

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



**THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**10:10 AM**  
**May 10, 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.)*

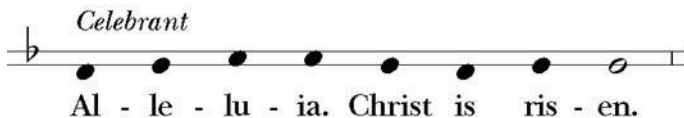
**HYMN 394**

*Wilderness*

Creating God, your fingers trace

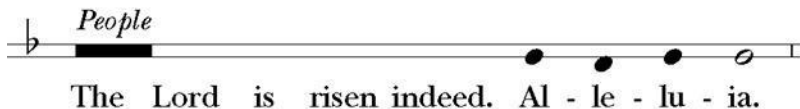
**THE EASTER ACCLAMATION**

*Celebrant*



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

*People*



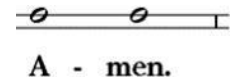
The Lord is risen indeed. Al - le - lu - ia.

**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



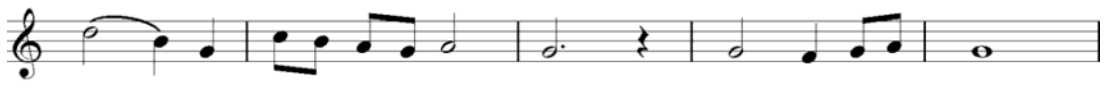
1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and



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



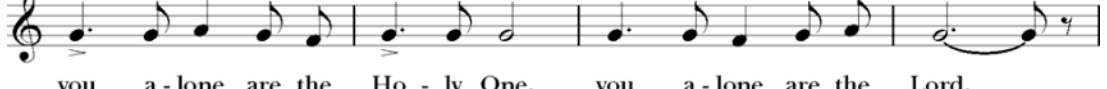
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



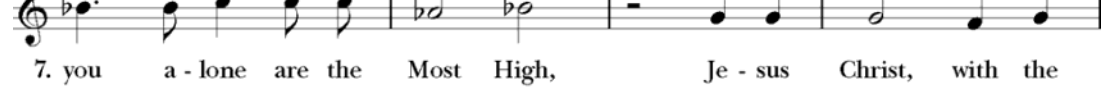
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



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, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and 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 17:22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

*Lector*        **The Word of the Lord.**

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 66: 7-18

*Jubilate Deo*

*The Psalm is sung by the choir.*

7 Bless our God, you peoples; \*  
make the voice of his praise to be heard;

8 Who holds our souls in life, \*  
and will not allow our feet to slip.

9 For you, O God, have proved us; \*  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

10 You brought us into the snare; \*  
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

11 You let enemies ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and water; \*  
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings  
and will pay you my vows, \*  
which I promised with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts  
with the smoke of rams; \*  
I will give you oxen and goats.

14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, \*  
and I will tell you what he has done for me.

15 I called out to him with my mouth, \*  
and his praise was on my tongue.

16 If I had found evil in my heart, \*  
the Lord would not have heard me;

17 But in truth God has heard me; \*  
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, \*  
nor withheld his love from me.

## THE SECOND LESSON

## 1 Peter 3: 13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good

conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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

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

## **HYMN 292**

*Kingsfold*

O Jesus, crowned with all renown

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL**

**John 14:15-21**

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

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

*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.*

## 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.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### THE OFFERTORY

Antiphon *Benedicite, gentes*

Anthem *Regina Coeli*

Christobal Morales (1500-1553)


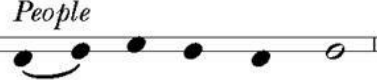
Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia:



for he whom you were worthy to bear has risen as he promised, alleluia:


pray for us to God, alleluia.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Eucharistic Prayer A*)

BCP 361

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

*Celebrant*  *People*   
Lift up your hearts. 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 continues the prayer and concludes the preface, saying,*

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

*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.*

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**



The musical score is written on five staves of music. The lyrics are: 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, the institution of the Lord's Supper, and inviting the people to join in 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**

*After breaking the consecrated bread, the Celebrant and People sing responsively,*

*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 *Non vos relinquam orphanos*

*All join to sing the hymn*

### HYMN 398

*Forest Green*

I sing the almighty power of God

## 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 hymn.*

### HYMN 400, verses 1, 4, 5, 7

*Lasst uns erfreuen*

All creatures of our God and King

## THE DISMISSAL

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

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

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

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

LEADERS IN TODAY'S LITURGY

The Rev. Rick Lawler, celebrant and homilist

Dr. James Bumgardner, choirmaster/organist

John Lynch, cantor

Hannah Reule, crucifer

Peter Purcell and Amanda White, chalice ministers

Lisa Kaufman, Grayson Milholin and Billie Rogers, 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

Dr. James Bumgardner | Director of Music & Choirmaster/Organist

Michael Marshall | Director of Administration & Finance

Bill Devereux | Director of Hospitality & Facilities

Malia 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