

HOLY COMMUNION

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 23, 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.*

Priorities: Dear God, guard my heart against the endless craving for more. Help me find contentment beyond possessions. Help me to redirect my focus to seek Your kingdom and righteousness above all else. May my life reflect Your purpose and fulfillment. 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 “Morning Has Broken” (Bunessan)

Larry Visser

(All stand.)

1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart, a - wak - ing, cries,
 2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:
 3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heaven is known
 4 Ye na - tions of man - kind, in this your con - cord find:
 5 Sing, suns and stars of space, sing, ye that see his face,

1 may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning sha - dows fall,
 2 may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer
 3 than, Je - sus Christ be praised! There to the e - ter - nal Word
 4 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round
 5 sing, Je - sus Christ be praised! God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,

1 this rings my cur - few call, may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 2 hath none that can com - pare with: Je - sus Christ be praised!
 3 the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 4 ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 5 both now and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

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.**

D/A Em/A D A D/A

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc-tu - ar - y, pure and

G Em7 D A F#m/A Em/A D

ho - ly, tried and true; with thanks-giv - ing, I'll be a

A G Em7 A7 D

liv - ing sanc-tu - ar - y for You.

Words and Music: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs

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Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

Announcements

A Reading from Isaiah 51:1–6

(Lector)

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be for ever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Silence for reflection follows the reading.)

Psalm 138 *(spoken responsively by Lector and People)*

Confitebor tibi

1 I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; *
before the gods I will sing your praise.

**2 I will bow down toward your holy temple
and praise your Name, *
because of your love and faithfulness;**

3 For you have glorified your Name *
and your word above all things.

**4 When I called, you answered me; *
you increased my strength within me.**

5 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O LORD, *
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

**6 They will sing of the ways of the LORD, *
that great is the glory of the LORD.**

7 Though the LORD be high, he cares for the lowly; *
he perceives the haughty from afar.

**8 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; *
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.**

**9 The LORD will make good his purpose for me; *
O LORD, your love endures for ever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.**

(Silence for reflection follows the Psalm.)

A Reading from Romans 12:1–8

(Lector)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Silence for reflection follows the reading.)



(Standing as able)

Sequence Hymn 513

Like the murmur of the dove's song



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's Bo - dy, to the
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the



chal - lenge of her flight, like the vig - or of the
branch - es of the Vine, to the Church in faith as -
cease - less voice of prayer, with the power to love and



wind's rush, like the new flame's ea - ger
sem - bled, to her midst as gift and
wit - ness, with the peace be - yond com -



might: come, _____ Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.
sign: come, _____ Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.
pare: come, _____ Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.

Phrase 1 of each stanza may be sung by one group, with a contrasted group singing phrase 2, and all joining for the final phrase.

The Gospel

Matthew 16:13–20

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

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will

not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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 **Maxine, Rick, Michelle, Helen, Anita Christman*, Kip Carter*, David Ford*, Jim Abercrombie, Ben**

Murphy, Kristen Phillips, Belinda, 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 especially, Nicki Robertson, Ernest Jenkins, and Tric Deaton and those celebrating anniversaries especially, Bud and Carole Smith. We pray for St. Bartholomew's, North Augusta and The Bishops Public Education Initiative. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

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 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,
 4 Mid toil and tri - bu - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war
 5 Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God, the Three in One,



1 she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word:
 2 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
 3 by schi - sms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed;
 4 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for ev - er - more;
 5 and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.



1 from heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 2 one ho - ly Name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 3 yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"
 4 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blessed,
 5 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we



1 with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 2 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
 3 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 4 and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest.
 5 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

(We stand as the offering is presented.)

The Presentation of the Offering

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The people remain standing.

Sursum Corda S-120

The musical notation is arranged in four systems, each with a staff and lyrics below. The first system is for the Celebrant and the People. The second system is for the Celebrant and the People. The third system is for the Celebrant. The fourth system is for the People. The notation includes a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give him thanks and praise.'

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.

