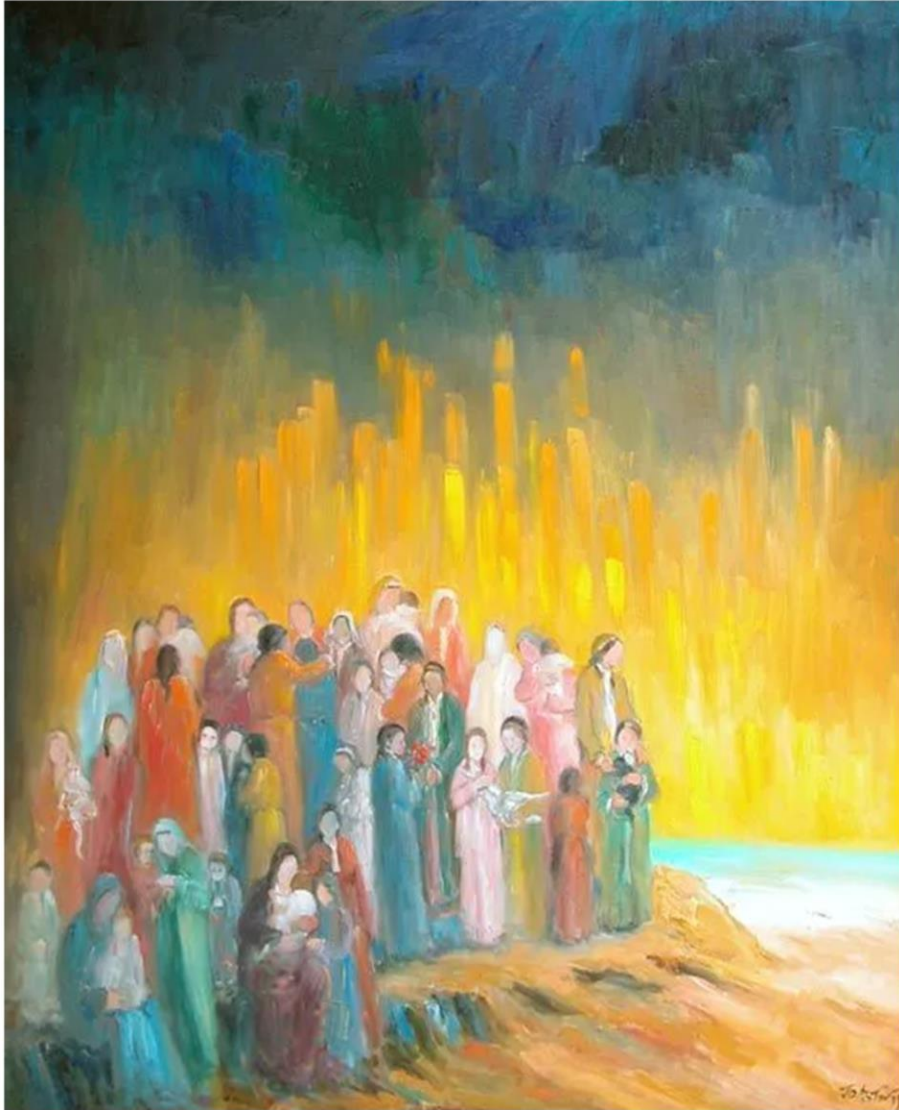


Christ Episcopal Church

Sparta, NC

A home to all sharing God's unconditional love.



Pentecost Sunday

May 24, 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:

Jonathan Halsey for serving as musician and for being so generous with his talents,

Jim Halsey for opening the Parish Hall and making coffee,

Jeanne Green for providing coffee hour refreshments, and

Bette McGee Pentecost Flower Fund for providing the beautiful flowers at the altar.

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.

Christ Episcopal Church

2543 US Highway 21 South

PO Box 1866

Sparta, North Carolina 28675

Office: 336.372.7983

Priest cell: 828.638.0533

Email: christchurchspartanc@gmail.com (NEW)

Priest Email: priest.christchurchspartanc@gmail.com

Website: www.christchurchalleglhany.org

Online giving link: <https://onrealm.org/CCEpiscopal/give/now>

Office hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Music used by permission CCLI License #11138616

Cover art: Descent of the Holy Spirit by Joseph Matar

The Gathering

Prelude

Jonathan Halsey

Announcements

Frank Hazard

Please stand, as able.

Processional Hymn #506

Praise the Spirit in creation

Remain standing, as able.

