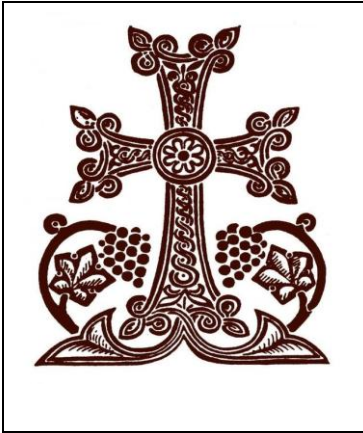


HOLY COMMUNION

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 19, 2026



Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church! We join as a family of friends receiving Holy Communion every Sunday to empower ministry to our community. We are an inclusive fellowship – without exception. There is a place for you among us at Christ Church. Join with us. All are welcome to receive communion. Speak with the Priest to learn about being baptized.

Healing: Ever-present God of compassion: you know from afar my rising up and my lying down. Grant that I may accept what is past, leaving it with you, that I may live without fear or harsh self-judgment, to focus freely on your work of healing in the world. Amen.

About Holy Communion: We trust Christ to be truly present in the bread and wine. All baptized persons, children and adults, are welcomed to receive. Stand or kneel at the altar rail with palms extended to receive the wafer to dip into the cup of wine. If you would prefer a blessing, cross your arms over your chest to signal the Priest. (If you would like to learn more about being baptized, speak with Father Emanuel.)

Mission Statement – At Christ Episcopal Church we gather to worship, pray, sing, and share so together we may serve our community and the world.

Voluntary

Voluntary

Leon Boellmann

(All stand.)

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou rul - est in light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish, like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der: O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - tor - ious, thy great Name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish; but nought chan - geth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son+, and Holy Spirit.

People: *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

Collect for Purity

Celebrant:

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.***



Song of Praise

I exalt Thee (For thou O Lord)

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with piano accompaniment in the bass clef. Chord symbols are provided above the staff, often with alternative voicings in parentheses. The lyrics are written below the staff, with some words split across lines. The score includes first and second endings for several phrases.

First System: Chords: Gm(Dm), C7(G7), F(C), C/E(G). Lyrics: For Thou O Lord art high above all the earth,

Second System: Chords: Dm(Am), Gm(Dm), C7(G7), Bb/C(F/G), F(C), Bb(F). Lyrics: Thou art ex - alt - ed far a - bove all gods.

Third System: Chords: F(C), Fdim(Cdim), C7(G7), Bb/C(F/G), F(C), C/F(G/C), Bb/F(F/G), F(C), Bb/C(F/G). Lyrics: For Thou O - bove all gods. I ex -

Fourth System: Chords: F(C), C/F(G/C), Bb/F(F/C). Lyrics: alt Thee, I ex - alt Thee, I ex - alt Thee,

Fifth System: Chords: Bb/C(F/G), F(C), Bb/C(F/G), F(C), Bb/F(F/C), F(C). Lyrics: O Lord. I ex - Lord.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

Announcements

A Reading from Isaiah 44:6–8

(Lector)

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Silence for reflection follows the reading.)

Psalm 86:11–17 (*spoken responsively – all speak last verse*)

Inclina, Domine

11 Teach me your way, O LORD,
and I will walk in your truth; *
knit my heart to you that I may fear your Name.

**12 I will thank you, O LORD my God, with all my heart, *
and glorify your Name for evermore.**

13 For great is your love toward me; *
you have delivered me from the nethermost Pit.

**14 The arrogant rise up against me, O God,
and a band of violent men seeks my life; *
they have not set you before their eyes.**

15 But you, O LORD, are gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

**16 Turn to me and have mercy upon me; *
give your strength to your servant;
and save the child of your handmaid.**

**17 Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; *
because you, O LORD, have helped me and comforted me.**

(Silence for reflection follows the Psalm.)

A Reading from Romans 8:12–25

(Lector)

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh--
for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death
the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are

children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Silence for reflection follows the reading.)

(Standing as able)

Sequence Hymn

302

Father, we thank thee

1 Fa - ther, we thank thee who hast plant - ed thy ho - ly Name with-
2 Watch o'er thy Church, O Lord, in mer - cy, save it from e - vil,

in our hearts. Know - ledge and faith and life im - mor - tal Je - sus thy
guard it still, per - fect it in thy love, u - nite it, cleansed and con-

Son to us im - parts. Thou, Lord, didst make all for thy plea - sure,
formed un - to thy will. As grain, once scat - tered on the hill - sides,

didst give us food for all our days, giv - ing in Christ the
was in this bro - ken bread made one, so from all lands thy

Bread e - ter - nal; thine is the power, be thine the praise.
Church be gath - ered in - to thy king - dom by thy Son.

