CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA

321 East Church Street • Martinsville, Virginia • 276-632-2896 • www.christchurchmvl.org

We are a community of faith striving to love God fully and our neighbors as ourselves.

Holy Eucharist, Rite I with Penitential Order
The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026

Please silence your electronic devices. Music and lyrics of hymns may be found in the blue Hymnal 1982. Full text of prayers may be found in the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP).

The Opening Voluntary *"O Splendor of God's Glory Bright"* Nicolas LeBegue

Introit *"For you love all things that are"* Wisdom 11, Psalm 57

Processional Hymn *(standing)* *"O splendor of God's glory bright"* Hymn 5
(to the tune of Puer Nobis, Hymn 124)

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins; BCP 319
People His mercy endureth for ever.

Celebrant Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. *Matthew 22:37-40*

Celebrant Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Celebrant and People, kneeling or standing

Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against thy holy laws,
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
spare thou those who confess their faults,
restore thou those who are penitent,
according to thy promises declared unto mankind
in Christ Jesus our Lord;
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

Celebrant The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Kyrie eleison *Sung, standing*

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

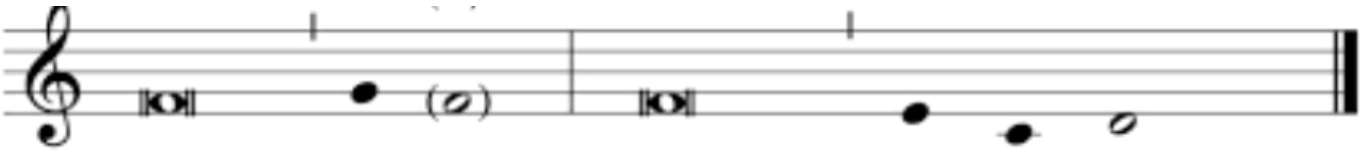
Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The people sit

Reader A reading from the First Book of Samuel (16:1-13)

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.
When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome.
The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**



Psalm 23 Dominus regit me

1 The Lord is my /shepherd; *
I shall not/ be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green/ pastures *
and leads me beside /still waters.

3 He revives /my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for /his Name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no /evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they/ comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who/ trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is /running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of /my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the /Lord for ever.

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians (5:8-14).

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn (*standing*) *"I heard the voice of Jesus say"* **Hymn 692**

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John (9:1-41).
People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"

He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”
They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”
The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”
So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.
Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Sermon **"Stalked in the darkness"** **The Rev. John Adams**

Ideas to ponder

- **What fears have you experienced in the dark?**
- **How do you imagine God at work in such darkness?**

The Nicene Creed *Standing* BCP 327

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People *Standing or kneeling* BCP 328

Reader Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Karin, our bishop-elect, and all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of Donald, our President, and all those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor ***Sue, Julia, Jennifer, Mallory, Ginger C., Jay J., David, Ashley F., Michael, Randy M., Ruth K., Ian C.,*** and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. ***Amen.***

The Peace *Standing*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**

The Peace may be exchanged through handshakes, hugs, fist bumps, waves, nods, or other such expressions; please be attentive to how much or little physical contact your neighbors would prefer. Once the Peace has been sufficiently exchanged, the people may sit for announcements. During the announcements, the Celebrant will invite those who are celebrating a birthday or wedding anniversary this week (or whose recent birthday or anniversary has not yet been prayed for in church) to come forward so we may pray for them.

Offertory Anthem *"Prepare Our Hearts"* Jacob Handl

The Doxology (*standing*) **(text below)** **Hymnal 380, v. 3**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Holy Communion, Eucharistic Prayer I *Standing* **BCP 333**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People **It is meet and right so to do.**

Celebrant **BCP 333 - 334**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty... evermore praising thee and saying,

Sanctus *Sung*
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant *Kneeling or standing* ***BCP 334 - 336***

All glory be to thee... O Father Almighty, world without end. ***Amen.***

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

Celebrant and people

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.

Agnus Dei *Sung*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Celebrant and People
We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen*

Celebrant
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.

All baptized Christians are invited to receive at the altar rail, kneeling or standing. Gluten-free wafers are available by request. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may come forward and place your arms across your chest to receive a blessing. After receiving the bread, you may choose to consume the bread and take a sip of wine from the chalice or hold onto the bread and intinct (dip) it into the wine, in which case please hold the wafer in front of you so the chalicer will know to bring you the intinction cup. You may also decline to receive the wine (as the bread in itself is full communion), in which case if you remain at the altar rail please place your arms across your chest to signal the chalicer. Those who cannot or prefer not to come forward may inform an usher, and the Celebrant will come to you.

Communion Chant	*"He washed and came seeing"*	John 9, Psalm 27
Communion Music	*"The Lord Is My Shepherd"*	Howard Goodall

Once all have received, the celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and people *Kneeling or standing* BCP 339

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist

us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Celebrant offers a Solemn Prayer over the people.

