



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.

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

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

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).

Opening Voluntary

"Eucharistia"

G. Winston Cassler

Processional Hymn

"All creatures of our God and King"

Hymn 400

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

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.*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Reader A reading from the Book of Genesis (50:15-21)

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

Psalm 103:8-13 *Benedic, anima mea*

- 8 The Lord is full of com/passion and /mercy, *
slow to anger /and of great kind/ness.
- 9 He will not /always ac/cuse us, *
nor will he /keep his anger for /ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us ac/cording to our /sins, *
nor rewarded us ac/cording to our /wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high a/bove the /earth, *
so is his mercy great u/pon those who fear /him.
- 12 As far as the east is /from the /west, *
so far has he re/moved our sins from /us.
- 13 As a father cares/ for his /children, *
so does the Lord /care for those who /fear him.



Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Church in Rome (14:1-12)

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

Sequence Hymn

"O bless the Lord, my soul!"

Hymn 411

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew (18:21-35)

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord
People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon

The Rev. John Adams

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.

The Prayers of the People Form II

Standing or kneeling

BCP 383

*In the course of the silence after each bidding, you are invited to offer your own prayers,
either silently or aloud.*

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishops Michael and
Mark; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.
Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all
people.
Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor; the sick, especially, *Sue, Julia, Betty, Nathan, Pete, Tom,
Linda, Leandra, Austin, Ann, Mark, Mike, Michael and Cathie*; the hungry; the oppressed;
and those in prison.
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.
Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.
Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

Confession of Sin

Kneeling or standing

BCP 360

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant 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.

Celebrant

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 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.*

Offertory Anthem

I Will Arise

arr. Alice Parker & Robert Shaw

The Doxology:

v. 3, Hymn 380

All: 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 B

Standing

BCP 367

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.

It is right...the glory of your Name:

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.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant

Standing or kneeling

We give thanks to you ... drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

Hymnal S 138

Celebrant

And we offer our sacrifice... Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has 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.
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.

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 have found my sheep which was lost

Luke 15, Psalm 32

Communion Music

Bless the Lord

Taize

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

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 forever.
Amen.

The celebrant blesses the people.

Recessional Hymn

"Come down, O Love divine"

Hymn 516

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Closing Voluntary

"Hornpipe"

G. F Handel

*The beauty of the Altar Flowers are
Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of
W. L. "Henry" Potter and Frances Potter Mason
By Larry and Becky P. Farrar*

*The beauty of the Flowers in the Narthex
are Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of
all of the people that were lost on September 11, 2001
By Mary Ruth Reynolds*

Pray today for the students and staff of Virginia Episcopal School, their Headmaster, Garth Ainslie and their chaplain, The Rev. Adam White. The People of the Diocese of Haiti as they search for their new Bishop. The Diocese of Leeds and their Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Nick Baines.

Prayer list – please let Deborah know if anyone needs to be removed or added to the weekly prayer list.

Sunday Bible Study

Our Sunday Bible Study is reading and discussing the Gospel according to John. We meet in the Parish House at 9:30 am, and all are invited to join the conversation.

Sunday services at 10:30 am - Rite II, w/HE Rev. John Adams presiding.

Monday Night Study – The Sermon on the Mount

On Monday nights this Fall, we are studying the Sermon on the Mount, the extensive collection of Jesus' teachings found in Chapters 5 through 7 of the Gospel according to Matthew. We meet in the Parish House for about an hour beginning at 7:00 pm; at our **September 18** session, when we will continue with the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12). All are invited to attend; no homework is necessary, and each session will be accessible to both regular and irregular attendees.

Loaves & Fishes - September 27, 2023

All members of the community are invited to this free meal in our Undercroft from 5:00-6:00 p.m. Spread the Word!

We need volunteers to help prepare, serve, and clean up. Volunteers are also needed to send desserts and fruit. Please sign up on the Church's website under [Volunteers > Loaves & Fishes to help or to bring something](#). Donations of either may be brought to the Office or Undercroft in the days leading up to each meal. We are serving dine-in only, with leftovers distributed as takeout only at the end of the meal.

Annual Meeting and Vestry Election

The Annual Meeting of Christ Church (including the election of new Vestry members) will be after the 10:30 service on November 12. If you are interested in being nominated to serve on Vestry, please talk to any of our current Vestry members.

Oyster Roast Dinner Tickets are **ON SALE NOW**

The Dan Prince and Gene Medley Memorial Oyster Roast is scheduled for Friday, November 3, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

Make your reservation online at www.christchurchmvl.org, under volunteers/Dan Prince and Gene Medley Oyster Roast or by calling the Church office at 276-632-2896.

