

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross



The Service of Ante-Communion
Sunday, September 6, 2026

The Word of God

Penitential Order

OPENING HYMN

OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 351)

The people standing, the Presider says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 351)

The Presider says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,

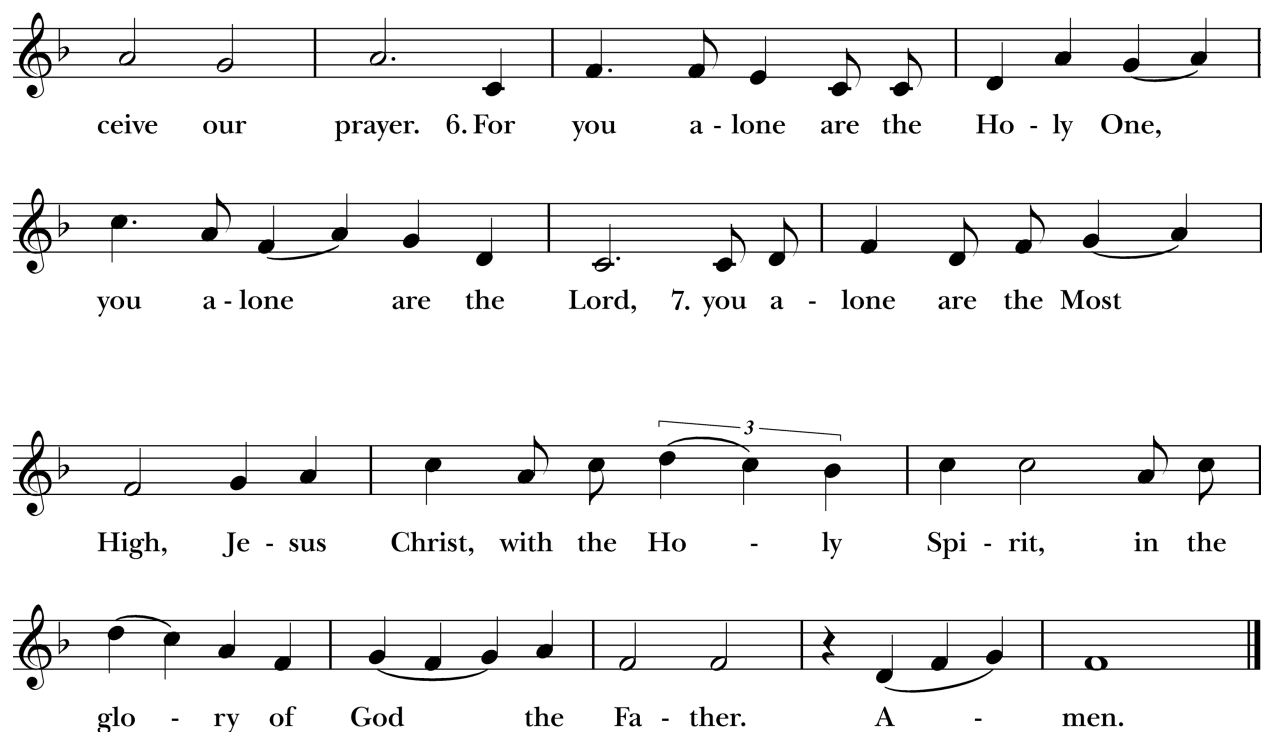
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

OPENING ANTHEM OR SONG OF PRAISE S 280 *Glory to God*
(Canticle 20) (Powell) (BCP p. 356)

The following is said, all standing

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty 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 -



Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of Ezekiel.

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹Say to them, “As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?”

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 119:33-40

Remain seated.

- ³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, *
and I shall keep it to the end.
- ³⁴Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *
I shall keep it with all my heart.
- ³⁵Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
for that is my desire.
- ³⁶Incline my heart to your decrees *
and not to unjust gain.
- ³⁷Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *
give me life in your ways.

³⁸Fulfill your promise to your servant, *
which you make to those who fear you.

³⁹Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰Behold, I long for your commandments; *
in your righteousness preserve my life.

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

The people sit.

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

All stand.

Presider A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

[Jesus said,] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Presider The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God

THE SERMON (BCP p. 358)

THE CREED (BCP p. 358)

All stand.

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

Presider: Let us cry to the Lord our God, who hears our voice at all times

Leader: For this holy gathering, for Deon our bishop, Sean, our Presiding Bishop and for the people of God in every place. In our

Diocese of Missouri, we pray for our companion community, All Saints Episcopal Church in Farmington and for all your holy people.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: For Donald our president, Mike our governor, for Lisa, our mayor. For all nations and their leaders. For mercy, justice, and peace in the world.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: For farmers and a good harvest, for sailors and all who work at sea, for travelers and those on vacation, for students and faculty returning to classes, and for safety from violent storms.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: For our city and every community, and for our families, companions, and all we love.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Lifting our voices with all creation, with the blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: We especially pray for *(names from the prayer list may be inserted here)*. I invite any additional prayers of intercession or thanksgiving at this time.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

The Presider says the concluding prayer.

Lord of wind and water, hear the prayers we offer this day for all battered by the waves of this world and bring them in safety to your harbor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE PEACE (BCP p. 360)

All stand.

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE (BCP p. 376)

The Presider says

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)

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

People and Presider

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,
 forever and ever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

People Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

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Upcoming Commemorations

Elie Naud: Huguenot Witness to the Faith, 1722
Monday, September 7, 2026

Nikolai Grundtvig: Bishop and Hymnwriter, 1872
Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Søren Kierkegaard: Teacher and Philosopher, 1855
Tuesday, September 8, 2026

**Constance, Thecla, Ruth, Frances, Charles Parsons, and Louis
Schuyler, Martyrs, 1878**
Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Alexander Crummell, Priest, 1898
Thursday, September 10, 2026

Harry Thacker Burleigh: Composer, 1949
Friday, September 11, 2026

John Henry Hobart, Bishop, 1830
Saturday, September 12, 2026