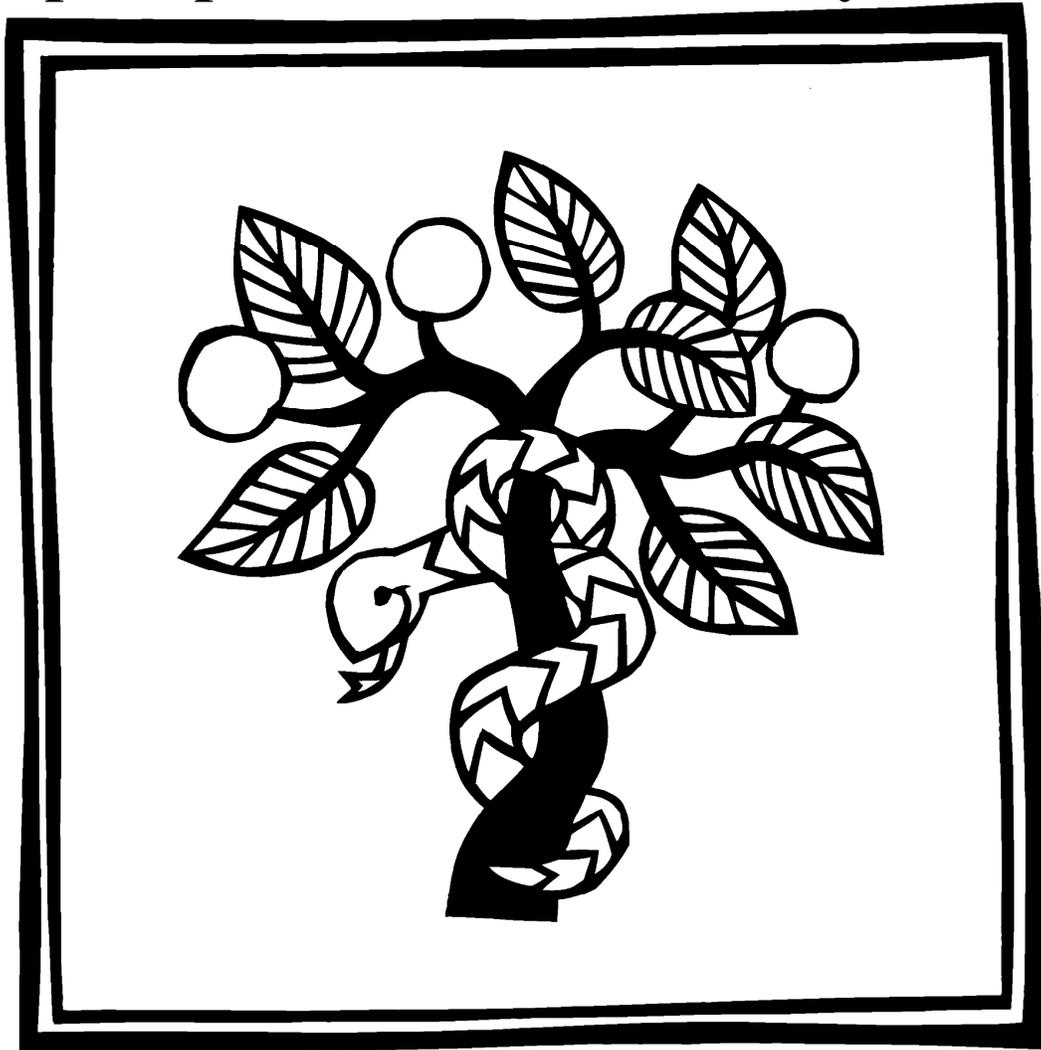


# Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross



First Sunday in Lent  
Eucharist from the Reserved Sacrament  
Sunday, February 22, 2026

## INTRODUCTION

In the Episcopal Church, and throughout the Anglican Communion, the Holy Eucharist is the central act of Christian worship—our thanksgiving for God’s redeeming love made known in Jesus Christ. When Communion is received from the Reserved Sacrament, we participate in the same holy mystery celebrated at the altar: the one Bread and one Cup by which we are united to Christ and to one another.

Though the Eucharist was consecrated at an earlier celebration, the grace it bears is not diminished by time or distance. The same Christ who is present in the Sacrament is present here and now—in Word and prayer, in gathered community, and in the sharing of the Bread and the Cup.

As we partake of this holy meal, we are joined with the wider Church across every time and place, awaiting with hope the day when all creation will be gathered into God’s eternal feast of love.

# The Word of God

## Entrance Rite

### ENTRANCE HYMN (BCP p. 355)

### EXHORTATION

*Deacon.* Friends in Christ, welcome to this holy gathering. Today we share in Communion from the reserved sacrament. While this is not a new celebration of the Eucharist, it is an extension of the Eucharistic table. The bread and wine we receive were consecrated in the offering of the Eucharist by Father Paul Nancarrow, and they unite us fully with Christ and with the whole Church across time and place.

*People.* **Here we are nourished by Christ’s Body and Blood, strengthened in faith, and joined with all who gather at table. As we receive this gift of grace, we are sent out to love and serve in his name.**

*Deacon* In fellowship with the whole Church of God, with all who have been brought together by the Holy Spirit to worship on this day, and who have celebrated the Eucharist, let us rejoice that we are called to be part of the body of Christ.