Your prompt payment is your confirmed reservation.

Payment is due when the reservation is made,

NO money will be accepted at the door.



In addition to your presence at this festive social gathering and fundraiser for Christ Church, **we would greatly appreciate your help in making it happen**, particularly if you have not done so before. We need volunteers to help gather supplies, prepare food, and set up the space, as well as cleaning up after and otherwise making the night run smoothly; if you are interested in helping, please contact a member of our 2023 Oyster Roast Committee. Jay Dickens (jaymdickens@gmail.com, 334-434-9461), Hank Long (hplongjr@gmail.com, 276-252-3309), and Pat Bondurant Russell (patbrussell@yahoo.com, 864-430-4527).

Bake Sale & Silent Auction

We need volunteers to help bake brownies, bars, cakes, and pies. Also volunteers to make soups, casseroles, and sauces. Please sign up under volunteers on our website and let us know what you will be bringing and the quantity. *****Please list the quantity you are donating on the email line of the sign up.***** Brownies and bars will need to be individually packaged in servings of six (6). Generous portions are appreciated (2x2). Cakes, pies, soups, casseroles, and sauces will need to be in/on serving pieces which will not need to be returned to the creator. We will set up drop off for Thursday and Friday, November 2-3. Details to follow!

Silent Auction

If you have any large ticket items that you want to donate, please contact Susan Smith at (swsmith100@comcast.net 276-734-5377).

Grace Network

Our Grace Network Assignments for **September: Grits**. For the month of **September: dish detergent, deodorant, laundry detergent, and hygiene items**. As a Church family, we have committed to helping Grace Network with 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.

Angel Tree

Over the past couple of months, the Vestry has been considering the future of the Angel Tree ministry. For many years, in the weeks leading up to Christmas, members of Christ Church would buy presents for children of incarcerated parents and the youth would throw a party for those children during which the presents were delivered. Since the Covid shutdown, we have collected money that we sent to the national organization. The Vestry has been making inquiries and wrestling with possibilities in the hope of discerning a way that we can support local children in need around Christmas without overtaxing our energy as a parish. We are hoping to have a general plan in place after our meeting on September 20; if you would like to be involved in this year's Angel Tree ministry, please contact any member of the Vestry.

Sidewalk Pantry

A member of Christ Church (who wishes to remain anonymous) recently offered to fund the construction and installation of a Sidewalk Pantry, and the Vestry is currently discerning whether (and how) to accept this generous gift. Like the Little Free Libraries visible around town, Sidewalk Pantries are small cabinets, easily accessible to passersby, that can be stocked with non-perishable food, bottles of water, toiletries, and/or other such items that might be helpful to those in need; for many churches across the US, they have provided a tangible but low-stress way to follow Jesus' command to love the least of these our neighbors. In Martinsville, a Sidewalk Pantry would be particularly helpful in serving the homeless, itinerant, and others who cannot access services from Grace Network. Before getting bogged down in practical concerns (like precise location), the Vestry is hoping to hear from many parishioners your thoughts: 1) In the abstract, would you be in favor of having a Sidewalk Pantry on church property, or would it make you more likely to withdraw your presence and support from the church? 2) If a Sidewalk Pantry were installed, would you be willing to contribute a plastic bag's worth of goods every second or third month to help keep it stocked? Please contact any member of the Vestry so we have as much input as possible.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVE!

Celebrant: The Rev. John Adams

Reader: Jay Dickens

Chalicers: Hank Long, Tom Webster

Organist/Choirmaster: Lynn H. Gardner

Cantor/Chorister: Raul West

Acolyte: Tyler Johnson

Ushers: Rebin Titus, Will Smith, Rives Coleman

Camera Operator: Andy Williams

Counters: Natalie Coleman, Ruby Stultz

Altar Guild: Team Two – Page Beeler, Frankie Smith, Janice Cain, Ruth Foley,
Rita Hodges, Ruby Stultz, Valerie Payne

Nursery Attendants:

2023 Christ Church Vestry

Year 3: Hank Long, Senior Warden; Ruby Stultz; Rebin Titus; Pat Walmsley

Year 2: Ben Beeler; Jay Dickens, Beverly Lyle, Treasurer; Andy Williams, Junior Warden

Year 1: Pat Russell, Betty Budde; Natalie Coleman, Secretary; Will Zimmer