



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUEFIELD, WEST VIRGINIA

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Holy Eucharist

May 10, 2026



200 Duhring Street, Bluefield, WV 24701
(304) 327-6861
www.cecblf.org

Prelude

The people stand

The Processional Hymn *Stand up Stand up for Jesus*

H 561

Welcome!

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

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

BCP 355

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.*

The people remain standing.

Hymn of Praise

Jesus lives! thy terrors now

H 195

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The people remain standing.

Collect for the Day

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The people sit.

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” When he had said this, he died.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

The Psalm

Psalm 66:7-18

Jubilate Deo

The Psalm will be read responsively by whole verse.

7. Bless our God, you peoples;
make the voice of his praise to be heard;
8. Who holds our souls in life,
and will not allow our feet to slip.
9. For you, O God, have proved us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

10. You brought us into the snare;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
11. You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water;
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
12. I will enter your house with burnt-offerings
and will pay you my vows,
which I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
13. I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.
14. Come and listen, all you who fear God,
and I will tell you what he has done for me.
15. I called out to him with my mouth,
and his praise was on my tongue.
16. If I had found evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;
17. But in truth God has heard me;
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
18. Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld his love from me.

Second Lesson

1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to

death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God!

The people standing.

Hymn

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart

H 488

The Gospel Lesson

John 14:15-21

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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 Church of the Redeemer,
Ansted.

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

Let us confess our sins before God and our neighbor.

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

Come down, O Lord Devine

H516

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. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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

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

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.

Communion Hymn *Bread of Heaven, on thee we feed*

H323

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

Lord Dismiss us with thy blessing

H 344

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

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, Betty Carol, Jim Crosby, Tim and Angel Bailey



Following our service, we will have Coffee Hour hosted by Mimi and Rob Merritt. With petals opening and color returning to the world, we are grateful to welcome you to join with us in fellowship, prayer, joy, and community.



Birthdays this week: Karen Joseph



The Altar Flowers are given today for the glory of God by
John and Becky Beckett



Participants in Today’s Liturgy

Celebrant

The Rev. Paul Barker

Deacon

The Rev. Brother Ray Escott

Organist

Hon. Canon Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Acolyte

Bill Denney

Junior Acolyte

Ivy Hart

Lector

David Hardin

Altar Guild

Betty Nash and Teresa Paine

Calendar of Events

Wednesday – May 13

Union Mission 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday – May 19

DOK meeting 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday – May 20

Vestry meeting 5:00 p.m.

Men’s Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Thursday – May 21

Food Pantry 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 24

Day of Pentecost

Monday – May 25

Memorial Day



Wednesday – May 27

Union Mission 3:30 p.m.

Evening Prayer with Hand Chime Choir 6:00 p.m.

Announcements:

Spring Collection for Food Pantry Recipients: Our Food Pantry will be collecting cleaning supplies including dish-washing liquid during May.

Coffee Hour: A Coffee Hour host is needed for **May 31**. 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 your faithful support of this ministry at Christ Church.

Altar Guild: WE WANT YOU to become a part of the Altar Guild at Christ Church. If you are interested in volunteering your time and talent, please sign the sheet posted on the cabinet in the Sacristy. We will schedule a time to introduce you to the basics of our service. We look forward to having you on board!!

Altar Guild Members: Please don't forget to sign up for the week(s) you will be available to serve for the months of June, July, and August.

Stained Glass Ornaments order forms: Stained Glass Ornaments order forms are on the ushers' table. If you have any questions, please see Mary Catherine Williams or Patty Richardson.



Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

The Rev. Paul Barker	Rector
The Rev. Brother Ray Escott	Deacon
Hon. Canon Terry E. Whittington, Jr.	Organist & Choirmaster
Ms. Emma Bennett	Parish Administrator
Mrs. Susanne Pulse	Office Assistant
Ms. Gina Vescio	Sexton
Dr. Ted Lewis	Senior Warden
Mr. David Kersey	Interim Junior Warden