

**ST. MARY OF THE HILLS**  
**EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**10:10 AM**  
**APRIL 26, 2026**

## **WELCOME!**

We are 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.

Please silence all electronic devices.

“BCP” page numbers refer to the red *Book of Common Prayer* found in the pew rack in front of you. Hymn numbers refer to the blue *Hymnal, 1982* also found in the pew rack. Note that ‘S’ numbers refer to service music and are located at the beginning of the hymnal.

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

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY**

**WELCOME & PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

*(All stand as able.)*

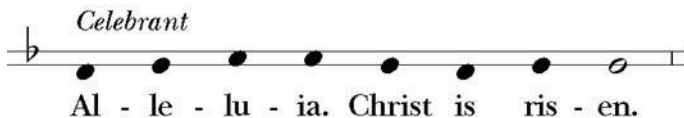
**HYMN 377**

*Old 100th*

All people that on earth do dwell

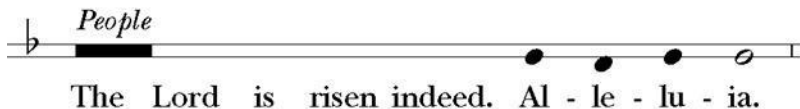
**THE EASTER ACCLAMATION**

*Celebrant*



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

*People*



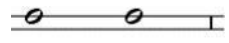
The Lord is risen indeed. Al - le - lu - ia.

**COLLECT FOR PURITY**

BCP 355

*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.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, 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 2: 42-47**

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

*Lector*      The Word of the Lord.  
*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 23

*Dominus, regit me*

Chant: Hilton Stewart

*The psalm is sung by the choir.*

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd:  
therefore can I lack nothing.

<sup>2</sup> He shall feed me in a green pasture:  
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.

<sup>3</sup> He shall convert my soul:  
and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:  
For thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me:  
thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.

<sup>6</sup> But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

## THE SECOND LESSON

## 1 Peter 2:19-25

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

*Lector*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand to sing the hymn and receive the Gospel.*

**HYMN 334**

*Alles ist un Gottes seggen*

Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

**John 10: 1-10**

*Gospeler*      The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

Jesus said, “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

*Gospeler*      The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*      **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

**THE HOMILY**

The Rev. Rick Lawler

*A few moments of silence for reflection follow the homily.*

## THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

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 THE PEOPLE

from *Common Worship*

*The Leader and People pray responsively.*

In joy and hope let us pray to our God.  
*A period of silence follows.*

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.*

*People*      **AMEN.**

## **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.*



*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 people stand or kneel.)*

*The Celebrant continues the prayer, recalling God's activity in our salvation history and the institution of the Lord's Supper, and saying,*

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

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

*The celebrant continues with the invocation of the Holy Spirit.*

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.



**A - men.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(Contemporary)*

BCP 364

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.**


**FRACTION ANTHEM**

*The celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*Then may be sung:*


*This setting is not used in Lent.*

*Cantor*



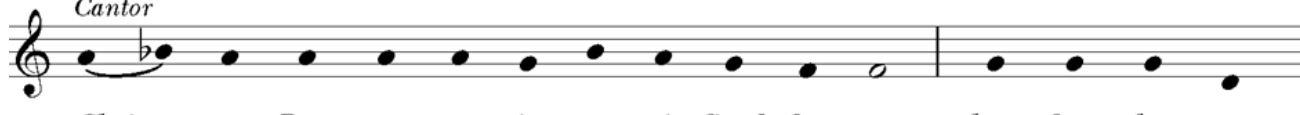
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*All*



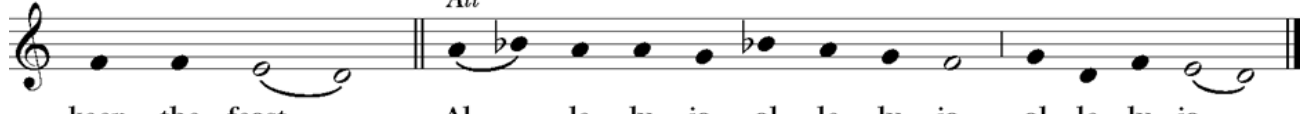
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*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 the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*and may add*

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## MINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*We welcome to communion all who have been baptized in any Christian tradition. To receive the sacrament, extend your hands so that the priest may place the bread in the palm of your outstretched hands. Gluten free wafers are available. For those who desire to receive the wine that follows, guide the chalice toward your lips to drink from the cup. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest as a sign to the priest.*

*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 the promised gift of 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**

Antiphon *Ego sum pastor bonus*

*All join to sing ablutions hymn.*

## **HYMN 645**

*St Columba*

The King of love my shepherd is

## **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.*

*All stand to sing the dismissal hymn.*

## **HYMN 495**

*In Babilone*

Hail, thou once despised Jesus

## **THE DISMISSAL**

*Celebrant* Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

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

## **ORGAN VOLUNTARY**

The setting of the Mass Ordinary is by William Mathias (1934-1992).

### **LEADERS IN TODAY'S LITURGY**

The Reverend Rick Lawler, celebrant and homilist

Dr. James Baumgardner, organist and choirmaster

Trey Stauffer, cantor

Will Postlethwait, crucifer

Ryan and Lindsey Postlethwait, chalice ministers

Susie Greene, Peter Purcell and Lisa Kaufman, lectors





# ST. MARY OF THE HILLS

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828.295.7323

## Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9 am to 4 pm | Friday: 9 am-noon

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Holy Eucharist: 8 am | Christian Formation: 9 am | Holy Eucharist: 10:10 am

## MIDWEEK SERVICES

Monday – Friday Morning Prayer: 8:30 am | Wednesday Holy Eucharist: Noon

## 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 | Director of Music, Choirmaster/Organist  
Michael Marshall | Director of Administration & Finance  
Bill Devereux | Director of Hospitality & Facilities  
Malea McAllister | Christian Formation Coordinator  
Michelle Curry | Verger

## VESTRY

**2026:** Lynn Searfoss, Clerk | Jim Snow | Jill Storelli  
**2027:** Bob Amos | Mike Matthews, Jr. Warden | Bob Rhoads | Luba Skibo  
**2028:** Richard Murphy | Peter Purcell, Sr. Warden | Dale Marie Sandusky

Amanda White, Treasurer