



# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

321 East Church Street • Martinsville, Virginia • 276-632-2896  
[www.christchurchmvl.org](http://www.christchurchmvl.org)

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The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 21, 2025  
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 “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* *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.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly;  
and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast  
to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with  
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Reader A reading from the Book of Amos (8:4-7)

Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat." The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

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

Psalm 113 *Laudate, pueri*

- 1 Hallelujah!  
Give praise, you servants /of the /Lord; \*  
praise the /Name of the /Lord.
- 2 Let the Name of the /Lord be /blessed, \*  
from this time /forth for ever/more.
- 3 From the rising of the sun to its /going /down \*  
let the Name /of the Lord be /praised.
- 4 The Lord is high a/bove all /nations, \*  
and his /glory above the /heavens.
- 5 Who is like the Lord our God, who sits en/throned on /high \*  
but stoops to behold the /heavens and the /earth?
- 6 He takes up the weak out /of the /dust \*  
and lifts /up the poor from the /ashes.
- 7 He sets them/ with the /princes, \*  
with the /princes of his /people.
- 8 He makes the woman of a /childless /house \*  
to be a /joyful mother of /children



Reader A reading from Paul's First Letter to Timothy (2:1-7)

First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all -- this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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

Sequence Hymn

*"Be thou my vision"*

Hymn 488

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke (16:1-13)

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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.

*Reader* In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. (*Pause*) For all people in their daily life and work;

*People* ***For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.***

*Reader* For this community, the nation, and the world;

*People* **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

*Reader* For the just and proper use of your creation;

*People* **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

*Reader* For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

*People* **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

*Reader* For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

*People* **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

*Reader* For Sean our Presiding Bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers;

*People* **For all who serve God in his Church.**

*Reader* For the special needs and concerns of this congregation; especially

***Sue, Julia, Betsy, Jennifer, Mallory, Harold, Doug, Jim, Will, Kim, and Leon,***

***(Pause for intercessions)*** Hear us, Lord;

*People* **For your mercy is great.**

*Reader* We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. (*Pause for thanksgivings*)

We will exalt you, O God our King;

*People* **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

*Reader* We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. (*Pause for intercessions*) Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

*People* **Who put their trust in you.**

*Reader* We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

***Reader and People, kneeling or standing***

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *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

*O Holy City*

arr. Roger Price

The Doxology:

v. 3, Hymn 380

All: 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 Holy Communion, Eucharistic Prayer B

*Standing*

BCP 367

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant* Lift up our 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* It is right... to 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. 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*

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

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

Hymnal S 138

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

*Celebrant*

And we offer our sacrifice... all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

*Celebrant* 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.

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                      *O that my ways may be steadfast*                      Psalm 119

Communion Hymn                      “O God, unseen yet ever near”                      Hymn 332

*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                      “God himself is with us”                      Hymn 475

*Priest: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.*

*People: Thanks be to God.*

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

We Give Thanks for the Beauty of the Altar Flowers  
Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of  
James Patterson Sutton  
By Jeannie Odachowski

We Give Thanks for the Beauty of the Narthex Flowers  
Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of  
David Joyce  
By Amy, Adrienne, and Peyton Joyce

And  
Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of  
Jim Rosser  
By the Family

Pray today for the people of Emmanuel, Covington and their rector, the Rev. Katherine Doyle. For Grace and Peace in the Diocese of Haiti. Our companion diocese, the Diocese of Leeds and their Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Toby Howarth.

**Raffle Tickets ARE HERE!**

Tickets for the 50/50 raffle are on sale from your Vestry members (Rives Coleman, Susan Critz, Butch Hamlet, Michael Hodges, LaRue Powers, Pat Russell, Will Zimmer, and Page Beeler) and the church office (which we have them NOW). The cost is \$10.00 per ticket or \$100.00 per book, with the maximum winnings of \$2,500.

**The Dan Prince and Gene Medley Memorial Oyster Roast**

Mark your calendar, invite friends, and make reservations for **Friday, November 7th** for the Dan Prince and Gene Medley Memorial Oyster Roast at Christ Episcopal Church! The fun begins at 6:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$50 per person for this all-inclusive event. Make your reservation by clicking on the Oyster Roast button on the website's home page or calling the church office at 276-632-2896. Take advantage of the convenient credit or PayPal options (small fee applies). Check or cash may also be dropped off or mailed to the CEC office (311 E. Church St., Martinsville, VA 24112).

Please sign up as soon as possible so the correct amounts of food can be purchased and prepared well in advance of the event. **The deadline for reservations and payments is Monday, October 27th. No money will be accepted at the door.**

For any questions, contact Page Beeler via email at [pagebeeler@comcast.net](mailto:pagebeeler@comcast.net) or 276-732-4000.

**Monday Bible Study**

Our Monday evening study meets in the Parish House from 7:00 to 8:00. On **September 22**, we will conclude the Book of Ruth with chapter 4, reflecting on this happy ending and what it means within the Bible, before starting the Book of Esther. 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 through the week. Barring the unexpected, we will meet every Wednesday in September.

**Loaves & Fishes**

Loaves & Fishes (our monthly free dinner, open to all) is on **September 24**, 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, be a table host, or to bring something.

### **Oktoberfest – October 4**

Christ Church will have a booth at Uptown Oktoberfest on the 4th, at which Fr. John will be offering pet blessings, and we will be distributing balloons and bookmarks. If you are willing and available to join us for an hour between 11:00 am – 4:00 pm, please let Fr. John or Rives Coleman know.

### **Blessing of the Animals – October 5**

In honor of the Feast of St. Francis, you are invited to bring your dogs, cats, and any other animals for a Blessing of the Animals on **October 5 at 3:00 pm**. In this short service, we thank God for the whole of creation and ask God's blessing on these animals we particularly love as part of our families. We will meet in the Gathering Place (the benches between the Parish House parking and Letcher Ct behind the church); in the event of rain, blessings will be offered in the Undercroft.

### **Altar Guild Open Date**

We have **November 30 (the First Sunday of Advent)** open date for altar flowers if anyone wants to do a memorial in loving memory of... or in thanksgiving for... someone. It is available on a first come, first served basis. Please note that funerals, weddings, and baptisms take precedence over scheduled memorials. Let the Church office know if you're interested in this date. **Let us know if you want to change the previous Narthex to this Altar flower date.**

**Grace Network** - Our Grace Network Assignments for **September: Potato Products (mashed, scalloped)**. **For 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.

### **THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVE!**

**Celebrant:** The Rev. John Adams

**Reader:** Susan Critz

**Chalists:** Rives Coleman, Dan Stone

**Organist/Choirmaster:** Lynn Gardner

**Chorister/Cantor:** Raul West

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

**Ushers:** Jay Dickens, Kyle Trent

**Camera Operator:** Andy Williams

**Counters:** Butch Hamlet, Natalie Coleman

**Nursery:** Caroline Davis

**Altar Guild Team #1** – Beth Sibbick, Stuart Webster, LaRue Powers, Jane Thomasson,  
Beth Cahill, Dan Cahill, Bill Sibbick

### **2025 Christ Church Vestry**

**Year 3:** 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