



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

321 East Church Street • Martinsville, Virginia • 276-632-2896
www.christchurchmvl.org

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 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	<i>I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ</i>	J. S. Bach
Introit	<i>I will bless the Lord</i>	Psalm 34
Processional Hymn	<i>"Not here for high and holy things"</i>	Hymn 9

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.*

<i>Gloria in excelsis</i>	<i>Glory to God</i>	Hymnal S 280
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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, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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 Exodus (17:1-7)

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

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

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 *Attendite, popule*

- 1 Hear my teaching, /O my /people; *
 incline your ears/ to the words of my/ mouth.
- 2 I will open my mouth /in a /parable; *
 I will declare the /mysteries of ancient/ times.
- 3 That which we have heard and known,
 and what our forefathers/ have told/ us, *
 we will /not hide from their /children.
- 4 We will recount to generations to come
 the praiseworthy deeds and the power /of the/ Lord, *
 and the/ wonderful works he has/ done.
- 12 He worked marvels in the sight /of their/ forefathers, *
 in the land of Egypt,/ in the field of/ Zoan.
- 13 He split open the sea and let/ them pass/ through; *
 he made the /waters stand up like /walls.
- 14 He led them with a /cloud by/ day, *
 and all the night through/ with a glow of /fire.
- 15 He split the hard rocks /in the /wilderness *
 and gave them drink /as from the great /deep.
- 16 He brought streams out /of the /cliff, *
 and the /waters gushed out like /rivers.



Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Church in Philippi (2:1-13)

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in

you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

Sequence Hymn

"Rock of ages, cleft for me"

Hymn 685

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew (21:23-32)

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

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

The Sermon

"Will you go and work?"

The Rev. John Adams

Ideas to ponder:

- What questions have you been asked where there's a difference between the 'right' answer (that they want to hear) and the 'true' answer (that you want to say)?
- Have you ever changed your mind after saying the 'true' answer?

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 VI

Standing or kneeling

BCP 392

<i>Reader</i>	In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. (<i>Pause</i>) For all people in their daily life and work;
<i>People</i>	For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.
<i>Reader</i>	For this community, the nation, and the world;
<i>People</i>	For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.
<i>Reader</i>	For the just and proper use of your creation;
<i>People</i>	For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.
<i>Reader</i>	For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
<i>People</i>	For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.
<i>Reader</i>	For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
<i>People</i>	For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.
<i>Reader</i>	For Sean our Presiding Bishop, Karin our Bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers;
<i>People</i>	For all who serve God in his Church.
<i>Reader</i>	For the special needs and concerns of this congregation; especially Sue, Julia, Mallory, Ginger C., Jay J., David C., Ashley F., Michael, Jim A, Valerie B. LaRue, Jean, Tina, and Dorothy, (<i>Pause for intercessions</i>) Hear us, Lord;
<i>People</i>	For your mercy is great.
<i>Reader</i>	We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. (<i>Pause for thanksgivings</i>) We will exalt you, O God our King;
<i>People</i>	And praise your Name for ever and ever.
<i>Reader</i>	We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. (<i>Pause for intercessions</i>) Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
<i>People</i>	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

We Bless the Father

Mark Bender

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

Hymnal S 138

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.

Fraction Anthem (*sung in unison*)

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

Thy word hath quickened me

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

"Singing songs of expectation"

Hymn 527

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

The Closing Voluntary

Toccata in C

Johann Pachelbel

*The beauty of the Altar Flowers are
Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of
Charles W. Trent, III and Patty Ann Trent
By the Family*

*The beauty of the Narthex Flowers are
Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of
David Cole on his birthday
By Betsy Cole and Family*

Pray today for the bishops of the Episcopal Church as they gather today at House of Bishops. For Grace and Peace in the Diocese of Haiti. Our companion diocese, the Diocese of Leeds and their Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Toby Howarth.

Monday Bible Study

Our study of the Revelation to John of Patmos continues on **September 28 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm in the Parish House**. This week we will begin the throne room scene with chapter 4. No reading in advance is required, and all are welcome at any time.

Loaves & Fishes

This month's Loaves & Fishes on **September 30th** is being hosted by Ron Probst and Kelly Cain. It is our monthly free dinner, open to all. Dinner will be 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 to volunteer or to bring something. We need more desserts, bananas, and lemonade.**

Oktoberfest – October 3

Christ Episcopal Church is once again participating in the Oktoberfest on **Saturday, October 3rd**. We will have bookmarks and balloons to give to folks, along with St. Francis medals for attending pets.

We need volunteers to set up and take down. We would love for church members to give an hour to work the booth, fill & handout balloons, be "Balloon Wranglers," and help assemble the St. Francis medals with ribbon and tie them on the pets. **Please consider signing up with your name and contact information beside the time slot that works for you on the Church's website under volunteers.**

Most of all, as we all continue to find ways to encourage newcomers and grow the body of CEC, this event is an excellent opportunity to introduce the community to our wonderful church in a very low-key way. **Hoping you will consider joining us on October 3!!!**

Oyster Roast

The Dan Prince and Gene Medley Memorial Oyster Roast, our annual fundraiser featuring great food, live music, a silent auction, and more, is **Friday, November 6, beginning at 6:00 pm**. Tickets (\$60 check or cash, \$62.58 credit via PayPal) are available at the website (<https://christchurchmvl.org/event-signup.cfm?eID=3>). Contact Rives Coleman (rcoleman@rivessbrown.com or 276-732-2859) or Ron Probst (rlpsystems@gmail.com or 276-224-5433) for more information or to volunteer to help. Tickets for the 50/50 Raffle (\$10/ticket, maximum winnings of \$2,500) can be purchased now from Vestry members.

Blessing of the Animals – October 4

For the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, who, among other things, is famous for preaching to a flock of birds and otherwise expressing his reverence for all of God's creation, we will offer a short service for the Blessing of the Animals. On **October 4 at 3:00 pm**, you are invited to join us with your dogs, cats, and any other pets in the **Gathering Place** (the benches between the Parish House and the church building) unless the weather is inclement, in which case we will be in the Undercroft.

Trivia Night – October 7

Please join us on **October 7** for an evening of fellowship and a game of Trivia hosted by Fr. John! The meal, beginning at **6:00 pm**, **will be a Dip or Treat Potluck**: bring your favorite dip (ranch, hummus, caramel, etc.), spread (pimiento cheese, chicken salad, Nutella, etc.), and/or vessel to get dips and spreads from the dish to your mouth (carrots, chips, sliced bread, sliced apples, etc.) to share, or just bring yourself. The game, which should conclude by 8:00 pm, will (much like February's Trivia night) feature questions relating to October. This is an excellent opportunity to invite your friends (especially those whose knowledge base differs from yours) to join us at Christ Church.

Grace Network

Our Grace Network Assignments for **September: Boxed Dinners (Hamburger Helper)**. For **September: dish detergent, deodorant, laundry detergent, and hygiene items**. 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: Will Zimmer

Chalists: Natalie Coleman, Tom Webster

Organist/Choirmaster: Lynn Gardner

Chorister/Cantor: Raul West

Christ Church Choir: St. Christopher's Choir

Ushers: Gus Barber, John Swezey

Camera Operator: Rives Coleman

Counters: Butch Hamlet, Linda O'Dell

Nursery: Caroline Davis

Altar Guild Team #3 – Page Beeler, Karen Jones, Nancy Spilman,
Ellen Maxwell, Ben Beeler

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