The Gospel

Matthew 13:24–30,36–43

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon

(Several moments of silence for reflection follow the sermon.)

(Standing, as able.)

The Nicene Creed

Minister: We rise to join in the Nicene Creed.

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

(Silence)

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work; **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For the leaders of the nations and for Donald, our President; Henry, our Governor, and for all in authority in our community, that peace through compassionate justice prevail and our country remain hospitable, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the homeless, prisoners, the addicted, victims of hunger, warfare, natural disasters, injustice, oppression, and violence; **that they may be delivered from their distress.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble; **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Daniel, our Bishop; and Dorsey, Andrew, and Frank, our Bishops retired; and Phil, our Priest; and other ministers; **For all who serve God in his Church.**

For those who are sick, in treatment, or recovery, especially **Anita Christman*, Kip Carter*, David Ford*, Jim Abercrombie, Ben Murphy, Kristen Phillips, Belinda, Raylan, Erin Gardner, Julie Bowers, Melissa McPherson, Debbie, Cathy, Amanda Ford*, John, Kay Lamberton*, Mildred Wilmot, Diane Hood, Tric Deaton*, John Port, Fionna, Allen, Rebecca Bryson, Wayne, Amelia Davis, Mike Lamberton*, Pam Giardiello*, Earle Holmes*, Aubrey Crawford*, Father Bill Walters.**

Silence

Hear us, Lord; **For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. Remembering those celebrating birthdays and those celebrating anniversaries. We pray for St. James', Greenville and The Ministry of the Commission on Mission and International Concerns. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died who rest in your loving embrace. (*Names*)

May our land and the earth know the blessing of rain and water resources. Help us to be good stewards and do all we can to help all people and creatures access water. Lord, in your mercy. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Just and Eternal God, Creator of All: Convince us to work earnestly so the earth remains habitable for present and future generations. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Silence

We will exalt and give thanks to you, O God our King; **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

Silence

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them; **Who put their trust in you.**

Confession & Absolution

Celebrant:

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Silence)

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.**

(All stand.)

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Then the Ministers and People greet one another in the name of Christ.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence:

Celebrant: I ask you brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your true and proper worship. *Romans 12:1*



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be
 3 For the har - vests of the Spi - rit, thanks be to



God. For his gifts to ev - ery na - tion,
 done. In the help we give our neigh - bor,
 God. For the good we all in - her - it,



thanks be to God. For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing,
 God's will be done. In our world - wide task of car - ing
 thanks be to God. For the won - ders that as - tound us,



si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in
 for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing, in the har - vests
 for the truths that still con-found us, most of all that



earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 we are shar - ing, God's will be done.
 love has found us, thanks be to God.

(We stand as the offering is presented.)

The Presentation of the Offering

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The people remain standing.

Sursum Corda S-120

Celebrant *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*

Lift up your hearts. 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.

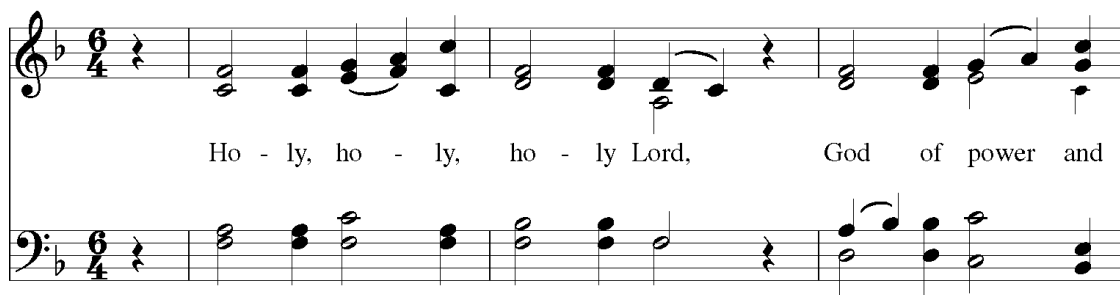
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you. O Lord, Holy Father through Christ our Lord. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

