

Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

*Christ Church is an active, joyful, transforming, faith community that practices radical welcome.
Together we feed our minds, souls, and bodies with study, worship, and hospitality.
We are a growing fellowship of people who seek to love like Jesus.*



Morning Prayer: Rite Two

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2020 – 10:30 AM

The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin
Bishop of Western North Carolina

Jann Boggs
Senior Warden

Welcome to Christ Episcopal Church

We are delighted God has brought you to this special place.

What do you need to know about worship? Everything you need for your worship today is in the booklet you are holding. Our service is based on the Book of Common Prayer, using music from sources including the Hymnal 1982 and Taizé.

Are you worshiping with us for the first time? We would love to get to know you! Please email our office at ccepisopal@skybest.com with your name and contact information, and let us know if we can call you, answer questions, or pray for you. And know that wherever you are on your journey of faith, there is a place for you at Christ Church.

Newsletter: Sign-up today to receive our electronic newsletter, the weekly *Good News & Notes*. Email the church office at ccepisopal@skybest.com.

We extend special thanks today to:

Jann Boggs, for leading us in worship this morning, and

Laura Davis, for serving as musician and for being so generous with her talents.

Social media: Please join us for online worship by visiting our Facebook page or our YouTube page at Church Episcopal Church – Sparta, North Carolina.

And for more information about Christ Church, please visit our website – christchurchallegghany.com.

The Gathering

Prelude

Processional Hymn #450, vss 1-3

All hail the power of Jesus' Name!

6 Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe, on this ter - res - trial

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' Name! Let an - gels pros - trate
2 Crown him, ye mar - tyrs of our God, who from his al - tar
3 Hail him, the Heir of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did
* 4 Ye heirs of Is - rael's cho - sen race, ye ran - somed of the
* 5 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm - wood and the

ball, to him a - scribe, and

1 fall; bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and
2 call; praise him whose way of pain ye trod, and
3 call, the God in - car - nate, Man di - vine, and
4 fall, hail him who saves you by his grace, and
5 gall, go, spread your tro - phies at his feet, and

crown him Lord of all! to him a -

1 crown him Lord of all! bring forth the roy - al
2 crown him Lord of all! praise him whose way of
3 crown him Lord of all! the God in - car - nate,
4 crown him Lord of all! hail him who saves you
5 crown him Lord of all! go, spread your tro - phies

scribe, and crown him Lord of all!

1 di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
2 pain ye trod, and crown him Lord of all!
3 Man di - vine, and crown him Lord of all!
4 by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
5 at his feet, and crown him Lord of all!

Opening Acclamation

Leader I was glad when they said to me,
People **“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”**

Confession of Sin

Leader Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence.

Leader Most merciful God,
People **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.**

Leader Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Leader Lord, open our lips.
People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

All **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**
Alleluia.

Christ our Passover

Alleluia.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us;*
therefore let us keep the feast,
Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil,*
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. **Alleluia.**

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;*
death no longer has dominion over him.
The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all;*
but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So also consider yourselves dead to sin,*
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ has been raised from the dead,*
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since by a man came death,*
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die,*
so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

Liturgy of the Word

A Reading from Exodus 16:2-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.

Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Search for the LORD and his strength; *
continually seek his face.

Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.

He led out his people with silver and gold; *
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.

Egypt was glad of their going, *
because they were afraid of them.

He spread out a cloud for a covering *
and a fire to give light in the night season.

They asked, and quails appeared, *
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.

He opened the rock, and water flowed, *
so the river ran in the dry places.

For God remembered his holy word *
and Abraham his servant.

So he led forth his people with gladness, *
his chosen with shouts of joy.

He gave his people the lands of the nations, *
and they took the fruit of others' toil,

That they might keep his statutes *
and observe his laws.

Hallelujah!

The Third Song of Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19

Arise, shine, for your light has come, *
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.

For behold, darkness covers the land; *
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.

But over you the Lord will rise, *
and his glory will appear upon you.

Nations will stream to your light,*
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.
Your gates will always be open;*
by day or night they will never be shut.
They will call you, The City of the Lord,*
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
Violence will no more be heard in your land,*
ruin or destruction within your borders.
You will call your walls, Salvation,*
and all your portals, Praise.
The sun will no more be your light by day;*
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.
The Lord will be your everlasting light,*
and your God will be your glory.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Silence.

The Second Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People Thanks be to God.