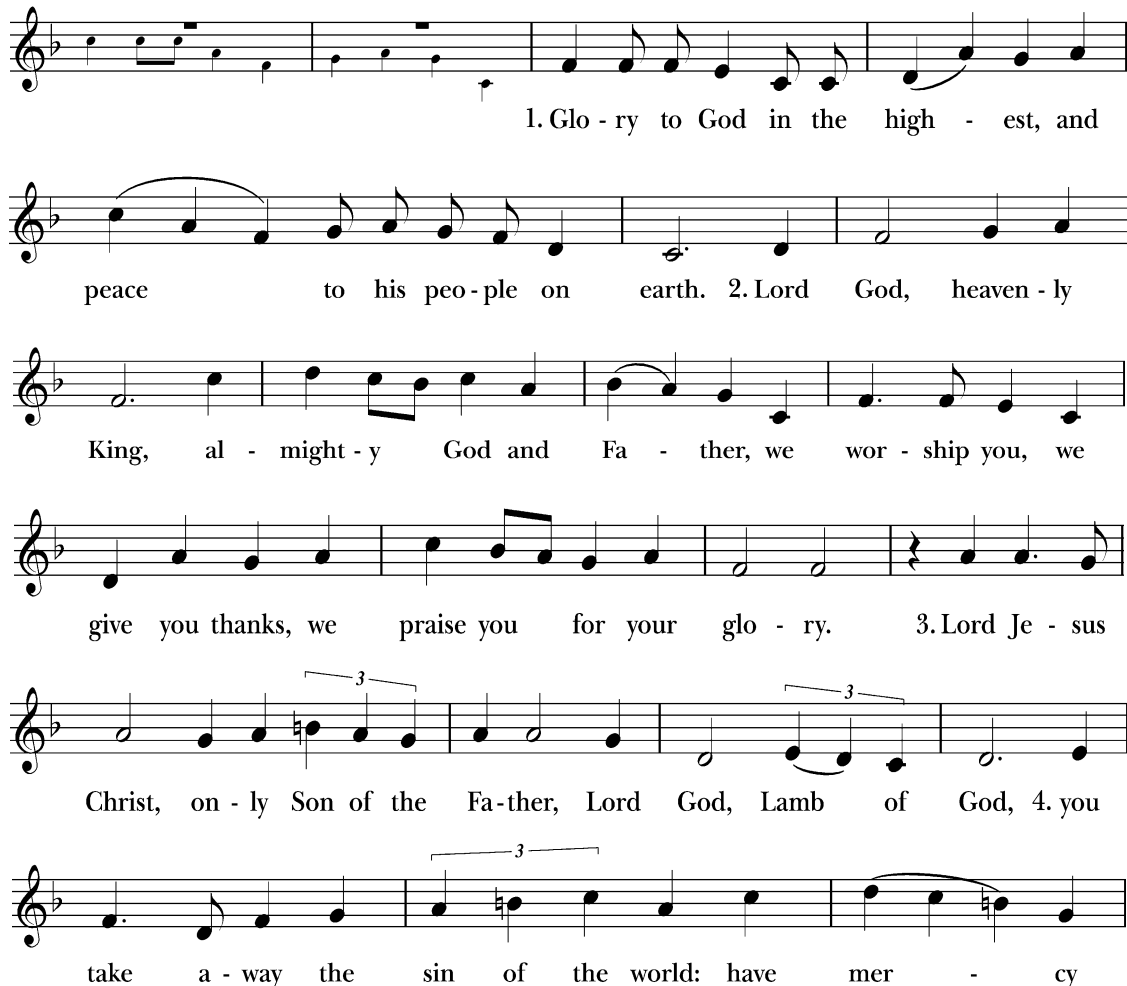
Opening Acclamation

Presider Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Presider: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria: S280 *(sung by all)*



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy

on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Collect

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray,

O God, who on this day taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: A reading from Numbers 11:24-30

Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous

for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!" And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response: A reading from Psalm 104:25-35, 37

O LORD, how manifold are your works! *

**in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

Yonder is the great and wide sea
with its living things too many to number, *

creatures both small and great.

There move the ships,
and there is that Leviathan, *

which you have made for the sport of it.

All of them look to you *

to give them their food in due season.

You give it to them; they gather it; *

you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

You hide your face, and they are terrified; *

**you take away their breath,
and they die and return to their dust.**

You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; *

and so you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the LORD endure for ever; *

may the LORD rejoice in all his works.

He looks at the earth and it trembles; *

he touches the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; *

I will praise my God while I have my being.

May these words of mine please him; *

I will rejoice in the LORD.

Bless the LORD, O my soul. *

Hallelujah!