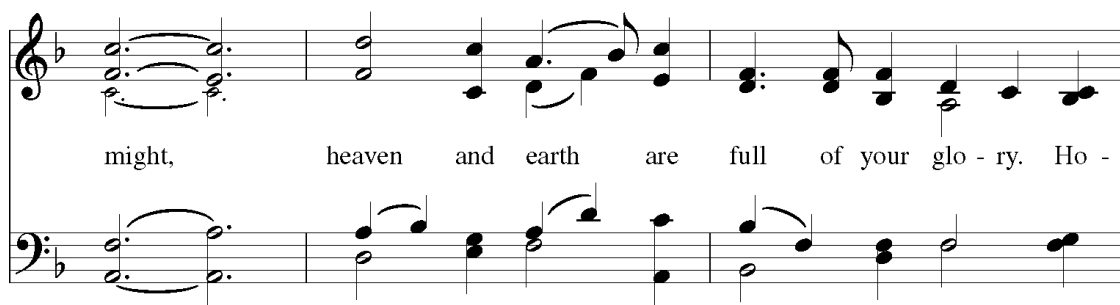
Sanctus

WLP 858

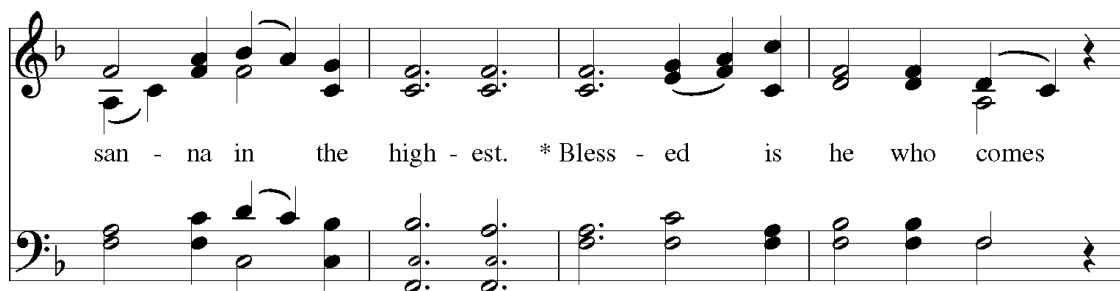
Holy, holy, holy



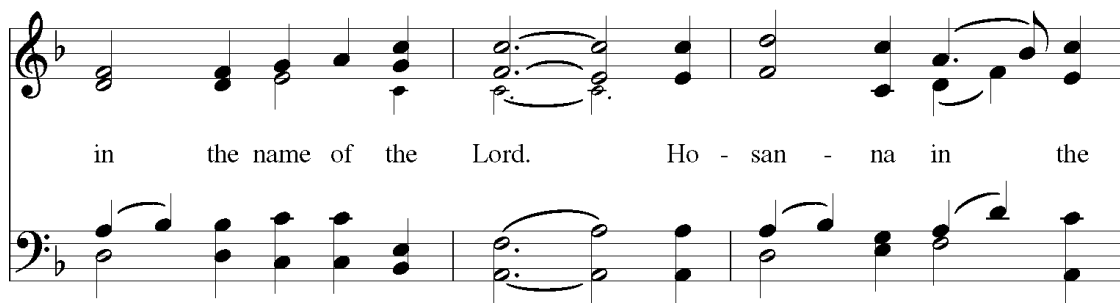
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and



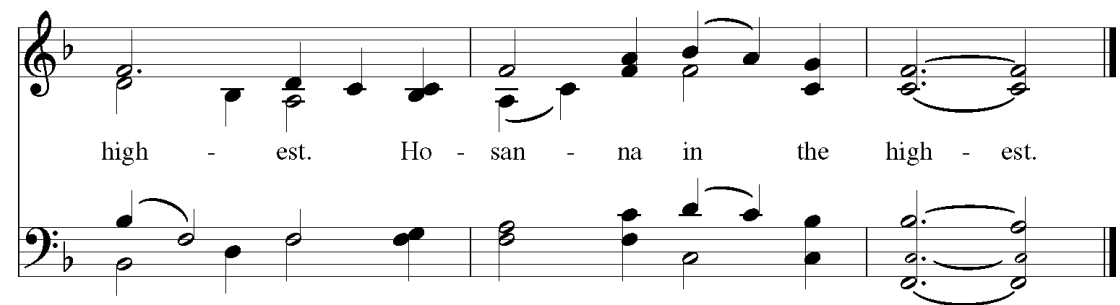
might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. * Bless - ed is he who comes

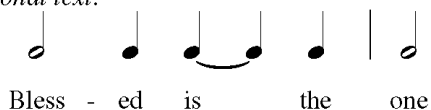


in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Optional text:*



Bless - ed is the one

The people stand or kneel, as able.

