

ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA



THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 17, 2020

MORNING PRAYER

RITE II

Log-in via Zoom here –
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86562018937>

*A prayerful silence precedes the service.
The tower bells toll the hour.*

THE OPENING SENTENCES

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Colossians 3:1

THE INVITATORY

BCP 80

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Officiant and People

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Alleluia.

1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Romans 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

Alleluia.

**Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; *
therefore let us keep the feast,
Not with old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, *
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.**

**Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; *
death no longer has dominion over him.
The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; *
but the life he lives, he lives to God.
So also consider yourselves dead to sin, *
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.**

**Christ has been raised from the dead, *
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since by a man came death, *
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die, *
so in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.**

THE PSALTER

Psalm 66: 7-18

The Officiant and People read responsively by whole verse, pausing at the asterisks.

- 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.**

At the end of the Psalms is sung or said

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

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.**

CANTICLE 12

BCP 88

A Song of Creation
Song of the Three Young Men, 35-65

Invocation

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

The Earth and its Creatures

Let the earth glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills,
and all that grows upon the earth, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, *
O whales and all that move in the waters.
All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, *
and all you flocks and herds.
O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Doxology

Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

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."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE 13

BCP 90

*A Song of Praise
Song of Three Young Men, 29-34*

**Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; *
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

**Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; *
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.
Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

**Glory to you, beholding the depths; *
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Andrew J. Hege

A few moments of silence for reflection follow the homily.

Officiant and People together, all standing

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth;
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
 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. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us 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 forever. Amen.**

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. **And grant us your salvation.**
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. **Let your people sing with joy.**
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. **Your saving health among all nations.**
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

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. **Amen.**

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Free intercessions may be offered. The people add their own petitions and thanksgiving.
These may be shared with one another in the chat box on Zoom.*

The Officiant concludes the prayers with this collect,

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE. DISMISSAL

BCP 102

Officiant Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

THE GRACE

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Ephesians 3:20,21

COFFEE MINUTE

Are you missing the opportunity to connect with St. Mary's friends during Coffee Minute? We are too!

After worship, join us at 10:45AM for an online Coffee Minute on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87601904645>

Please Pray for the Following in Your Daily Prayers

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, José our Bishop, Andrew our rector, Sam and Gary our assisting clergy, for our Vestry and Staff, for all bishops and ministers, and for all God's people throughout the world.

For all medical personnel and all ministering to the needs of those affected by COVID-19.

For healing: James S., Dan Gloster, Suzanne Miller, Joe Dyer, Grace Howe Clapp, Mark Klein, Dolores, Dotty Shoffner, Douglas Pyles, Lauren, Carol, Paul, Jeanie H., Jo Ann M., Sharon, Mary, Bill, Joann, Whitney, Jamie, Dennis, Pat R., Paul R., Christopher, Brenda, Mona, Peter, Rachel, Lisa

**** (Please note that the names on this list will remain for four weeks, unless the office is notified that the person(s) needs to remain on the list for a longer period of time.) ****

For those who have died: George Van Nuys, Emory Maiden,
Frank Goewey, Lewis Thompson

For safe pregnancy and delivery for: Mary Lois, Taylor, Austin, Ashley,
Falconer, Melissa, Brooks, Kelly Porter

For those celebrating birthdays this week:

05/17 Ray Williams
05/18 Frank Thomas
05/19 Ron Tharp
05/20 Susie Greene, Maebel Lombardozzi
05/21 Mallory Goewey
05/22 Dex Wilson
05/23 Shane Burton, John Latimer
Evan Gray Thacker

For those celebrating anniversaries this week:

05/17 Ray and Betsy Williams
05/19 Orian and Cat Carter
05/20 John and Eri Latimer
05/21 Ron and Radie Armstrong
Mike and Lucy Austell
Norman and Janet Hillis
05/23 Mark and Michelle Curry

Parish Prayer Cycle:

05/17 Bob and Anne Jones
05/18 Larry and Faith Jones
05/19 Martha Jones
05/20 Roy and Nedra McCraw
05/21 Sam and Rhonda Ann
McDonald
05/22 Paul and Loy McGill
05/23 Marge McKinney

A Few Announcements...

Evensong for the Feast of the Ascension – Join our choir for an online Evensong marking the Feast of the Ascension on Thursday, May 21st at 5:30PM. The Zoom log-in is - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81476019159>.

New Christian Formation Opportunity - *Reading Between The Lines* (formerly BibleWorkbench) is a lectionary based life-centered biblical resource designed for small group formation in church and home. We are planning to offer the class in a Zoom meeting on **Fridays - 9:30 – 10:30am** from **May 22nd – July 17th**. No need to commit forever! Just say 'yes' for one session at a time. This class is being offered to parishioners at St. John's Cathedral, Jacksonville, FL and St. Mary of the Hills, Blowing Rock, NC. A limited number of spaces are available. If you are interested in learning more or signing up for the first class, contact Owene Courtney (owene_courtney@yahoo.com).

Outreach Update - The Outreach Committee and many members of St. Mary's have been busy reaching out to people in our community. Five Bread of Life teams continue to provide meals once a month and arrange for them to be served at the Hospitality House. So far this year a total of \$19,000.00 has been distributed to organizations assisting those experiencing need in our community.

Calling All Makers of Face Masks – Have you been making face masks in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We would love to hear from you as we seek to build a team of face mask makers at St. Mary's. E-mail Fr. Andrew (rector@stmaryofthehills.org).

Credits and References

** Cover image art – Resurrection – Traditional Russian Icon – Public Domain*

***Liturgical references are from the Book of Common Prayer (1979) and the Book of Occasional Services (2018)*

****Biblical references are from the Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version (1989)*



St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Parish
P. O. Box 14 - 140 Chestnut Drive
Blowing Rock, North Carolina 28605-0014
www.stmaryofthehills.org
828.295.7323