The Second Reading: A reading from Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs-- in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

`In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

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

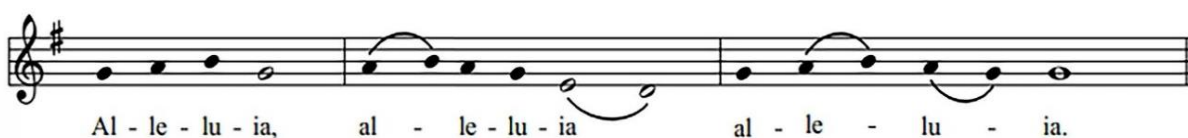
People Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as able.

Gospel Hymn #510

Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove

Proulx Alleluia



Please remain standing, as able.

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

People 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.

Presider Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Presider Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

Presider Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection by being an Easter people; people who claim new life out of every death and new hope out of every defeat. We pray as we live, through Jesus the risen one, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Renewal of Baptismal Covenant Prayers

Presider Let us now pray for all who have renewed our Baptismal Covenant.

Leader Deliver us, O Lord, from the ways we fall short of God's hope for the human family.

People May we follow Jesus into wholeness.

Leader Open our hearts to your grace and truth.

People May we see Christ in all people.

Leader Fill us with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People May we be co-creators with you in your world.

Leader Keep us in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People May we live our faith in the world and in our places of worship.

Leader Teach us to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People Inspire us to greater joy.

Leader Give us courage to witness to your love.

People **Make us instruments of your hope and truth.**

Leader Bring us to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People **May we love others as you love us.**

Leader Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. *Please add your own petitions silently or aloud...*

Presider Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Presider blesses the water, first saying,

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Presider We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Presider will move throughout the people, sprinkling the congregation with the Baptismal Water.

The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please greet one another in a way that is comfortable as a sign of our participation in Christ's reconciling work in the world.

Please be seated.

Offertory Music

Jonathan Halsey

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 Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C, BCP 369

Presider The Lord be with you.

All And also 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 God thanks and praise.

Presider God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People Glory to you for ever and ever.

Presider At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People By your will they were created and have their being.

Presider From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Presider Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

**People By his blood, he reconciled us.
By his wounds, we are healed.**

Presider And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus: 129 *(sung by all)*



might, hea - ven 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.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**People We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Sarah, Rebekah and Leah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priests, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

The Lord's Prayer

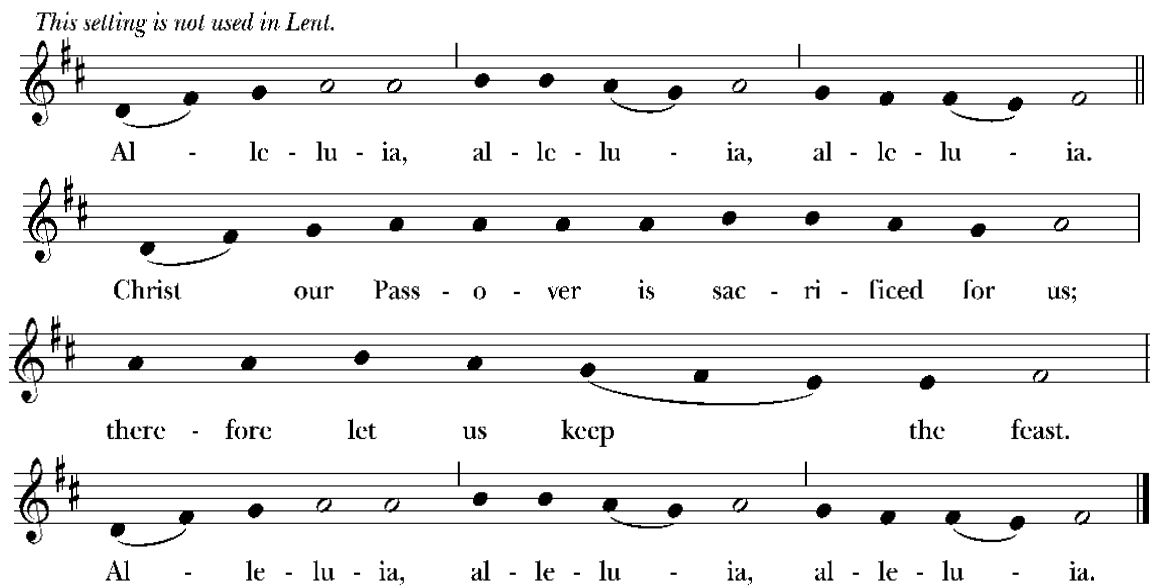
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction: S154 (*sung by all*)

This setting is not used in Lent.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

*All who seek God and are drawn to Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table.
If you are gluten allergic, please ask for a rice wafer at the distribution.*

Please be seated.

