

ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA



APRIL 28, 2024
THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

WELCOME!

We are so glad that you are here to share in worship of the Living God.

Restrooms are located in the hallway beyond the Foyer.

A nursery is available for children up to age five and is in the hallway beyond the Parish Hall.

BCP page numbers refer to the red *Book of Common Prayer*. Hymn numbers refer to the blue *Hymnal, 1982*. Note that 'S' numbers refer to service music and are located at the beginning of the hymnal.

Please silence all electronic devices.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

10:10 AM

A prayerful silence begins at 10:00 AM as the bells ring the hour.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN 379

God is love, let heaven adore him

Abbot's Leigh

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 355

Celebrant

Al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en.

People

The Lord is risen indeed. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Celebrant prays

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.

A - men.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

S 278

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and

peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -

might - y 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

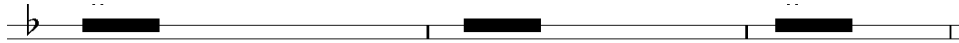
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the

Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of

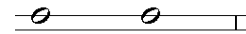
God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY



The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; 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.



A - men.

The people are seated for the reading of the lessons from sacred scripture.

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

- ²⁴ My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- ²⁵ The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"
- ²⁶ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- ²⁷ For kingship belongs to the LORD; *
he rules over the nations.
- ²⁸ To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- ²⁹ My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.
- ³⁰ They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

THE SECOND LESSON

First John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Andrew J. Hege

A few moments of silence for reflection follow the homily.

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

from *Common Worship*

The Leader and People pray responsively.

In joy and hope let us pray to our God.

That our risen Saviour may fill us and the whole Church with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection.

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter.

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That God may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love.

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That he may provide for those who lack food, work or shelter.

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That by his power war and famine may cease through all the world.

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak and the dying, to comfort and strengthen them in their affliction.

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That, according to his promises, all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be raised on the last day.

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection.

we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

The people add their own petitions. The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People exchange a sign of peace.

WELCOME & PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

HYMN 51

We the Lord's people, heart and voice uniting

Decatur Place

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts. *People* 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.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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

S 128

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.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

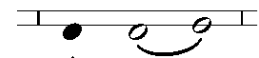
The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.

People
A-men.



THE LORD'S PRAYER (Contemporary)

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now 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.**

The consecrated bread is broken; the Cantor and People then sing,

This setting is not used in Lent.

Cantor

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

All

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us

All

keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Facing the people, the Celebrant says an invitation to Communion.

MINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized persons, regardless of Christian tradition, are welcome and invited to receive Communion. To receive the sacrament, stand or kneel to receive the bread in the palm of your outstretched hands. Receive the wine that follows either by drinking from the cup or by retaining the wafer to dip lightly into the cup. If you do not wish to receive Communion, your arms over your chest as a sign to the priest, who will offer a blessing. Gluten free wafers are available.

For those unable to receive the sacrament this day, we offer this prayer:

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, in thanksgiving for your resurrection, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

MUSIC AT THE COMMUNION

HYMN 487

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life

The Call

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

The Celebrant and people say together,

**God of abundance,
you have fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us
with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth
in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue forever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

*The Celebrant announces God's blessing and the people respond,
Amen.*

HYMN 182

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing

Truro

THE DISMISSAL

*The Celebrant proclaims the dismissal, and the people respond,
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

LEADERS IN THE LITURGY

The Reverend Andrew J. Hege
Celebrant and Preacher

Marc Longlois
Guest Organist

Thomas McNeil
Cantor

Will Postlethwait
Crucifer

Ryan Postlethwait, Lindsey Postlethwait
Eucharistic Ministers

Mike Austell, JoAnn Hallmark, Ham Wilson
Lectors

ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Holy Eucharist	8:00AM
Christian Formation	9:00AM
Holy Eucharist	10:10AM

MID-WEEK SERVICES

Monday – Friday	Morning Prayer	8:30AM
Wednesday	Holy Eucharist	12:00PM

PARISH STAFF

The Reverend Andrew J. Hege	Rector
The Reverend Samuel V. Tallman	Assisting Clergy
The Right Reverend J. Gary Gloster	Assisting Clergy
Dr. James Bumgardner	Organist/Choirmaster
Lindsey Herring	Director of Formation & Communications
Michael Marshall	Director of Administration & Finance
Bill Devereux	Facilities Manager

THE VESTRY

2024	2025	2026
Leslie Billingsly	Mike Austell, Sr. Warden	Marshall Culp, Jr. Warden
Joe Doswell	Michelle Curry	Lynn Searfoss
Buddy Fore	Burt Mulford	Jim Snow
	Sue Sweeting	Jill Storelli

Amanda White, Treasurer
Elizabeth Sudderth, Clerk

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