



# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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.*

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The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

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*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                      *Voluntary in G Minor*                      George Friedrich Handel

Processional Hymn                      *“Come, ye faithful, raise the strain”*                      Hymn 200

Celebrant    Alleluia, Christ is risen.  
People        *The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

*The Celebrant says*

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.*

*Gloria in excelsis*                      *Glory to God*                      Hymnal S 280

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:	have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.
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Celebrant    The Lord be with you.  
People        *And also with you.*  
Celebrant    Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**Reader** A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (2:42-47)

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

**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 re/vives 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 First Book of Peter (2:19-25)

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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

**Sequence Hymn**

*"My shepherd will supply my need"*

**Hymn 664**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to John (10:1-10)

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon

"Gated Community"

The Rev. John Adams

*Ideas to ponder*

- What do you think it means when Jesus says "I am the gate"?
- What might an abundant life, for both you and your neighbors, look like?

The Nicene Creed *standing*

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.

Reader Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
 People *That we all may be one.*

Reader Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
 People *That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

Reader We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Karin, our bishop-elect and all  
 bishops, priests, and deacons;  
 People *That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

Reader We pray for Donald, our President, and all who govern and hold authority in  
 the nations of the world;  
 People *That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Reader Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
 People *That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Reader Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
 People *That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Reader Give to the departed eternal rest;  
 People *Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Reader We praise you for all your saints who have entered into joy;  
 People *May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Reader Let us pray for our own needs and those of others; especially *Sue, Julia,  
 Jennifer, Mallory, Jay J., David C., Ginger C., Ashley F., Michael, Ann G.,  
 Jim A., and Jennifer G.*

*All may offer their prayers and thanksgivings at this time, aloud or in the silence of their hearts, after which the Celebrant offers a concluding collect.*

### The Peace *Standing*

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

*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

*The Lord is My Shepherd*

Howard Goodall

### The Doxology:

*Lasst uns erfreuen*

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

The Holy Communion, Eucharistic Prayer D

*Standing*

BCP 372

*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.*

*Celebrant*

BCP 373

It is truly right... glorify your Name, as we say...

*Celebrant and people*

*Hymnal S 125*

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

*Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.*

*Celebrant* *Standing or Kneeling*

BCP 373-374

We acclaim you... this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

*Celebrant and people*

We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.

*Celebrant*

BCP 375

Lord we pray... in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

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

The Lord's Prayer (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.

as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.

Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses

For thine is the kingdom, and the  
power, and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of Bread

Fraction Anthem

*Christ Our Passover*

Hymnal S 154

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*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 chalice 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 chalice. Those who cannot or prefer not to come forward may inform an usher, and the Celebrant will come to you.

Communion Chant                      *"I am the good shepherd"*                      John 10, Psalm 23

Communion Anthem                      *"Hear, Thou Shepherd of Israel"*                      John Christmas Beckwith

*Once all have received, the celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and people, standing or kneeling*

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 celebrant blesses the people.*

Recessional Hymn                      *"The King of love my shepherd is"*                      Hymn 646

*Celebrant* Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People*        *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

The Closing Voluntary                      *All Glory Be to God On High*                      Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau

*The beauty of the Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God  
and in Loving Memory of  
Allan McClain  
By Charlotte, James and Anna*

### Monday Bible Study

Our Monday evening study meets in the Parish House from 7:00 to 8:00. On **April 27**, we will continue reading the Epistle of James, a short letter of practical (and sometimes controversial) wisdom. All are welcome and encouraged to join at any time; no reading ahead of time is necessary.

### **Wednesday Eucharist**

On Wednesdays, we celebrate Holy Eucharist at Noon in the Chapel (enter via the glass Undercroft door at the back of the church building). These brief (thirty minutes) spoken services commemorate the saint of the day from the Episcopal calendar of Lesser Feasts and Fasts and are perfect for those who want to attend a service but are unable to come Sunday mornings or who want an additional gathering for corporate prayer to help them throughout the week. **In April there will be a Wednesday Eucharist on April 29.**

### **Loaves & Fishes**

Come out and support our Women's Group as they host this month's Loaves & Fishes (our monthly free dinner, open to all) on **April 29**, with dinner being served **from 5:00 to 6:00**. Even if you are not helping with cooking, serving, cleaning, or donating fruit or dessert, church members are encouraged to come and sit down for a meal with our neighbors in the community. **Please sign up under volunteers on our website to volunteer or bring something.**

### **Awards Sunday**

At the 10:30 service on May 10, we will present the 2026 Beverly S. Parrish, Jr. award and offer a prayer for our graduates. We wish to celebrate our graduates by recognizing them in that Sunday's bulletin, so if you have someone graduating from high school, college, or a graduate, professional, or adult program, please send their information to Deborah at [office@christchurchmvl.org](mailto:office@christchurchmvl.org) or 276-632-2896 **by Thursday, May 7.**

### **Registration for New Bishop's Consecration**

For those interested in attending the Ordination and Consecration of the Rev. Karin MacPhail as the Seventh Bishop of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia at St. John's Roanoke on **June 13**, general registration will open on April 29. You are encouraged to visit the [Diocesan website](#) or [Facebook page](#) that day, as registration will close once the total capacity of St. John's has been reached.

### **Save the Date - Flag Day Summer Outing**

On Sunday, June 14, please join us for an evening of croquet, dinner, and fellowship in Marty Gardner's woods; we'll begin gathering at 4:30 pm and eat around 5:30. Reservations are not required, but a sign-up will be posted in May.

### **Grace Network**

Our Grace Network Assignments for **April - June: Applesauce (2-32 oz) OR six packs of individuals**. For **April: toilet paper, feminine products, deodorant, and hygiene items**. As a Church family, we have committed to helping Grace Network by stocking their food pantry for those in need. Please remember to pick up our assigned item the next time you visit the grocery store. **You can bring your items to the Church office OR put them in the little red wagon in the Narthex.**

**THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVE!**

**Celebrant:** The Rev. John Adams

**Reader:** Kelly Cain

**Chalicers:** Natalie Coleman, Tom Webster

**Acolyte:**

**Organist/Choirmaster:** Lynn Gardner

**Cantor:** Raul West

**Christ Church Choir:** St. Christopher's Choir

**Ushers:** Trippi Penn, Jay Dickens

**Camera Operator:** Hank Long

**Counters:** Michael Hodges, LaRue Powers

**Altar Guild Team #3** - Page Beeler, Karen Jones, Nancy Spilman,

Ellen Maxwell, Ben Beeler

**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