



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Holy Eucharist

March 22, 2026



200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701

(304) 327-6861

www.cecblf.org

Prelude

The people stand

The Processional Hymn

Hail, thou once despised Jesus!

H 495

Welcome!

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

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

BCP 355

People His mercy endures 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.

Kyrie

S 90

The Holy Eucharist I, Lord have mercy upon us: *Kyrie*

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music, #90

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.

Music: John Merbecke (1510?-1585?); adapt. *Hymnal 1982*; acc. Thomas Foster (b. 1938). Melody: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The people remain standing.

Collect for the Day

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.” So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I

am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

The Psalm

Psalm 130

De profundis

The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse.

1. Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice;
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
2. If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss,
O Lord, who could stand?
3. For there is forgiveness with you; therefore you shall be feared.
4. I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope.
5. My soul waits for the LORD,
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.
6. O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is mercy;
7. With him there is plenteous redemption,
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Second Lesson

Romans 8:6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus

from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

The people standing.

Hymn *Thou art the Way, to thee alone*

H 457

The Gospel Lesson

John 11:1-45

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ

Lazarus of Bethany, brother of Mary and Martha, was ill. The sisters sent to Jesus to tell him. Jesus waited for two days, and then he told his disciples, “Lazarus is dead; let us go to him.”

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have

died.” When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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 Sean, 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 all Clergy Spouses and Families, that may not only support the work of our clergy, but feel supported in all that they do.

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

BCP 360

The Celebrant says

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. Let us confess our sins remembering before God the times when we have fallen from temptation into sin.

Silence may be kept.

Minister 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

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

Instrumental

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

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

BCP 361

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. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

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*

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a simple accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and".

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

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

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

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.

Communion Hymn

Our Prayer after Communion

BCP 365

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn

Come, Gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove

H 512

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.


Postlude

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers: Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Bob Walk, Martha Linkous, Ed and Gladys Fortune, Ivy and the Gaines Family, Fr. Russ and Debbie Hatfield, Mary Lou, Don Harris, John and Becky Beckett, The Paine Family, Dee Puckett, Becky Steorts, Kathy Burge, Kaye, David Lindahl, Brandon Green, Haley and Alex Jusiel, Carolyn Ratcliffe, Felicia, Brad, Jerry and Debbie Hickman, Fran Alba, Rob Roush, Mya,


Frederick Williams, George, Mark, Sandra, Dick, Elizabeth and Cameron, Betty Carol, Jim Crosby.

Attendance Last Sunday:

52



Following our service, we will have Coffee Hour hosted by Grey and Stan Kiser with Linda Gillespie. With spring's promise emerging at winter's edge, the Epiphany light continues to guide us into the Lenten season. We gather in fellowship, prayer, joy, and community—and we are delighted to welcome you.



Birthdays this week: Darla Olson, Liam Cole

Participants in Today's Liturgy

Celebrant

The Rev. Paul Barker

Organist & Choirmaster

Dr. Jacob Womack

Acolyte

Katherine Lewis

Lector

Rob Merritt

Altar Guild

Teresa Paine, Betty Nash, Sheila Brooks

Calendar of Events

Wednesday – March 25

Union Mission 3:30pm

Evening Prayer in Lent with music: Teresa Paine 5:30pm

Palm Sunday – March 29

Bishop Cowden's Visit, 10:00 am

Thursday – April 2

Maundy Thursday service 7:00 pm

Friday – April 3

Stations of the Cross noon

Liturgy, Passion Reading and Stations

Sunday – April 5

Easter 10:00 am

Wednesday – April 8

Union Mission 4:00pm

Wednesday – April 15

Vestry meeting 5:00pm

Men's Dinner 6:00pm

Thursday – April 16

Food Pantry 9:00-11:00am

Tuesday – April 21
Wednesday – April 22

DOK meeting 10:30am
Union Mission 3:30pm

Announcements:

Spring Collection for Food Pantry Recipients:

- **March:** socks...they can be new or gently used/clean!

Your kindness continues to bless others. Thank you!

Coffee Hour: A Coffee Hour host is needed for **April 12, 26**. Please sign up on the whiteboard located outside the library. If you have any questions, you may contact: Darla Olson at: 304-634-5655 darlanolson@outlook.com or Mary Catherine Williams at: 276-326-2411 mkw@dlwco.com. Thank you for helping Christ Church in this important ministry.

Easter Lilies: A sign-up sheet for those wishing to purchase Easter lilies is available at the Usher's Table in the Narthex. They are \$22.50 each and may be dedicated in memory or in honor of a loved one or offered in thanksgiving for a particular blessing. Kindly submit your dedication to the parish office no later than Thursday, April 2nd. Thank you.

Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

The Rev. Paul Barker

Hon. Canon Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Ms. Emma Bennett

Ms. Gina Vescio

Dr. Ted Lewis

Mr. David Kersey

Rector

Organist & Choirmaster

Parish Administrator

Sexton

Senior Warden

Interim Junior Warden