Celebrant:

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father, we proclaim the mystery of faith:"

Celebrant and ***People:***

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant: And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified

by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mary Magdalene, Peter, Paul, Phoebe, Andrew, Bertha and Ethelbert, James and John and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant and ***People:***

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

Now the si - lence Now the peace Now the emp - ty

hands up - lift - ed Now the kneel - ing Now the plea

Now the Fa - ther's arms in wel - come Now the hear - ing

Now the power Now the ves - sel brimmed for pour - ing

Now the Bo - dy Now the Blood Now the joy - ful

cel - e - bra - tion Now the wed - ding Now the songs

Now the heart for - giv - en leap - ing Now the Spi - rit's

vis - i - ta - tion Now the Son's e - piph - an - y

Now the Fa - ther's bless - ing Now Now

Celebrant: These are 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. Come for all is prepared.

Music During Communion

(Standing or kneeling, as able.)

Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant and People:

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.

Hymn at the Closing

665

All my hope on God is founded



1 All my hope on God is found - ed; he doth still my
2 Mor - tal pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -
3 God's great good - ness e'er en - dur - eth, deep his wis - dom
* 4 Dai - ly doth the al - might - y Giv - er boun - teous gifts on
5 Still from earth to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of



1 trust re - new, me through change and chance he
2 tray our trust; though with care and toil we
3 pass - ing thought: splen - dor, light, and life at -
4 us be - stow; his de - sire our soul de -
5 praise be done, high a - bove all prais - es



1 guid - eth, on - ly good and on - ly true. God un -
2 build them, tower and tem - ple fall to dust. But God's
3 tend him, beau - ty spring - eth out of nought. Ev - e -
4 ligh - teth, plea - sure leads us where we go. Love doth
5 prais - ing for the gift of Christ, his Son. Christ doth



1 known, he a - lone calls my heart to be his own.
2 power, hour by hour, is my tem - ple and my tower.
3 rmore from his store new-born worlds rise and a - dore.
4 stand at his hand; joy doth wait on his com - mand.
5 call one and all: ye who fol - low shall not fall.

The Blessing

Celebrant: May the grace of God uphold you the peace of God surround you, the love of God flow from you; and the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit rest upon you now and always. ***Amen.***

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of the risen Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

TODAY

The flowers today are provided by Bart and Caroline in thankful memory of Caroline's dad, Harry Lee Hendrix.

The Forward Day by Day for August/September/October are available at each entrance and the red mailbox at the side entrance.

THIS WEEK

Fellowship/Discussion Group meets each Monday at 4:00 pm.

Support Group meets Mondays 5:30 pm and Saturdays 8:30 am

Church/Nave is Reserved for Rehearsals every Saturday from 10:00 am–1:00 pm

Choir practice every Wednesday at 7:00 pm.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Please contact the church office if your birthday or anniversary is this week.

FINANCIAL REPORT

2026 Pledge and Plate Budgeted: \$100,000.00

Pledge and Plate Budgeted monthly: \$8,333.00

Pledge and Plate Received as of June 30, 2026: \$9,594.90 *(also includes 5/31 donations)*

This does not include any designated contributions such as EDUSC, HOPE, Sheltered, Ray's, etc.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

(* Denotes member) (Please contact office to add/remove names)

Anita Christman*, Kip Carter*, David Ford*, Jim Abercrombie, Ben Murphy, Kristen Phillips, Belinda, Raylan, Erin Gardner, Julie Bowers, Melissa McPherson, Debbie, Cathy, Amanda Ford*, John, Kay Lamberton*, Mildred Wilmot, Diane Hood, Tric Deaton*, John Port, Fionna, Allen, Rebecca Bryson, Wayne, Amelia Davis, Mike Lamberton*, Pam Giardiello*, Earle Holmes*, Aubrey Crawford*, Father Bill Walters

PARTICIPATING TODAY

DATE	L E M	ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFER	USHERS/ GREETERS	TELLERS	ALTAR GUILD	LECTOR	VIDEO OPERATOR
Sunday, July 19, 2026	Caroline Oliver	Ernest Jenkins	Mike Sistare, Jake Wilson & Melton Mayfield	Pam Giardiello & Ernest Jenkins	Barbara Gibson & Lynn Blackmon	Mary Bemis	Linda Baker

Priest: Phil Emanuel

Parish Musician: Dana Lee Walters

Security: Ernest Jenkins

PARTICIPANTS NEXT SUNDAY

DATE	L E M	ACOLYTE/ CRUCIFER	USHERS/ GREETERS	TELLERS	ALTAR GUILD	LECTOR
Sunday, July 26, 2026	Ernest Jenkins	Ernest Jenkins	Mike Sistare, Jake Wilson & Melton Mayfield	Nicki Robertson & Kathy Sistare	Barbara Gibson & Lynn Blackmon	Kathy Sistare

Father Emanuel is available for conversation regarding matters of faith and life at a place of your choosing and at times by appointment. He may be reached via the following: orionrigelstar@gmail.com or 843-325-3362.

