



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 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026
10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

*Please silence your electronic devices.
Full text of prayers may be found in the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP).*

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>	Spoken
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. <i>Amen.</i>	

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.***

The people sit

Reader A reading from the Book of Exodus (16:2-15)

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow

my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.” Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’” In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.”

Reader The Word of the Lord
People Thanks be to God

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 *Confitemini Domino Spoken Together*

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; *
 make known his deeds among the peoples.
- 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
 and speak of all his marvelous works.
- 3 Glory in his holy Name; *
 let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
- 4 Search for the Lord and his strength; *
 continually seek his face.
- 5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
 his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
- 6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
 O children of Jacob his chosen.
- 37 He led out his people with silver and gold; *
 in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.
- 38 Egypt was glad of their going, *
 because they were afraid of them.
- 39 He spread out a cloud for a covering *
 and a fire to give light in the night season.
- 40 They asked, and quails appeared, *
 and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.
- 41 He opened the rock, and water flowed, *
 so the river ran in the dry places.

- 42 For God remembered his holy word *
and Abraham his servant.
- 43 So he led forth his people with gladness, *
his chosen with shouts of joy.
- 44 He gave his people the lands of the nations, *
and they took the fruit of others' toil,
- 45 That they might keep his statutes *
and observe his laws.
Hallelujah!

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Church in Philippi (1:21-30)

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

The people stand

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew (20:1-16)

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

The Sermon "Missing out" The Rev. John Adams

Ideas to ponder:

- How have you experienced the Fear of Missing Out (FOMO)?
- What have you missed out on by following Jesus?

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

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, Karin our 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, Mallory, Ginger C., Jay J., David C., Ashley F., Michael, Jim A,
Valerie B. LaRue, Jean and Tina, (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.*

The people stand as the ushers bring the plates forward to the altar.

Celebrant All things come from you, O Lord,
People and of your own have we given you. *Amen.*

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

Spoken

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

Spoken

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.

Breaking of Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. 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.

Once all have received, the celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and people, standing or kneeling

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.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

*The beauty of the Altar Flowers are
Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of
James Patterson Sutton
By Jeannie Odachowski*

*The beauty of the Narthex Flowers are
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 students and staff of Virginia Episcopal School, their Headmaster, Henry Clarke and their chaplain, the Rev. Adam White. For Grace and Peace in the Diocese of Haiti. Our companion diocese, the Diocese of Leeds and their Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Nick Baines.

Third Sunday Supper and Evening Prayer – September 20

Join us on **Sunday, September 20 at 5:30 pm** for a new opportunity for fellowship and worship! We will begin with Evening Prayer in the Chapel (accessed through the glass doors at the back of the church building) before adjourning to the Undercroft 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 this service will give us another chance to socialize and allow members who can rarely attend on Sunday mornings or Wednesdays at Noon to join us for worship, while also giving us a chance to invite our friends and neighbors to a low-pressure service and meal.

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.**

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.

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: Ann Gardner

Chalists: Bob Bushnell, Hank Long

Ushers: Ben Beeler, Ben Lewis

Camera Operator: Linda O’Dell

Counters: Butch Hamlet, Linda O’Dell

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

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