The Song of Zechariah – Luke 1:68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;*
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior,*
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies,*
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers*
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,*
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear,*
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,*
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation*
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God*
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,*
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the

same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Reflections

Jann Boggs

Silence.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

Leader The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Leader Let us pray,
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Show us your mercy, O Lord;
And grant us your salvation.
Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
Let your people sing with joy.
Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
For only in you can we live in safety.
Lord, keep this nation under your care:
And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
Let your way be known upon earth;
Your saving health among all nations.
Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
Create in us clean hearts, O God;
And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Prayers of the People

Leader: Bound together in Christ in the communion of the Holy Spirit, we pray with one heart and mind to our God, saying:

People: **Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.**

Leader: We pray that the love that flows endlessly between the Father and the Son in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit may renew and deepen the lives of all who follow Jesus and draw the human family all together into your eternal dance;

People: **Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.**

Leader: We pray for the leaders of the Church, and for the leaders of nations, that we, with them, may discern the ways to overcome divisions and mistrust, that all may reflect your unity in every aspect of our common lives.

People: Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.

Leader: We pray that your Abundant Life, seen clearly in the life of Jesus, may endure and flourish as the Holy Spirit enlightens us to a greater understanding of you, ourselves, and all others with whom we share our planet.

People: Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.

Leader: We pray for our families, our communal life and our wider communities, that they may be places of communion and mutual support, which builds us up and strengthens us with your grace and truth. We pray especially for... We give thanks for the gift of community.

People: Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.

Leader: We thank you for our natural world, which you created and deemed very good. Help us, we pray, to do as you have commanded and care for our planet the way you care for us.

People: Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.

Leader: In the power of your Spirit who joins our prayer to Christ's eternal intercession, we pray for the sick, the suffering, those who have died, and all who stand in need, especially...For healing for all the world we pray,

People: Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the earth.

Leader: In an endless outpouring of thanksgiving for your ceaseless joy, we give thanks for... that we may always rejoice in the power of your love.

People: Holy Spirit, you renew the face of the Earth.

Leader: Gracious God, whom Jesus taught us to call Abba, Father, by the inner workings of your Spirit, help us to embrace your grace to deepen our communion with you, give us courage to more and more be signs of your enduring love. This we pray through Jesus Christ, who lives and works with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Collect for Sundays

Leader The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Leader Let us pray,

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect for Peace

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for Mission

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A General Thanksgiving

Please stand, as able, and read in unison.

BCP 836

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. **Amen.**

The Blessing

Leader Let us pray,

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Leader Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Dismissal

Leader May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Postlude

Laura Davis

Coming Lessons

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalm 25:1-8

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

Prayer List

Intercessions: Amy Jones, Ben & Laura Davis, Brenda Weems, Chuck & Sally Besaw, Frank Withrow (Laura Davis' brother-in-law), Jann Boggs, Jean Callison, Jonathan, Julie Ottesen, Laura, Lorene Ramsey, Martha Willie Coleman, Nancy Meredith (Laura Davis' sister), Sheila Pfaender, and Smitty Hughes (Charles Besaw's friend). We also pray for all those affected by the COVID-19 epidemic, those affected by the recent earthquake, those affected by the fires in the West, and the hurricanes in the Gulf area.

Departed:

Birthdays: Louise Law (Sept 25)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:

Schedule

Sunday, September 20 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am – Morning Prayer: Rite Two – via YouTube & Facebook

Sunday, September 27 – The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev. Martha Honaker – via YouTube & Facebook

Announcements

Office and Church Guidelines during extended Phase II of COVID-19:

As of September 4, 2020, the NC Governor has moved North Carolinians into Phase 2.5 of restrictions. This means that the number of individuals that gather either indoors or outdoors has increased, more businesses are able to reopen, and wearing a face mask remains mandatory.

The National and Diocesan offices have not released any updated restrictions to-date but continue to ask that no one come into the church building except administrators, clergy, Parish leaders (Sr Warden, Jr Warden, Treasurer) on a strict as-needed basis, and Altar Guild members who set up for weekly services.

As hard as this is, we want to gently remind all of you that it is safer for everyone if you remain at home and don't come to the church right now. If you are one of the individuals noted above:

You **MUST** wear a face mask when entering the church building, maintain 6 feet of distance from each other, wash your hands regularly and/or use hand sanitizer.

Given the size of the Administrator's Office, we ask that you enter no further than the doorway.

Face masks and hand sanitizer are available, as required, on a table to the right of the parish hall entrance door.

Plans are being made now so when it IS safe to be together again, we'll be able to do that. And as always, we'll keep you posted.

Christ Church Vestry

Christ Episcopal Church

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Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 11:30 am - 3:30 pm

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Cover art: Chickadee in Morning Prayer by Christina M. Vanginkel (Ginkelmier)