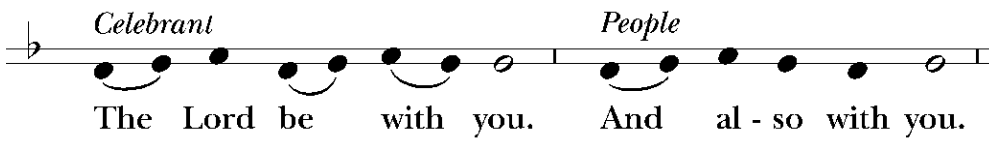
*After the Offertory piece has been played the People stand as the gifts are brought forward and sing the familiar tune of the "Old 100<sup>th</sup>"*

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 Eucharistic Prayer A

*The people stand. The bishop faces them and sings.*

*Celebrant* *People*



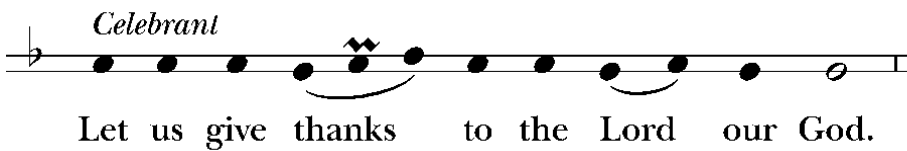
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant* *People*



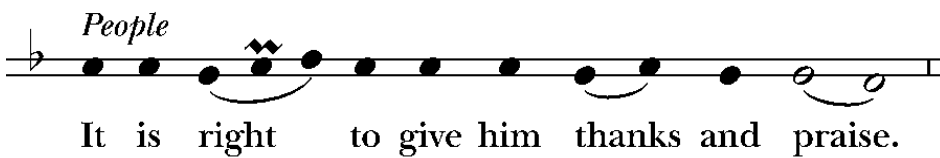
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*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 Bishop 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 in Jesus Christ our Lord you have received us as your sons and daughters, made us citizens of your kingdom, and given us the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth.

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 a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

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

The second system continues the melody. It features a long horizontal line under the word 'might,' in the treble staff, indicating a sustained note. The bass staff continues with quarter notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

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

The third system continues the melody. It features a long horizontal line under the word 'might,' in the treble staff, indicating a sustained note. The bass staff continues with quarter notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

The fourth system continues the melody. It features a long horizontal line under the word 'full,' in the treble staff, indicating a sustained note. The bass staff continues with quarter notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

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 Bishop 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:

*Bishop and People*

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

*The Bishop 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.

*Bishop*

*People*



And now, as our Savior  
Christ has taught us,  
we are bold to say,

*People and Bishop*

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 Bishop then breaks the Consecrated Bread and says*

*A period of silence is kept.*

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

*The Bishop 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

*Breathe on me, Breath of God*

**H 508**

*Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove*

**H 510**

*O Master, let me walk with thee*

**H 660**

### Our Prayer after Communion

BCP 365

*After Communion, the Bishop says*

Let us pray.

*Bishop 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 Bishop Sings the Blessing*

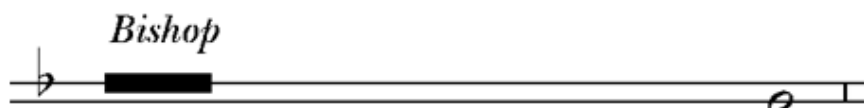
### **The Blessing Over the People**



Our help is in the Name of the Lord;



The maker of heaven and earth.



Blessed be the Name of the Lord;



From this time forth for ever-more.

Recessional Hymn

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord*

**H 637**

### **The Dismissal**

*Deacon or Priest* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

*People*            *Thanks be to God.*

Postlude



*All are invited to a reception with the Bishop  
downstairs in Rowley Hall immediately following the service.*

**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, Rebecca Broyles, Brian, Lane, Sherry, Scot, Max, Brad, Sandi, Joan, Mike Boosier, Pam Spracher, Barry Dinger, Martin and Ethan, Jim, Joan Gray, Rosemary, Eddie Hughes, Doug Truter, Jenessa, Ameiah, and Beth Kane.

**Attendance Last Sunday:**

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**Birthdays this week:** William Allen and Bernadette Dragotto.

The Altar Flowers are given by  
Phyllis Walker for the greater Glory of God and in memory of loved ones.

The chancel rail flowers are given in honor of Bishop Cowden  
and his visit to Christ Church by the vestry.

**Participants in Today's Liturgy**

Celebrant

The Rt. Rev. Matthew D. Cowden

Assisting

The Rev. Paul Barker

Organist & Choirmaster

Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Acolyte

Becky Kersey

Lector

Don Williams

Altar Guild

Linda Ammar, Teresa Paine

**Calendar of Events**

Sunday – October 22

Bishop Matthew Cowden's Visit  
Children's Sunday School 10:05-10:30

Wednesday – October 25

Union Mission 3:30pm

Thursday – October 26 – Saturday – October 28

Diocesan Convention

## Announcements:

Food Pantry Collection: It has become a tradition of our Food Pantry to give gloves, hats, scarves, socks, and blankets to help make winter a little warmer for our friends. A bin has been placed in the narthex to begin accepting these items, which may be homemade, purchased, or gently used. Thank you so much for your participation in this community need!

Coffee Hour: A Coffee Hour host will be needed for **November 26**. 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.

ECW Ornament Wreath: Chances are still available to win the lovely Ornament Wreath being raffled out by the Episcopal Church Women. Funds from this raffle will be used for community outreach by the ECW. The winner will be announced on Sunday, November 19. Please contact Patty Richardson to purchase your lucky ticket.

## 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

Priest  
Organist & Choirmaster  
Parish Administrator  
Sexton  
Senior Warden  
Junior Warden



## **To Be Confirmed**

Linda Gillespie  
Keith Olson  
Lee Rose  
Lisa Van Dyke  
Mark Van Dyke

## **To Be Received**

Darla Olson

