



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 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 *Prelude and Fugue in G Minor* J. S. Bach

Processional Hymn *"Christ is made the sure foundation"* Hymn 518

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.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Reader A reading from the Book of Exodus (12:1-14)

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

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

Psalm 149 *Cantate Domino*

- 1 Hallelujah!
 Sing to the Lord/ a new /song; *
 sing his praise in the congre/gation of the /faithful.
- 2 Let Israel rejoice/ in his /Maker; *
 let the children of Zion be /joyful in their/ King.
- 3 Let them praise his Name /in the /dance; *
 let them sing praise to him /with timbrel and /harp.
- 4 For the Lord takes pleasure/ in his /people *
 and a/dorns the poor with /victory.
- 5 Let the faithful re/joyce in /triumph; *
 let them be /joyful on their/ beds.
- 6 Let the praises of God be /in their /throat *
 and a /two-edged sword in their/ hand;
- 7 To wreak vengeance /on the /nations *
 and punishment on the /peoples;
- 8 To bind their/ kings in /chains *
 and their/ nobles with links of /iron;
- 9 To inflict on them the /judgment de/creed; *
 this is glory for all his faithful people./ Hallelu/jah!



Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Church in Rome (13:8-14)

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People *Thanks be to God*

Sequence Hymn *"Lord, make us servants of your peace"*

Hymn 593

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew (18:15-20)

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon *"Better than a duel"*

The Rev. John Adams

Ideas to ponder:

- How does Jesus' method of conflict resolution compare to others you've experienced?
- Under what conditions do you think Jesus' method would work?

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, Ruby, Valerie B. LaRue, and Jean, (<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.
<i>Reader</i>	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

He Whom Angels Worship

Wm. Young Fullerton

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

Make vows to the Lord

Psalm 76

Communion Anthem

Sheep May Safely Graze

J. S. Bach

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

"Joyful, joyful, we adore thee"

Hymn 376

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

The Closing Voluntary

Hymn to Joy

Gordon Young

*The beauty of the Altar Flowers are
Given to the Glory of God and in Honor of
Sue W. Rosser on her 83rd birthday
Much love children and grandchildren*

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

The Church office will be closed on Monday, September 7 in observance of Labor Day.

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.

Women's Group Meeting – September 8

It's time for our Women's Group to meet again. Please plan to join me on **Tuesday, September 8th at 5:30 in the Parish House**. Water, wine, and soft drinks will be provided. If you can provide a snack item, wonderful; if not, bring yourself. **If you plan to attend, please sign up on the Church's website under 'volunteers' or call the church office.** The discussion will be the upcoming events and how the group can help to make the gatherings successful.

Funeral Liturgy Planning Workshop

On **September 9 at 10:30 am in the Undercroft**, Fr. John will offer a workshop on planning an Episcopal funeral liturgy. Like writing your will or arranging your burial plot, planning your funeral service well in advance of your death is a way you can both express your wishes to your spouse, children, or other heirs and reduce their stress when you do die by making less work for them (and for your priest). This workshop could also be useful if you want to think about future funerals for parents that you might have to plan. All are welcome, and encouraged to stick around for the Noon Eucharist in the Chapel.

Public Theology

Public Theology meets on **September 9 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**.

Choir

St. Christopher's Choir of Christ Church resumes with **Thursday evening rehearsals** (in the choir room, accessed via the glass doors into the Undercroft) **beginning September 10** at 7:00 pm. On Sunday mornings, our choir graciously lends their voices to make a joyful noise unto the Lord not only with anthems during the Offertory but leading us in the hymns, Psalm, and service music throughout the service. All are invited and encouraged to join; no prior experience with choirs is required, only that you delight in worshiping the Lord in song. Talk to our organist/choirmaster Lynn Gardner if you might be interested.

Sunday Breakfast - September 13

We are celebrating the end of summer with a breakfast on **September 13**. Food will be available from **9:00 until 9:45** (or it runs out); please join us for some or all of this fellowship time before the 10:30 service. If you are planning to attend, please sign up, but if you find yourself able to attend and have not signed up, come anyway! **We would also appreciate your help in preparing the food; items may be dropped off in the Undercroft kitchen on Saturday (September 12) between 2:00 and 4:00 pm or on Sunday after 8:00 am. A sign-up is available, but please feel free to bring any of your breakfast favorites.**

Bible Studies

After our summer hiatus, the regular Bible studies resume in September. Beginning **September 14, Monday nights are from 7:00 to 8:00** will consider the Revelation to John, a book that mixes beauty and horror while notoriously frustrating our efforts to interpret and apply it to our present lives. **Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:10, starting September 20**, will read through the Gospel of Mark, the oldest and shortest of the four Gospels. Both studies meet in the library of the Parish House; no reading in advance is required, and all are welcome whether you attend consistently, sporadically, or only once.

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: Bob Bushnell

Chalists: Dawn Stone, Tom Webster

Organist/Choirmaster: Lynn Gardner

Chorister/Cantor: Raul West

Christ Church Choir: St. Christopher's Choir

Ushers: Hank Long, Rives Coleman

Camera Operator: Vicki Crosby

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