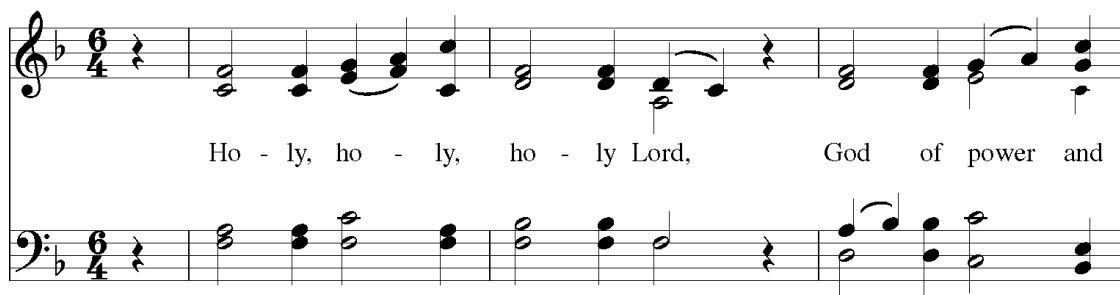
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you. O Lord, Holy Father through Christ our Lord. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

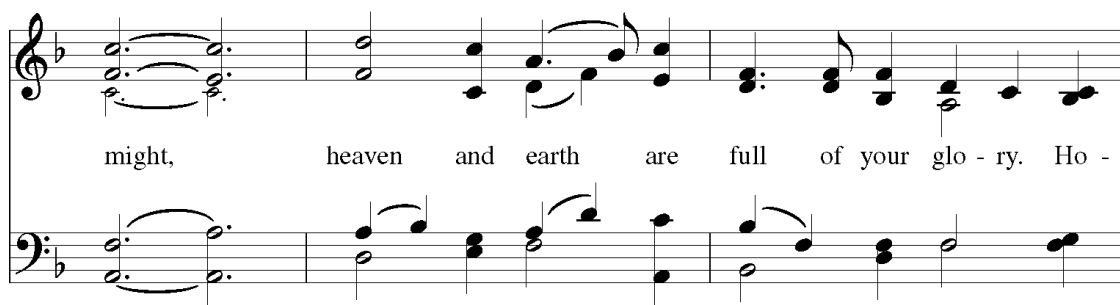
Sanctus

WLP 858

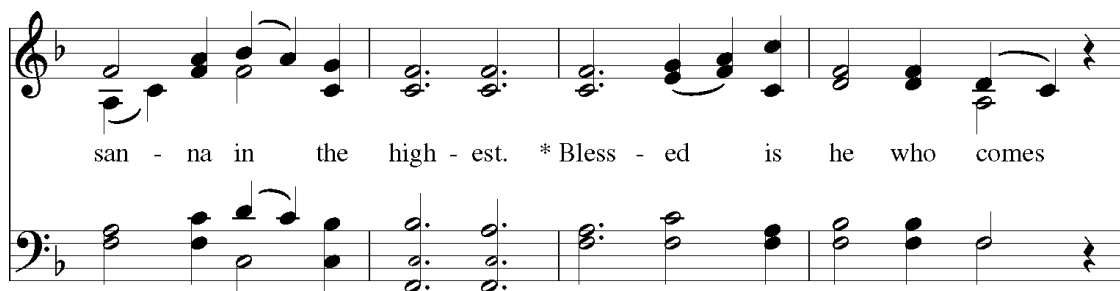
Holy, holy, holy



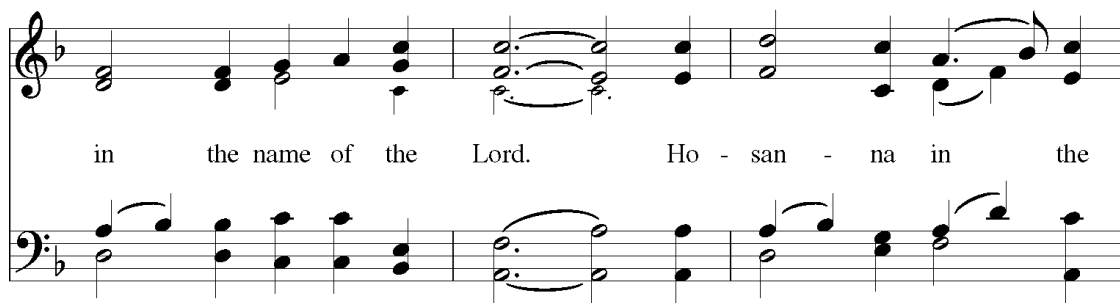
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and



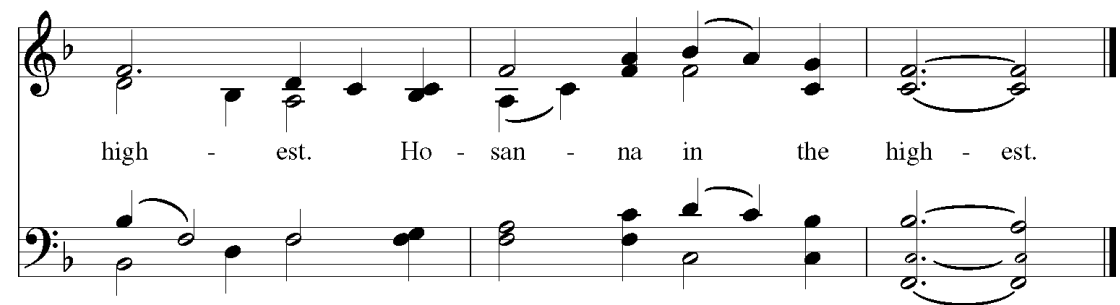
might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



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

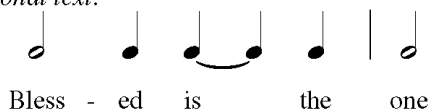


in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



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, The Martyrs of Uganda, 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.



Descant

4 Blest in - hab - it - ants of Zi - on, washed in the Re -

1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, ci - ty
 2 See! the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e -
 3 Round each ha - bi - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and
 4 Blest in - hab - it - ants of Zi - on, washed in the Re -

deem - er's blood! Whom their souls re -

of our God; he whose word can - not be
 ter - nal love, well sup - ply thy sons and
 fire ap - pear for a glo - ry and a
 deem - er's blood! Je - sus, whom their souls re -

ly on, makes them kings and priests to God.

bro - ken formed thee for his own a - bode;
 daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.
 cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.
 ly on, makes them kings and priests to God.

'Tis his love his peo - ple raise o - ver
 on the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake thy
 Who can faint, when such a riv - er ev - er will their
 Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner, light by night, and
 'Tis his love his peo - ple rais - es o - ver self to

self to reign and as priests, his
 sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's walls sur -
 thirst as - suage? Grace which, like the Lord, the
 shade by day, safe they feed up - on the
 reign as kings: and as priests, his sol - emn

sol - emn prais - es each an of - fering brings.
 round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
 giv - er nev - er fails from age to age.
 man - na which he gives them when they pray.
 prais - es each for a thank - of - fering brings.

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 Kip Carter to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for the people of Christ Church.

A love offering for Amethyst Gardner and her soon to arrive new addition to the family is being collected. As many of you know Amethyst grew up in Christ Church and Nicki has been a long-time dedicated member of the congregation. Please donate generously. Please mark your donations accordingly and place in the collection plate or give your donation to one of the following people: Kathy Sistare, Joan Crawford, or Linda Baker. We need all donations by Sunday, September 6th.

