



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 Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

February 23, 2025

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.*

The Opening Voluntary *Toccata on "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"*
Hans Friedrich Micheelsen

Processional Hymn *"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"* Hymn 390

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 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 Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing: Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, 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 (45:3-11,15)

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there--since there are five more years of famine to come--so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'" And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Reader The Word of the Lord
People Thanks be to God

Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42 *Noli aemulari*

- 1 Do not fret yourself because of /evil/doers; *
do not be jealous /of those who do /wrong.
- 2 For they shall soon wither/ like the /grass, *
and like the/ green grass fade a/way.
- 3 Put your trust in the Lord /and do /good; *
dwell in the land /and feed on its /riches.
- 4 Take delight/ in the /Lord, *
and he shall give /you your heart's de/sire.
- 5 Commit your way to the Lord and put your/ trust in/ him,*
and he /will bring it to /pass.
- 6 He will make your righteousness as clear /as the /light *
and your just /dealing as the /noonday.
- 7 Be still be/fore the /Lord *
and wait /patiently for /him.
- 8 Do not fret yourself over the /one who /prosper, *
the one who suc/ceeds in evil /schemes.
- 9 Refrain from anger, leave /rage a/lone; *
do not fret yourself; it /leads only to /evil.



- 10 For evildoers shall /be cut /off, *
but those who wait upon the Lord /shall possess the /land.
- 11 In a little while the wicked shall/ be no /more; *
you shall search out their place, but/ they will not be/ there.
- 12 But the lowly shall pos/sess the /land; *
they will delight/ in abundance of /peace.
- 41 But the deliverance of the righteous comes /from the/ Lord; *
he is their stronghold/ in time of trou/ble.
- 42 The Lord will help them and /rescue /them; *
he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,
because they /seek refuge in /him.

Reader A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Church in Corinth (15:35-38,42-50)

Someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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

Sequence Hymn *"Where charity and love prevail"* Hymn 581

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke (6:27-38)
People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not

condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

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 III *Standing or kneeling* BCP 387

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, Bishop Mark, 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, Betty, Betsy, Mary Ruth, Mark, Jennifer, Lucia, Carleigh, Rebecca, Harry, Tina, James, Frankie, Ralphie, Bill, and Page.*

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.

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. 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 *"Praise to the Lord"* Michael Praetorius

The Doxology: *"Hymn 380 v. 3"* Old 100th

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 A

Standing

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.

Celebrant BCP 361-362

It is right... proclaim 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 *Kneeling or standing* BCP 362-363

Holy and gracious Father: ... do this in remembrance of me. Therefore we proclaim the
mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People Hymnal S 132

Christ has died.
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

Celebrant *Kneeling or standing* BCP 363

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption...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)

<p>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</p>	<p>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.</p>
---	---

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 will be glad and rejoice in thee* Psalm 9

Communion Music Ubi caritas - et amor ubi caritas - Deus ibi est (*Repeat*) Taize
Translation: Where true charity and love abide, God is there.

Once all have received, the celebrant says Let us pray.

Celebrant and people *Kneeling or standing* BCP 366

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 “*Love divine, all loves excelling*” Hymn 657

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

The Closing Voluntary *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* Johann Gottfried Walther

*The beauty of the Altar Flowers are
Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of
Lucy Brown Coleman
by Rives Brown Coleman and Lucy Coleman Mutch*

Pray today for the Bishop’s Visitation to St. Paul’s, Saltville. Pray for the people of St. Paul’s, Saltville. For Grace and Peace in the Diocese of Haiti. Our companion diocese, the Diocese of Leeds, and their Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Nick Baines.

Monday Bible Study

The Monday night Bible study meets from 7:00 to 8:00 in the Parish House. On February 24 we will read Luke’s version of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem (19:28-48). All are welcome and encouraged to attend as you can; no preparation ahead of time is necessary.

Loaves & Fishes

Loaves & Fishes (our monthly free dinner, open to all) will be served on February 26, 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. **Sign up on the Church’s website under Volunteers to volunteer to help or to bring something.**

Grace Network

Our Grace Network Assignments for February - March: Pork & Beans 15 oz. For February: bath soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrush (individually wrapped), and hygiene items. *Grace has been experiencing a large increase in clients needing food, household, 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.

Diocesan Transition

In a letter sent February 19, Bishop Mark Bourlakas announced his resignation as Bishop of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia (effective May 22) to serve as an Assistant Bishop (based in Falls Church) in the Diocese of Virginia beginning June 1. A more detailed timeline of the search and election process is expected in the coming weeks, including plans for the interim, but in the meantime, we are grateful to Bishop Mark for his twelve years of service in our Diocese.

Ash Wednesday

Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5; we will offer the Holy Eucharist and the imposition of ashes at Noon and 7:00 pm, both in the church.

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 13 - Chatham Heights Baptist (1235 Chatham Heights Rd.)

March 20 - First Baptist (23 Starling Ave.)

March 27 - Calvary Christian (515 Mulberry Rd.)

April 3 - First Presbyterian (1901 Patrick Henry Ave.)

April 10 - First Baptist East (1043 E. Church St.)

Lenten Study: Explorations in Christian Ethics

On the Mondays of Lent (March 10 - April 7), we will gather in the Undercroft for a light supper and program. Fr. John will lead us in discussions of Christian ethics, as we consider how we think about and apply Jesus' teachings to the moral problems we encounter in our daily lives. This takes the place of the usual Monday Bible Study, which will resume after Easter. Supper begins at 6:00 pm, with the discussion concluding by 7:30.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVE!

Celebrant: The Rev. John Adams

Reader: Will Zimmer

Chalicer: Natalie Coleman, John Swezey

Organist/Choirmaster: Lynn Gardner

Chorister/Cantor: Raul West

Christ Church Choir: St. Christopher's Choir

Ushers: Jay Dickens, Bob Weatherall

Acolyte: Elizabeth Maxwell

Camera Operator: Andy Williams

Counters: Bob Weatherall, Rives Coleman

Altar Guild: Team #4 - Becky Farrar, Susan Smith, Natalie Coleman, Ashley Ullstein,
Dawn Stone, Kyle Trent

Nursery Attendant: Emily Williams

2025 Christ Church Vestry

Year 3: Betty Budde, Natalie Coleman; Secretary, Pat Russell, Will Zimmer

Year 2: Bob Bushnell, Rives Coleman; Senior Warden, LaRue Powers,
Bob Weatherall, Junior Warden

Year 1: Susan Critz, Butch Hamlet; Treasurer, Michael Hodges, Steve Keyser