Recessional Hymn *"The King of love my shepherd"* **Hymn 645**

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Closing Voluntary *"Prelude in G Minor"* J. S. Bach

No flowers during Lent

Lenten Program
Canon Fodder, our 2026 Lenten program, takes place in the Undercroft on Monday evenings (through March 23) from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. After a light supper of soup, on **March 16** Fr. John will discuss the criteria the New Testament canon and lead us in considering some of the books that were left out.

Ecumenical Lenten Lunches
The churches of Martinsville are again coming together to offer lunch and a brief devotion at Noon on the Thursdays of Lent. All are invited to attend any or all of these lunches; the devotions will conclude by 1:00 pm. The schedule is:
March 19 - Starling Avenue Baptist Church - 932 Starling Ave.
March 26 - Chatham Heights Baptist Church - 1235 Chatham Heights Road

Easter Flower Memorials
If you wish to give Easter lilies as a memorial, "in honor of" or "in thanksgiving for" friends and family members, please complete the **order form** and mail it to the church office or put it in the collection plate along with your check. **Pink order forms are on both sides of the Narthex.**

The cost is $16.00 EACH - Checks should be made payable to Christ Episcopal Church, with 'Easter Flowers' on the check memo line. Please Note: to print your flower memorials and thanksgivings in the Easter bulletin, we need to have your orders in the church office no later than Wednesday, April 25th, preferably sooner. Due to space constraints, only the name of the person(s) the memorial is for will be listed.

Dear Members and Friends of CEC,
Each year at Christmas and Easter we decorate our church in praise, celebration, and honor of God. It is an honor and with a sense of pride that we undertake this task. We can do this because you remember and honor loved ones with your gifts of money that make our decorating possible. **Please prayerfully consider adding a memorial or honorarium this year. We are fewer in number and expenses have increased significantly.**

Page Beeler, Altar Guild Chair Beth Cahill, Flower Committee Chair

Holy Week Schedule
Palm Sunday, March 29, 9:00 am - Community Palm Sunday Service @ J. Frank Wilson Park
Palm Sunday, March 29, 10:30 am - Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist
Wednesday, April 1, 7:00 pm – Tenebrae
Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2:30 pm – Ecumenical Holy Eucharist @ Kings Grant
Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7:00 pm - Holy Eucharist with Footwashing and Stripping of the Altar (**followed by overnight Vigil in the Chapel**)
Good Friday, April 3, Noon - Stations of the Cross

Good Friday, April 3, 7:00 pm - Good Friday Liturgy
Easter Sunday, April 5, 10:30 am - Holy Eucharist (Easter Breakfast beginning at 9:00 in the Undercroft)

Maundy Thursday Vigil

In obedience to Jesus, who wondered that his disciples were unable to keep watch with him for one hour in Gethsemane, some find it deeply meaningful to stay awake and pray for a portion of the night on **Maundy Thursday (April 2** this year). **Kyle Trent is organizing a vigil in the Chapel between the end of the Maundy Thursday liturgy and Friday morning; if you are interested in taking an hour, please sign up in the narthex or contact him at kyletrent@kyletrent.com.**

Loaves & Fishes

Loaves & Fishes (our monthly free dinner, open to all) will be on **March 25**, with dinner being served from 5:00 to 6:00. Even if you are not helping with cooking, serving, cleaning, or donating fruit, desserts, beverages and ice, church members are encouraged to come and sit down for a meal with our neighbors in the community. **Sign up online under 'volunteers' or contact the Church office.**

Easter Breakfast Hosted by the Women's Group

The Women's Group is hosting the Easter Breakfast at 9:00 am on Sunday, April 5, and would like your help. All items should be ready to serve and in the Undercroft by 8:30 am. Susan will be at the Church on Saturday, April 4, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, if you want to bring food or drinks, then.

Use your personal recipe(s), or we have a sausage and egg casserole recipe that can be provided to you if you wish to prepare it. **Please sign up on our website under 'volunteers'.**

Thank you so much for offering your help for our festive Easter Breakfast! The CEC Women's Group.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVE!
Celebrant: The Rev. John Adams
Reader: Ann Gardner
Chalicer: Bob Bushnell, Nancy Spilman
Acolyte:
Organist/Choirmaster: Lynn Gardner
Chorister/Cantor: Raul West
Christ Church Choir: St. Christopher's Choir
Ushers: Trippi Penn, Jay Dickens
Camera Operator: Hank Long
Counters: Butch Hamlet, Linda O'Dell
Altar Guild Team #2 – Valerie Payne, Frankie Smith, Janice Cain, Rita Hodges, Michael Hodges, Linda O'Dell, Page Beeler, Michelle Probst
Nursery Attendant: Caroline Davis

2026 Christ Church Vestry
Year 3: Bob Bushnell, Rives Coleman; Senior Warden, LaRue Powers, Bob Weatherall, Junior Warden
Year 2: Susan Critz, Butch Hamlet; Treasurer, Michael Hodges; Secretary, Steve Keyser
Year 1: Kelly Cain, Jay Dickens, Linda O'Dell, Ron Probst