



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 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 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.*

Gloria in excelsis

Glory to God

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. ***Amen.***

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; 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 Genesis (29:15-28)

Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you

than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.” So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.” So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?” Laban said, “This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

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

Psalm 128 *Beati omnes* *Spoken Together*

- 1 Happy are they all who fear the Lord, *
 and who follow in his ways!
- 2 You shall eat the fruit of your labor; *
 happiness and prosperity shall be yours.
- 3 Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house, *
 your children like olive shoots round about your table.
- 4 The man who fears the Lord *
 shall thus indeed be blessed.
- 5 The Lord bless you from Zion, *
 and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.
- 6 May you live to see your children's children; *
 may peace be upon Israel.

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Church in Rome (8:26-39)

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things

present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 (13:31-33,44-52)

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

The Sermon "At first sight" The Rev. John Adams
Ideas to ponder:

- Have you experienced or witnessed meet-cute love at first sight?
- How have you felt God's love for you?

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 V

Standing or kneeling

BCP 389

Reader In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, Karin our Bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For those in positions of public trust, especially Donald, our President, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For all who live and work in this community, we pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For this congregation, for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord. ***Lord, have mercy.***

For *Sue, Julia, Mallory, Ginger C., Jay J., David C., Ashley F., Michael, Jim A, Tracy, Paige F., Ruby, and Valerie B.*, we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God. *To you, O Lord our God.*

All may offer their prayers and thanksgivings at this time, aloud or in the silence of their hearts, after which 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.*

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.*

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 361-362

It is right... 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.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant

Kneeling or standing

BCP 362-363

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

Celebrant and People

Spoken

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant

Kneeling or standing

BCP 363

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.

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
Mary and John Bevan
By Jane Bevan Martin*

Pray today for the Bishop's Visitation to Grace Memorial, Lynchburg. Pray for the people of Grace Memorial, Lynchburg. For Grace and Peace in the Diocese of Haiti. Our companion diocese, the Diocese of Leeds and their Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Toby Howarth.

Summer Sunday Lemonade

Continuing a summer tradition, we will have fellowship time with lemonade (or tea) and cookies on the patio (or in the undercroft if it's raining) **after the 10:30 service, July 26 through August 30**; if you are willing to help bring beverages and treats or set up and clean up, **please sign up on our website under 'volunteers'**, for your Sunday. There is some lemonade and tea in the Undercroft refrigerator. Cups and napkins will be provided.

Loaves & Fishes

This month's Loaves & Fishes on **July 29**, is being hosted by the CEC Women's Group. 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 people to volunteer and donate in almost all areas.**

Grace Network

Our Grace Network Assignments for July – September: Boxed Dinners (Hamburger Helper). For July: 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.

Kings Grant Eucharist

Fr. John celebrates Eucharist in the chapel at Kings Grant monthly, typically on the first Thursday of the month at 1:30 pm. The next services will be August 6 and September 3.

Third Sunday Supper and Evening Prayer

Join us on Sunday, August 16 at 5:30 pm at 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. Chicken casserole will be provided as a main dish, along with drinks. *You are invited to contribute a side, salad, or dessert to the potluck, 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.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVE!

Celebrant: The Rev. John Adams

Reader: Susan Critz

Chalists: Hank Long, Tom Webster

Ushers: Ben Lewis, Gus Barber

Camera Operator: Linda O'Dell

Counters: Michael Hodges, Steve Keyser

Altar Guild Team #1 – Beth Sibbick, LaRue Powers, Jane Thomasson,
Beth Cahill, Dan Cahill, Bill Sibbick, Pete Budde

Nursery Attendant: Volunteer Needed

Lemonade: Hank Long, George Lyle

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