

Christ Episcopal Church
Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



Morning Prayer – Rite II
The Third Sunday of Easter
April 19, 2026

The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin
Bishop of Western North Carolina

The Rev. Karla Woggon
Priest-in-Charge

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 worshipping with us for the first time? We would love to get to know you! Please email our office at christchurchspartanc@gmail.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 christchurchspartanc@gmail.com.

Do you need prayer? We have an active prayer ministry here at Christ Church. If prayer would be helpful to you, please fill out a prayer request card (found in the pew back), making sure you include your name and contact information (email and/or phone). We'll include you in our weekly prayers. Just complete the card & put it in the offering plate during the Offertory or share your request with the greeter.

We extend special thanks today to:

Kathy Sugishita for serving as musicians and for being so generous with her talents,

Jim Halsey for opening the Parish Hall and making coffee, and

Cynthia Grant for providing flowers at the altar and refreshments for coffee hour.

Please enter the Sanctuary in silence to respect those who are preparing for worship. Save conversations, whispered or out loud, for outside or Coffee Hour.

Please silence your cell phone, too.

Social media:

For more information about Christ Church, please visit our website – www.christchurchalleglhany.org

Christ Episcopal Church

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Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday – 8:00 – 1:00; works remotely on Wednesdays

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Cover Emmaus by Janet Brooks Gerloff (1992)

The Gathering

Prelude

Kathy Sugishita

Announcements

Nancy Wilson

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #180

He is risen, he is risen!

Opening Acclamation

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it. *Psalm 118:24*

You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. *Acts 1:8*

Please remain standing or kneel, as able.

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

All 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.

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.

Please stand, as able.

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.

Leader Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed: Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

Alleluia.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; *
therefore let us keep the feast,
Not with 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.

Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17

I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.

Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: *
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."

How shall I repay the LORD *
for all the good things he has done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the LORD *
is the death of his servants.

O LORD, I am your servant; *
**I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.**

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people,
In the courts of the LORD'S house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

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.

Please be seated.

Liturgy of the Word

A Reading from Acts 2:14a,36-41

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as able.

Cantemus Domino, The Song of Moses

Canticle 8, BCP p. 85

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted; *
the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.
The Lord is my strength and my refuge; *
the Lord has become my Savior.

This is my God and I will praise him, *
the God of my people and I will exalt him.
The Lord is a mighty warrior; *
Yahweh is his Name.

The Lord shall reign *
for ever and for ever. Alleluia.

Please be seated.

A Reading from 1 Peter 1:17-23

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as able.

The Song of Simeon, *Nunc dimittis, Luke 2:29-32*

Canticle 17, BCP p. 93

Lord, you now have set your servant free *
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations, *
and the glory of your people Israel.

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.

Gospel Hymn #493, vss 1-3

O for a thousand tongues to sing

Please be seated.

Lectio Divina: Luke 24:13-35

Shimmering

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were

with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Presider Here ends the reading.

Circle the word or phrase that shimmers for you

Wondering: What questions do you have about the story? Let your wonder questions pile up without trying to answer them. **I wonder...**

Midrash: Listen for the voices absent in the story or consider the story from a character’s point of view – or let the story go on – what would you say or do.

A Song of Praise, *Benedictus es, Domine*

Canticle 13, BCP p. 90

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; *
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; *
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.
Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #493, vss 4-5

O for a thousand tongues to sing

Please be seated.

Reflection

Patti Phelps

A time of silence following the reflection.

Please stand, as able.

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.

Please remain standing or kneel, as able.

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 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.

The Collects

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching

forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Prayers of the People

Leader Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right Spirit within us. Remind us of the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your love and grace.

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,

Thank you for your mercy.

Comfort and heal 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, especially... *the people of Ukraine and Russia.* We also pray for all who are on our prayer list including... *Antje, Bill, Bob, Bobbie, Brenda, Kelly, Buck, Carl, Carol, Charles, Chris, Denise, Larry, Donna, Mike, Edwin, Gary, Inza, Blair, Janice, JoAnn, Jonathan, Lynn, Ajit, Margaret, Maria, Martha, Raymond, Rita, Angelia, Rod, Louise, Rudy, Susan, Jim, Tom, and Vanita.* We also pray for local neighbors that fear detention and we pray for Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,

Thank you for your mercy.

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 all people, friend and enemy, and serve the common good. We pray especially for the health of the global economy and for all people who are suffering the pain of poverty, war and violence.

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,

Thank you for your mercy.

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. *We pray especially for Celeste.*

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,

Thank you for your mercy.

Open our eyes to see the destruction we cause by our careless consumption; open our ears to hear the groaning of all creation and the cries of your creatures without voice; open our hearts to feel remorse for our unfaithful care of your creation; inspire us to a greater love and wonder for the care of your natural world.

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,

Thank you for your mercy.

