



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 Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

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).

The Opening Voluntary *Aria from "Darwell's Fantasia"* John S. Dixon

Processional Hymn *"Father, we praise thee"* Hymn 1

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.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (7:55-60)

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People *Thanks be to God*

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 *In te, Domine, speravi*

- 1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be /put to /shame; *
deliver me /in your righteous/ness.
- 2 Incline your/ ear to /me; *
make /haste to deliver /me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag /and my /stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, /lead me and guide/ me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly /4set for /me, *
for you /are my tower of /strength.
- 5 Into your hands I com/mend my /spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O Lord, /O God of /truth.
- 15 My times are /in your/ hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from /those who persecute /me.
- 16 Make your face to shine u/pon your /servant, *
and in your /loving-kindness /save me.



Reader A reading from the First Book of Peter (2:2-10)

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner", and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People *Thanks be to God*

Sequence Hymn

"Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life"

Hymn 487

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to John (14:1-14)

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon

"Stephen against the world"

The Rev. John Adams

Ideas to ponder

- How do you feel when you know you're right and someone else is wrong?
- How are you showing your neighbors the Father?

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.

A Litany of Healing

Standing or kneeling

| | |
|---------------|---|
| <i>Reader</i> | God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation; |
| <i>People</i> | <i>We praise you and thank you, O Lord.</i> |
| <i>Reader</i> | God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly; |
| <i>People</i> | <i>We praise you and thank you, O Lord.</i> |
| <i>Reader</i> | God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence; |
| <i>People</i> | <i>We praise you and thank you, O Lord.</i> |
| <i>Reader</i> | Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being; |
| <i>People</i> | <i>We praise you and thank you, O Lord.</i> |
| <i>Reader</i> | Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, especially <i>Sue, Julia, Jennifer, Mallory, Jay J., David C., Ashley F., Michael, Ann, Jim A., and Jennifer G</i> ; that they may be made whole; |
| <i>People</i> | <i>Hear us, O Lord of life.</i> |
| <i>Reader</i> | Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence; |
| <i>People</i> | <i>Hear us, O Lord of life.</i> |
| <i>Reader</i> | Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit; |
| <i>People</i> | <i>Hear us, O Lord of life.</i> |
| <i>Reader</i> | Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience; |
| <i>People</i> | <i>Hear us, O Lord of life.</i> |
| <i>Reader</i> | Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved; |
| <i>People</i> | <i>Hear us, O Lord of life.</i> |
| <i>Reader</i> | Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world; |
| <i>People</i> | <i>Hear us, O Lord of life.</i> |

Reader You are the Lord who does wonders:
People *You have declared your power among the peoples.*

Reader With you, O Lord, is the well of life:
People *And in your light we see light.*

Reader Hear us, O Lord of life:
People *Heal us, and make us whole.*

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

Celebrant Let us confess our need for God's healing grace.

Celebrant and people

Compassionate God, we confess our weaknesses in body, mind, and spirit, and our need for your strengthening touch. We confess that some of what ails us stems from our own fault, while some is beyond our control. We turn to you, source of life, and ask in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ for the gifts of true healing and life in you. Amen.

Celebrant May the God of love visit you in your times of trial and weakness, and raise you to newness of life, through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Those desiring laying on of hands and anointing with oil for healing of themselves or others may come to the altar rail at this time, or those who cannot or prefer not to come forward may inform an usher, who will tell the Celebrant to come to you. Please whisper to the Celebrant your name or the name of the person for whom you are praying so he may pray for the appropriate people.

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 *Eden's Song* arr. Mark Schweizer

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.

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.

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 or 276-632-2896 **by Thursday, May 7**.

Women's Club Meeting

You are invited to join us in the Parish House on **Tuesday, May 12**, at 5:30 for the monthly Women's Club meeting. Beverages and paper products will be provided. Please sign up on our website under 'volunteers'. **We are looking forward to our evening of fellowship!**

Public Theology

Public Theology meets on **May 13** at the Ground Floor (1 E Church St); food and drinks (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) will be available from the usual menu. We begin gathering at 6:00 pm, with the program going from 7:00 to 8:00.

Wednesday Eucharist

In May, we will celebrate the Noon Wednesday Eucharist on **May 20** and **27**, **but not on May 6 and 13**.

New Bishop Consecration

Registration for 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**, is now open, via the [Diocesan website](#) or [Facebook page](#). 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.

Altar Guild Open Date

We have **May 31 (The First Sunday after the Pentecost: Trinity Sunday)** 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 are 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 **May - June: Applesauce (24-32 oz) OR six packs of individuals**. For **May: bath soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrush (individually wrapped), 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: Pete Scouras

Chalicers: Natalie Coleman, Dawn Stone

Organist/Choirmaster: Lynn Gardner

Cantor: Raul West

Christ Church Choir: St. Christopher's Choir

Ushers: Michael Hodges, Ben Beeler

Camera Operator: Hank Long

Counters: Steve Keyser, Jay Dickens

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

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