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. beginning September 2nd.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

August 25th – Nicki Robertson

August 25th – Ernest Jenkins

August 28th – Tric Deaton

August 28th – Bud and Carole Smith

FINANCIAL REPORT

2026 Pledge and Plate Budgeted: \$100,000.00

Pledge and Plate Budgeted monthly: \$8,333.00

Pledge and Plate Received as of July 31, 2026: \$6,386.90

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)**

Maxine, Rick, Michelle, Helen, Anita Christman*, Kip Carter*, David Ford*, Jim Abercrombie, Ben Murphy, Kristen Phillips, Belinda, 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
Sunday, August 23, 2026	Ernest Jenkins	Ernest Jenkins	Mike Sistare, Jake Wilson & Melton Mayfield	Pam Giardiello & Ernest Jenkins	Linda Baker & Merrio Morton	Sally Higgins

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, August 30, 2026	Linda Baker	Ernest Jenkins	Mike Sistare, Jake Wilson & Melton Mayfield	Nicki Robertson & Kathy Sistare	Linda Baker & Merrio Morton	David Ford

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

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. **Items needed: Men's pants (size 34 and smaller), T-shirts (men/women), underwear (all sizes) men/women, White socks, Gatorade, Sodas, Can food (pop tops only), Soup, Spaghetti, Ravioli, Beanie weenies, Vienna weenies, Hygiene items: Towel, Tooth brush, Deodorant, Shampoo, 2-gallon zip lock bags, Please bring any items to our office. 713 S Main Street Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9am-noon and Monday-Friday 1pm-5pm.**

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**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. **HOPE has served 5,363 clients during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter. This is a 45% increase over the same period last year. They have given away 146,581 pounds of food and given \$89,121 in financial aid. They have 250 volunteers who have donated 4,018 hours of service. Linda Miller delivered 98 pounds of food to HOPE for the month of August.**

**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.

**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.

## The Martyrs of Uganda 1886

On June 3, 1886, thirty-two young men, pages of the court of King Mwanga of Buganda, were burned to death at Namugongo for their refusal to renounce Christianity. In the following months many other Christians throughout the country died by fire or spear for their faith.

These martyrdoms totally changed the dynamic of Christian growth in Uganda. Introduced by a handful of Anglican and Roman Catholic missionaries after 1877, the Christian faith had been preached only to the immediate members of the court, by order of King Mutesa. His successor, Mwanga, became increasingly angry as he realized that the first converts put loyalty to Christ above the traditional loyalty to the king. Martyrdoms began in 1885 (including Bishop Hannington and his Companions: see October 29th). Mwanga first forbade anyone to go near a Christian mission on pain of death, but finding himself unable to cool the ardor of the converts, resolved to wipe out Christianity.

The Namugongo martyrdoms produced a result entirely opposite to Mwanga's intentions. The example of these martyrs, who walked to their death singing hymns and praying for their enemies, so inspired many of the bystanders that they began to seek instruction from the remaining Christians. Within a few years the original handful of converts had multiplied many times and spread far beyond the court. The martyrs had left the indelible impression that Christianity was truly African, not simply a white man's religion. Most of the missionary work was carried out by Africans rather than by white missionaries, and Christianity spread steadily. Uganda is now the most Christian nation in Africa.

Renewed persecution of Christians by a Muslim military dictatorship in the 1970's proved the vitality of the example of the Namugongo martyrs. Among the thousands of new martyrs, both Anglican and Roman Catholic, was Janani Luwum, Archbishop of the (Anglican) Church of Uganda, whose courageous ministry and death inspired not only his countrymen but also Christians throughout the world.





## **Bishop of the Diocese of Upper S. C.**

The Right Reverend Daniel P. Richards

### **Priest**

The Reverend Philip G. Emanuel

### **Parish Musician**

Dana Lee Walters

### **Digital Ministry**

Linda Baker and Wayne Johnson

### **Vestry Members**

Joan Crawford ('26), Pam Giardiello ('27), Ernest Jenkins – Senior Warden ('26),  
Nicki Robertson ('28) and Kathy Sistare – Junior Warden ('28)

### **Treasurer**

Linda Baker

### **Clerk**

Linda Baker

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YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@christepiscopalchurchSC>

**Look for Christ Episcopal Church Lancaster SC on YouTube and subscribe.**

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