# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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 Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 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 — *"Lift Up Your Heads"* — Jan Bender

Processional Hymn — *"Lift up your heads"* — Hymn 436

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.
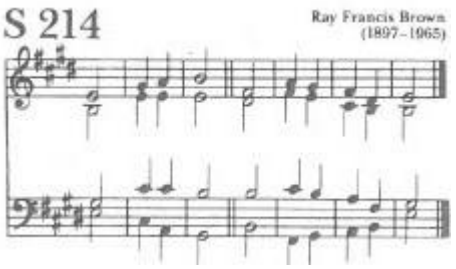
O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

Reader A reading from the Book of Joshua (24:1-3a, 14-25)

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. "Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God." But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

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

**Psalm 78:1-7** *Attendite, populе*




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.

5 He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a /law for/ Israel, *
which he commanded /them to teach their /children;

6 That the generations to come might know,
and the children /yet un/born; *
that they in their turn might /tell it to their /children;

7 So that they might put their /trust in/ God, *
and not forget the deeds of God,
/but keep his com/mandments;

Reader A reading from the First Book of Thessalonians (4:13-18)

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

Sequence Hymn *"Fairest Lord Jesus"* Hymn 383

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew (25:1-13)
People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

The Sermon *"Wanna bet?"* The Rev. John Adams

Ideas to ponder:

- How is faith like a wager?
- What might we do differently if we bet against the existence of a loving God?

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 IV BCP 388

*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., Ashley F., Michael, Jim A., Valerie B., LaRue, Jean, Dorothy, Nancy, Honore, James H.,* 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.***

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 *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* Michael Bedford

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 A *Standing* BCP 361

*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* Hymnal S 125

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* Hymnal S 132

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.

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 chalicer 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 chalicer. Those who cannot or prefer not to come forward may inform an usher, and the Celebrant will come to you.*

Communion Chant *They took their lamps and went forth* Matthew 25, Psalm 45

Communion Hymn *Let all mortal flesh keep silence* Hymn 324

*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 *"Jerusalem, my happy home"* Hymn 620

*Priest:* *Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.*
*People:* ***Thanks be to God.***

The Closing Voluntary *Land of Rest* Margaret Mueller

We Give Thanks for the Beauty of the Altar Flowers
Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of
Christine Cahill and James and Marilyn Frazier
By Dan and Beth Cahill

Pray today for the Bishop's Visitation to St. John's, Bedford. Pray today for the people of St. John's, Bedford and their rector, the Rev. Wilson Brown. For Grace and Peace in the Diocese of Haiti. Our companion diocese, the Diocese of Leeds and their Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Toby Howarth.

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 November 10 and December 8.

Women's Group Meeting
Please plan to join me on Tuesday, November 10th at 5:30 in the Parish House. I will be providing water, wine, and soft drinks. 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.

As usual, we will be accepting donations for Grace Network. Saltine Crackers (box), bath soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes (individually wrapped), and other hygiene items.

Church History Class
On November 11 at 10:30 am in the Undercroft, we will begin another exploration of the History of the Medieval Church, this time through the lens of the Holy Roman Empire beginning with Charlemagne. All are welcome to join (and encouraged to stick around for the Noon Eucharist in the Chapel).

Public Theology
Public Theology meets on November 11 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.

Altar Guild Open Date
The First Sunday of Advent, Sunday, November 29 is open for altar flowers if anyone wants to do a memorial in loving memory of… in honor of… or in thanksgiving for… someone. You can do this one time or continue it from year-to-year. It is a first come first served basis. It will be red flowers and greenery with Hypericum red berries for Advent.

Stewardship
The 2027 pledge campaign is underway. If you did not receive a pledge card in the mail, please get one from the narthex (church entrance area) or office. We invite you to prayerfully consider your pledge of financial support to Christ Church for 2027 and return your pledge in the offering plate or to the office as soon as you are comfortable doing so. During the service on November 15, Fr. John will offer a special prayer of thanksgiving for the gifts that have been pledged.

Annual Meeting
The Annual Meeting of Christ Church will take place after the 10:30 service on November 15, with lunch provided. In addition to discussing our ongoing efforts to improve the grounds and offer more fellowship opportunities, we will consider the current state of the finances and elect four members to three-year terms on the Vestry.

Diocesan Communications Survey
The Diocese of Southwestern Virginia is conducting a survey about their emails and other forms of communication with us. If you have a few minutes, please respond to the survey at https://dfms.formstack.com/forms/swva_communications_survey.

Grace Network – Our Grace Network Assignments for November thru December: Saltine Crackers (box). For November: bath soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes (individually wrapped), and other hygiene items. As a Church family, we have committed to helping Grace Network by stocking their food pantry for those in need. Please remember to pick up our assigned item the next time you visit the grocery store. 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: Kelly Cain
Chalists: Bob Bushnell, Hank Long
Organist/Choirmaster: Lynn Gardner
Chorister/Cantor: Raul West
Christ Church Choir: St. Christopher's Choir
Ushers: John Swezey, Bob Weatherall
Camera Operator: Linda O'Dell
Counters: Steve Keyser, Jay Dickens
Nursery: Caroline Davis
Altar Guild Team #5 – Lloyd Barber, Debbie Lewis, Jill Dickens, Amy Joyce, Pat Russell, Vicki Crosby

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