Communion Music

Jonathan Halsey

Surely the Presence of the Lord

*Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace,
I can hear the brush of angels' wings,
I see glory on each face.
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.*

Please stand or kneel, as able.

Prayer after Communion

Presider Let us pray,

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

The Rev Karla Woggon

Please stand, as able.

Recessional Hymn #511

Holy Spirit, ever living

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Postlude

Jonathan Halsey

Coming Lessons

Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a
Psalm 8 or Canticle 13 or 2
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

Prayer List

Intercessions:

Aaron Decker (Janice Harrison's grandson), Antje & Bill, Betty, Bob Bamberg, Bobbie Clark, Brenda Weems, Buck Hunnicutt, Carl & Carol Greer, Charles McKelvy, Chris, Cliff's mother, Cynthia Grant, Donna & Mike Hohnstine, Edwin, Gary Medley, Inza & Blair, Janice Harrison, Jonathan, Laura Davis, 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), Terry & Bess, Tyler & Cindy, and Vanita. We also pray for all those impacted by violence & war, our local neighbors that fear detention, and we pray for Christ Church, its leaders & ministry teams.

Departed:

Birthdays:

Wedding Anniversaries & Thanksgivings: Patti & Frank Phelps (May 26)

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

In the Anglican Community: The Episcopal Church in the Philippines

In the Diocese of WNC: Ascension in Hickory

In Alleghany County: Friendship Independent Baptist Church

The following people are assisting with the services

Role	This Sunday	Next Sunday
Altar Guild	Jane Franck	Jane Franck
Chalice Bearer	Nancy Wilson	Jeanne Green
Lector I	Geoff Jones	Jonathan Halsey
Lector II	Geoff Jones	Jonathan Halsey
Prayers of the People	Geoff Jones	Jonathan Halsey
Greeter/Usher(s)	Cynthia Grant	John & Jane Franck

Schedule

Sunday, May 24 – Pentecost Sunday

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

Coffee hour follows the service

12:00-1:30 pm – the LAST Confirm, not Conform confirmation class, BYOL

Monday, May 25 – the Office will be CLOSED for the Memorial Day holiday

Tuesday, May 26

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, May 31 – Trinity Sunday

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rev George Greer

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, June 2

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, June 7 – The Second Sunday after Pentecost

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

Coffee hour follows the service

Tuesday, June 9

1:00 pm – Centering Prayer group

2:00 pm – Book Discussion group

Sunday, June 14 – The Third Sunday after Pentecost & the bishop's visit

10:30 am – Holy Eucharist with The Rt Rev José McLoughlin & The Rev Karla Woggon

Spring into Summer Lunch follows the service

Announcements

The LAST Confirm, not Conform class is TODAY Sunday, May 24, 12:00-1:00 pm; BYOL.

The office will be closed tomorrow, Monday, May 25th for the Memorial Day holiday.

The Bishop's visit is fast approaching! Have you signed up to bring something for our Spring into Summer Lunch? We've put up flyers telling you what we'll need AND we've got a sign-up sheet on the information table. While you're there signing up to bring something on the 14th, add your name to bring coffee hour refreshments one Sunday or flowers for the altar. We need your help!

Don't we have a picnic in June? Yes. We have traditionally held the picnic in June but since we'll be having lunch with the Bishop on June 14th, the Vestry opted to move the picnic to **Sunday, Aug 9th. Save that date!** More will be shared in the future.

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.*

The first Sunday of the month, we set aside to collect for our local food closet, Solid Rock Food Closet (SRFC). You can share non-perishable food, personal care items (most in need right now!), toilet paper, laundry detergent, and/or sweet individually-wrapped treats for the Summer Backpack Pals Program. For more information, make sure you read the *Good News & Notes* (GNN). All donated items can be put in the red wagon in the narthex and they'll be delivered the following week. **We also accept and encourage money gifts on this Sunday.** If you opt to give cash, use an offering envelope (in the pew back) and make sure to write SRFC on it. If you write a check, make sure you write SRFC on the memo line. Every gift helps so give as generously as you're able!

Monthly Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour sign-ups:

Date	Altar Flowers	Coffee Guild	Coffee Hour
May 24	<i>Bette McGee Pentecost Flower Fund</i>	Jim Halsey	Jeanne Green
May 31	Jeanne Green	Jim Halsey	Barbara Halsey
June 7	Mary Lee Joines	Marybeth Lentz	Cynthia Grant

June 14		Marybeth Lentz	<i>Spring into Summer lunch</i>
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