



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 4, 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 “Deo Gracias” (The Agincourt Hymn) arr. David N. Johnston

Introit *The Lord is my light* Psalm 27

Processional Hymn “O love, how deep, how broad, how high” Hymn 448

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.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; 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 (20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20)

Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

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

Psalm 19 *Caeli enarrant*

- 1 The heavens declare the /glory of /God, *
 and the firmament/ shows his handi/work.
- 2 One day tells its tale/ to a/nother, *
 and one night imparts /knowledge to a/nother.
- 3 Although they have no /words or/ language, *
 and their /voices are not/ heard,
- 4 Their sound has gone out in/to all/ lands, *
 and their message /to the ends of the/ world.
- 5 In the deep has he set a pavilion /for the/ sun; *
 it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
 it rejoices like a champion/ to run its/ course.
- 6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
 and runs about to the end of /it a/gain; *
 nothing is hidden/ from its burning/ heat.
- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect
 and re/vives the/ soul; *
 the testimony of the Lord is sure
 and gives /wisdom to the/ innocent.
- 8 The statutes of the Lord are just
 and re/joyce the/ heart; *
 the commandment of the Lord is clear
 and /gives light to the/ eyes.



- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean
 and en/dures for/ ever; *
 the judgments of the Lord are true
 and /righteous alto/gether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,
 more than /much fine/ gold, *
 sweeter far than/ honey,
 than honey in the /comb.
- 11 By them also is your servant/ enlight/ened, *
 and in keeping them /there is great re/ward.
- 12 Who can tell how often /he of/fends? *
 cleanse me/ from my secret/ faults.
- 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
 let them not get dominion/ over/ me; *
 then shall I be whole and sound,
 and innocent /of a great of/fense.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
 heart be acceptable /in your /sight, *
 O Lord, /my strength and my re/deemer.

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Church in Philippi (3:4b-14)

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

Sequence Hymn *"The head that once was crowned with thorns"* **Hymn 483**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew (21:33-46)

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed

another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

The Sermon "Bad decisions" The Rev. John Adams

Ideas to ponder:

- Does the tenants' decision-making remind you of anything in your experience?
- Have you ever made a decision as though God didn't care?

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* Let us pray for the Church and for the world. (*Pause*) Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. (*Pause*) Lord, in your mercy
- People* Hear our prayer.
- Reader* Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. (*Pause*) Lord, in your mercy
- People* Hear our prayer.
- Reader* Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. (*Pause*) Lord, in your mercy
- People* Hear our prayer.
- Reader* Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. (*Pause*) Lord, in your mercy
- People* Hear our prayer.
- Reader* Comfort and heal *Sue, Julia, Mallory, Ginger C., Jay J., David C., Ashley F., Michael, Jim A., Valerie B., LaRue, Jean, Tina, Dorothy, Nancy, Jimmy, Honore,* and all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. (*Pause*) Lord, in your mercy
- People* Hear our prayer.
- Reader* We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. (*Pause*) Lord, in your mercy
- People* Hear our prayer.

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.**

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Offertory Anthem *Take My Life and Let It Be* setting by Carl Schalk

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.

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
People	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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

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.

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

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

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)

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 *Happy are those whose way is blameless*

Psalm 119

Communion Hymn *Let thy Blood in mercy poured*

Hymn 313

Once all have received, the celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and people *Kneeling or standing*

BCP 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as
living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.

Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The celebrant blesses the people.

Recessional Hymn *"Lord Christ, when first thou cam'st to earth"*

Hymn 598

Priest: *Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.*

People: *Thanks be to God.*

The Closing Voluntary

Toccata in F

Johann Pachelbel

**We Give Thanks for the Beauty of the Altar Flowers
Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of
Sam and Martha Edmiston
By the Family**

Pray today for the members of the Executive Board and the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia. For Grace and Peace in the Diocese of Haiti. Our companion diocese, the Diocese of Leeds and their Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Toby Howarth.

Discretionary Fund – Today is the 1st Sunday of the month and the loose offering is designated for the Rector's Discretionary Fund. All checks should include the notation, "For RDF".

Monday Bible Study

Our study of the Revelation to John of Patmos continues on **October 5 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm in the Parish House**. This week we will continue the throne room scene with the appearance of the Lamb in chapter 5. No reading in advance is required, and all are welcome at any time.

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.

Kings Grant Eucharist

Fr. John celebrates Eucharist in the chapel at **Kings Grant at 1:30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month**. The next services will be **October 13, November 10, and December 8**.

Women's Group Meeting – October 13

Come on, let's meet at the Parish House. Join us at the Women's Group meeting on **Tuesday, October 13th at 5:30 in the Parish House**. We'll provide water, wine, and soft drinks. If you can bring a snack, wonderful; if not, bring yourself. **Please sign up under volunteers on the Church's website or call the church office if you plan to attend.** Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Church History Class

On **October 14 at 10:30 am in the Undercroft**, we will conclude our study of the Crusades with the 13th-century close of the crusading era in the Holy Land. All are welcome to join (and encouraged to stick around for the Noon Eucharist in the Chapel).

Public Theology

Public Theology meets on **October 14 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.

Third Sunday Supper and Evening Prayer

Join us on **Sunday, October 18 at 5:30 pm** at a new opportunity for fellowship and worship! We will begin with Evening Prayer before adjourning for supper, which will be a potluck. **You are invited to contribute a main dish, side, salad, or dessert to share, but are also welcome to bring just yourself.** We hope that, in addition to giving us another occasion to socialize, this service will allow members who can rarely attend on Sunday mornings or Wednesdays at Noon to join us for worship and give us a chance to invite our friends and neighbors to a low-pressure service and meal.

Grace Network

Our Grace Network Assignments for **October - December: Saltine Crackers (box)**. For **October: toilet paper, feminine products, deodorant, 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: Ann Gardner

Chalists: Jay Dickens, Steve Keyser

Organist/Choirmaster: Lynn Gardner

Chorister/Cantor: Raul West

Christ Church Choir: St. Christopher's Choir

Ushers: Bob Weatherall, Hank Long

Camera Operator: Natalie Coleman

Counters: Kelly Cain, Butch Hamlet

Nursery: Caroline Davis

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

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