

# St. Christopher's at the Crossroads Episcopal Church



The Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright, Bishop  
The Rt. Rev. Don A. Wimberly, Assisting Bishop  
The Rt. Rev. Paul E. Lambert, Assisting Bishop  
The Rev. Shirley Porter, Rector

**The Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
May 16, 2021

Welcome to St. Christopher's!

By direction of the Bishop, we must observe the following restrictions:

- If you have a fever or feel ill, do not enter the church.
- We require people who are not members of a family group to maintain at least 6 feet distance from others.
- If you haven't already registered with us, we will obtain contact information from you for contact tracing.
- Enter the church through the main aisle; exit through the doors at the courtyard.
- You must wear a mask throughout the service. Exception: briefly as you consume the host.
- When the service is over, please exit the church immediately.

LEVAS 161

*“Go preach my gospel,” saith the Lord,  
“Bid the whole earth my grace receive,  
Explain to them my sacred word,  
Bid them believe, obey, and live.”*

*“I’ll make my great commission known,  
And ye shall prove my gospel true  
By all the works that I have done,  
And all the wonders ye shall do.”*

*“Go heal the sick, go raise the dead,  
Go cast out devils in my name.  
Nor let my prophets be afraid,  
Though man reproach, and will blaspheme.”*

*“While thus ye follow my commands,  
I’m with you till the world shall end.  
All pow’r is trusted in my hands;  
I can destroy, and can defend.”*

*He spake and light shone round His head,  
On a bright cloud to heav’n He rode.  
They to the farthest nation spread  
The grace of their ascended God.*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.*

*Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;*

*receive our prayer.*

*For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. ***Amen.***

### **A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles [1:15-17, 21-26]**

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, “Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* ***Thanks be to God.***

## Psalm 1

### *Beatus vir qui non abiit*

- 1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, \*  
nor lingered in the way of sinners,  
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- 2 Their delight is in the law of the LORD, \*  
and they meditate on his law day and night.
- 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; \*  
everything they do shall prosper.
- 4 It is not so with the wicked; \*  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, \*  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- 6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, \*  
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

### **A Reading from the first letter of John [5:9-13]**

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

*Lector*     The Word of the Lord.

*People*     ***Thanks be to God.***

### **The Gospel**

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

***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

## John 17:6-19

Jesus prayed for his disciples, “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon

Rev. Shirley Porter

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 St. Christopher's

### The Prayers of the People

Let us pray to God, who alone makes us dwell in safety:

For the Church, that it may not grow weary of proclaiming the gospel of Christ and serve as beacon of hope to a suffering world. We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Robert, Don, and Paul our Bishops, Shirley our priest, and all who minister in your name.

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For all who are affected by coronavirus, through illness or isolation or anxiety, that they may find relief and recovery:

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For those who are guiding our nation at this time, and shaping national policies, that they may make wise decisions and uphold the dignity of our most vulnerable communities, especially immigrants and persons of color:

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers, that through their skill and insights many will be restored to health; and for those working to develop, distribute and improved vaccines, treatments, and improved measures to reduce the spread of the virus:

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For workers, including warehouse, grocery and delivery workers, and those who harvest and process our food whom we often ignore, and who are now at risk: that employers and policy makers may provide for their safety and security,

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the vulnerable, those born and not yet born, and the fearful, for the gravely ill and the dying, that they may know your comfort and peace:

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

For all who have died, especially for those in this time who have died alone, that they may be held in the company of all your saints, and for those who mourn loved ones they have not been able to accompany in their last hours.

Lord, hear us,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God. Merciful Father,

***accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.***

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

***Amen.***

*Celebrant*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*          ***And also with you.***

*The Exchange of the Peace will be touch free and while maintaining at least six feet of distance (waving, bowing, etc.)*



## The Holy Communion

### Eucharistic Prayer A (Page 361)

The Lord be with you.

*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 him thanks and praise.*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord. After his glorious resurrection he openly appeared to his disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven, to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory. 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:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

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:

*Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.*

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. *AMEN.*

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

*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.*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

*In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, 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.*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Come as you are, become what you receive.

*The Bishop has suspended the use of the common cup during the pandemic, so we will only distribute the bread. The Episcopal Church believes that receiving the bread alone is full reception of both the Body and Blood of Christ. The ministers will pass among you and provide you the bread.*

### **Prayer after Receiving**

*Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food in the name of Jesus; 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.*

May the risen Christ who has passed into the heavens clothe you with power from on high and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

### **Sending Forth**

*Hymn 460*

*Alleluia! sing to Jesus!  
his the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph,  
his the victory alone;  
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion  
thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus out of every nation  
hath redeemed us by his blood.*

*Alleluia! bread of Heaven,  
Thou on earth our food, our stay!  
Alleluia! here the sinful  
flee to thee from day to day:  
Intercessor, friend of sinners,  
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,  
where the songs of all the sinless  
sweep across the crystal sea.*

*Alleluia! King eternal,  
thee the Lord of lords we own:  
Alleluia! born of Mary,  
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:*

*thou within the veil hast entered,  
robed in flesh, our great High Priest:  
thou on earth both Priest and Victim  
in the eucharistic feast.*

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