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, especially...*in our Anglican community, the Church of the Province of Myanmar; in North Carolina, the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina, and in our Alleghany Community, Crab Creek Primitive Baptist Church.* Please add your own petitions silently or aloud...

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,
Thank you for your mercy.

We thank you for all the blessings of this life, especially... *the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah, our Presiding Bishop, Sean, our Bishop, José, our Priest in charge, Karla, and our Morning Prayer Presider, Patti.*

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,
Thank you for your mercy.

Presider O God, mercifully hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; grant that we may both see and know the things we need to do and that we may also have the grace and courage to do them faithfully, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offertory Music

Kathy Sugishita

Please stand, as able.

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

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.

Recessional Hymn #193

That Easter day

Leader Alleluia. Let us bless the Lord.
 People Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

The Dismissal

Leader The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

Postlude

Kathy Sugishita

Coming Lessons
 Acts 2:42-47
 Psalm 23
 1 Peter 2:19-25
 John 10:1-10

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Bruce Smith	Bruce Smith
Chalice Bearer	Nancy Wilson	Elizabeth Barr Bryant
Lector I	Elizabeth Barr Bryant	Patti Phelps
Lector II	Elizabeth Barr Bryant	Patti Phelps
Prayers of the People	Elizabeth Barr Bryant	Patti Phelps
Greeter/Usher(s)	Mary Lee Joines	John & Jane Franck

Schedule

Sunday, April 19 – The Third Sunday of Easter

10:30 am – Morning Prayer with Patti Phelps

Coffee hour follows the service

Monday, April 20

10:00 am – Vestry meeting

Tuesday, April 21

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Thursday, April 23 – The Office will be closed today

Sunday, April 26 – The Fourth Sunday of Easter

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Martha Honaker

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, April 28

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, May 3 – The Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Canon Augusta Anderson

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, May 5

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, May 10 – The Sixth Sunday of Easter/Mother’s Day

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev Karla Woggon

Coffee hour follows the service

12:00-2:00 pm – Confirm, not Conform confirmation class, BYOL

Tuesday, May 12

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Antje & Bill, Bob Bamberg, Bobbie Clark, Brenda & Kelly Weems, Buck Hunnicutt, Carl & Carol Greer, Charles McKelvy, Chris, Denise & Larry Seckel (travel mercies), Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Edwin (Nancy's brother), Gary Medley, Inza & Blair, Janice Harrison, JoAnn Andrews, Jonathan, Lynn Ellis, Lynn & Ajit, Margaret, Maria Chance, Martha A, Raymond Hindman (Cara Todd's father), Rita Woodruff & Angelia Miller, Rod Pace & Louise Law, Rudy McKnight, Susan & Jim Doss (The Rev), Tom Rush, and Vanita. We also pray for all those impacted by violence & war, our local neighbors that fear detention, Covenant House, and we pray for Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

Departed: Celeste (April 14)

Birthdays: Jeanne Green (April 23)

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings:

Sarah, **Archbishop of Canterbury**, Sean, **Presiding Bishop**, José, **our Bishop**, Karla, **our Priest-in-Charge** and Patti, **our Morning Prayer leader**

In the Anglican Community: The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma)

In the Diocese of WNC: we pray for the Diocese, all her work, learn & lead there

In Alleghany County: Crab Creek Primitive Baptist Church

Announcements

Confirm, not Conform class schedule includes an hour after the Sunday service on May 10, 24, and June 7. *Remember you have homework!* The homework assignment has been printed out and is available on the table in the narthex. As a reminder, this is a BYOL (*bring your own lunch*) event so if you need more than the coffee hour refreshments, bring it with you to the class.

Prayer requests & updates We email weekly prayer requests and updates on Monday mornings. If you have a **prayer request**, please email it to Mary Lee *no later than noon the Sunday prior* (if possible). And more importantly, if you have a **prayer update** about someone we've been praying for, please relay that information as soon as possible. We try to share appropriate details and only those that the requester is comfortable with. Occasionally, you'll see a first name or initials and nothing else – that's by request and we honor that. If you're not receiving the prayer requests & updates and would like to join us in prayer, just send a note to Mary Lee at christchurchspartanc@gmail.com.

If you have a pastoral need or would like home communion or a visit when you are sick or homebound, please contact Karla at priest.christchurchspartanc@gmail.com or 828.638.0533.

Centering Prayer group meets on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm and the Book Discussion group meets on Tuesdays at 2:00 pm. The book group is currently reading Richard Rohr's book, *Falling Upwards*. All are welcome!

The Prayer Shawls & Lap Blankets are available for you to give someone who needs our Christ Church love and support. *For more information, read the GNN.*

Monthly Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour sign-ups:

Date	Altar Flowers	Coffee Guild	Coffee Hour
April 19	Cynthia Grant	Jim Halsey	Cynthia Grant
April 26		John Franck	Ella Wren
May 3			
May 10	Mary Lee Joines		Mary Lee Joines