SERMON: Copies of the sermon are on the table across from The Gathering Space.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY

Refreshments: We ask our members to provide refreshments (cookies and juices) for a Sunday. Please notify the church office so that we can create a schedule so we will not duplicate the refreshments on Sundays.

HOPE: Shelf stable milk (store brand is fine) grits, beef stew, mixed vegetables, sweet peas, jelly, boxed instant potatoes, canned meats, dry beans, juice (any type.) Please remember HOPE prefers plastic containers. Place your donated items in the shopping cart. Grocery bags are also needed. There are so many that are in need of basic food items.

Ray's Backdoor Ministry: Christ Church will continue to support the ongoing needs of this ministry. The cost to purchase items for the kits is approximately \$220 every other month. We assemble and deliver kits every other month as funds allow. This ministry is supported by individual contributions. Twenty-four comfort kits were assembled and delivered this month.

Cans for Kitties Project: Please remove labels and separate aluminum from steel cans, bag them and place them in the labeled green trash bin located beside the storage building behind the church. This ministry benefits our feline friends by providing spay/neuter services for cats.

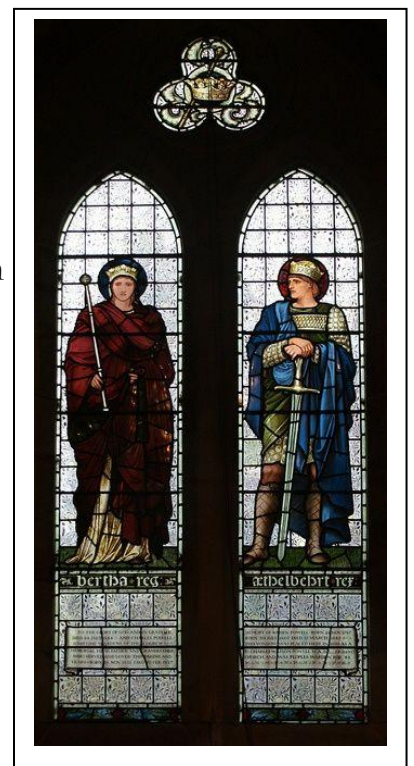
Sheltered of Lancaster: Sheltered is a non-profit in Lancaster, SC with the goal of providing housing, showers, food and other needs for members of our community. Please contact Jamie Miller at 803-287-7443 if you would like to volunteer at one of their events. Christ Church supports this ministry by individual contributions.

Bertha and Ethelbert, Queen and King of Kent, 616

Christianity had been known in Britain among the Celts since the third century, but in the fifth century the southeast was invaded by pagan Anglo-Saxons who drove the Celts north and west into Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. Ethelbert succeeded his father as Saxon king of Kent in 560. He was, according to the Venerable Bede, a fair ruler and the first English King to promulgate a code of law. Brisk cross-channel trade with France exposed Ethelbert to Roman customs and luxuries. His admiration for the Frankish ways led him to marry a French Christian princess, Bertha. Although not a Christian himself, Ethelbert promised Bertha's father that she could practice her faith. Good to his word, he welcomed her chaplain and granted him an old Christian mausoleum to convert into the Church of St. Martin, which still stands today.

In 597, the Roman mission to England under Augustine arrived. When he first heard the Gospel, Ethelbert was cautious and unconvinced. However, his fair-mindedness and hospitality were evident in his welcome to Augustine: "The words and promises you bring are fair enough, but because they are new to us and doubtful, I cannot accept them and forsake those beliefs which I and the whole English race have held so long. But as you have come on a long pilgrimage and are anxious, I perceive, to share with us things which you believe are true and good, we do not wish to do you harm; on the contrary, we receive you hospitably and provide what is necessary for your support; nor do we forbid you to win all you can to your faith and religion by your preaching."

The following Pentecost, Ethelbert was baptized, becoming the first Christian King in England. Though he helped the missionaries and founded cathedrals and churches throughout southeastern England, including Canterbury Cathedral, he never coerced his people, or even his children, into conversion. Bertha's kind and charitable nature and Ethelbert's respect for law and the dignity of individual conscience represent, to this day, some of the best of the English Christian spirit.





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