*People.* **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one Bread.**

*Silence is kept for a time.*

### GREETING

*Deacon* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People .* His mercy endures for ever.

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*Deacon* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence is kept for a time.*

*Deacon*

Most holy and merciful God: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

*People*

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

*Deacon*

Our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

*People*

We confess to you, O God.

*Deacon*

Our self-indulgence, and our exploitation of other people, our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

*People*

We confess to you, O God.

*Deacon*

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

*People*

Accept our repentance, O God.

*Deacon*

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

*People*

Accept our repentance, O God.

*Deacon*

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

*People*

Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

*Deacon*

May the Eternal God forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by the Holy Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

### OPENING ANTHEM OR SONG OF PRAISE Holy God (Hurd) (S 100)

*The following is sung, all standing*

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im -  
mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God,  
Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy  
up - on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,  
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)

*Deacon* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Deacon* Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## The Lessons

**FIRST READING:** Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of Genesis.

<sup>15</sup>The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

<sup>3:1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; <sup>3</sup>but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

*Silence may follow.*

**PSALM: Psalm 32**

*Remain seated.*

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, \*  
and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup>Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, \*  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!

<sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, \*  
because of my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup>For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; \*  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you, \*  
and did not conceal my guilt.

<sup>6</sup>I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” \*  
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

<sup>7</sup>Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; \*  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

<sup>8</sup>You are my hiding-place;  
you preserve me from trouble; \*  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

<sup>9</sup>“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; \*  
I will guide you with my eye.

<sup>10</sup>Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; \*  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,  
or else they will not stay near you.”

<sup>11</sup>Great are the tribulations of the wicked; \*  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

<sup>12</sup>Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; \*  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19**

*The people sit.*

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

<sup>12</sup>Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—<sup>13</sup>sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup>And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup>If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup>Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup>For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

*Silence may follow.*

## **SEQUENCE HYMN (BCP p. 357)**

*All stand.*

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11**

*All stand.*

*Deacon*           God is with you.

*People*           And also with you.

*Deacon*           The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People*           Glory to you, Lord Christ.

<sup>1</sup>[After Jesus was baptized, he] was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

<sup>4</sup>But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple,

<sup>6</sup>saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’  
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’”

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

*Deacon*            The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*            Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## **THE SERMON (BCP p. 358)**

### **THE CREED (BCP p. 358)**

*All stand.*

*Deacon*            Let us reaffirm our faith, in the words of 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 THE PEOPLE (Lent 2026)**

*Prayer changes people. Prayer is not about changing God, but about changing us more into the likeness of God. Collectively and individually we offer the hopes and desires of our hearts to God. The Deacon offers the prayers for those who are sick or have asked our prayers.*

*Deacon*      People of God, I bid your prayers for...

*The concerns of the community and wider world, including those who are sick, in need, or in want are named by the Deacon.*

*Deacon*

We pray to the Eternal One for courage to give up other things and to give ourselves in service to Christ.

*Silence is kept for a time.*

*Leader*

Give your Church the courage to give up her preoccupation with herself and to give more time to your mission in the world. We pray for Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Deon, our Bishop. For our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico. For our companion congregation, All Saints' Farmington. May the wounds of Jesus bring forgiveness to your people and help us to face the cost of proclaiming salvation.

Lord, meet us in the silence;

*People*      Give us strength and hear our prayer.

*Leader*

Give your world the courage to give up war, bitterness and hatred, and to seek peace. We pray for those in authority, particularly \_\_\_\_\_. May the shoulders of the risen Jesus, once scourged by soldiers, bear the burden of political and military conflict in our world.

Lord, meet us in the silence,

*People* Give us strength and hear our prayer.

*Leader*

Give us the courage to give up quarrels, strife and jealousy in our families, neighborhoods and communities. We pray for \_\_\_\_\_. May the presence of the risen Jesus, his body once broken and now made whole, bring peace and direction as we live with one another.

Lord, meet us in the silence,

*People* Give us strength and hear our prayer.

*Leader*

Give us the courage to give up our selfishness as we live for others, and to give time, care and comfort to the sick. We pray for \_\_\_\_\_. May the wounded hands of Jesus bring his healing touch, and the light of his presence fill their rooms.

Lord, meet us in the silence,

*People* Give us strength and hear our prayer.

*Leader*

Give us the courage to give up our fear of death and to rejoice with those who have died in faith. Especially we hold in our minds \_\_\_\_\_. May the feet of the risen Lord Jesus, once nailed to the cross, walk alongside the dying and bereaved in their agony, and walk with us and all your Church through death to the gate of glory.

Lord, meet us in the silence,

*People* Give us strength and hear our prayer, here and in eternity.

*Amen.*

### **THE PEACE (BCP p. 360)**

*All stand.*

*Deacon* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Deacon* Let us offer each other a sign of Christ's peace.

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

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# Communion by Extension

OFFERTORY HYMN (BCP p. 361)

## LITANY OF THE CONSECRATED GIFTS

*The Deacon then moves to a place in the midst of the Assembly, stands facing the Altar, with the Assembly standing, and invites them to join in the Litany of the Consecrated Gifts.*

*Deacon*

We thank you, Lord our God, for the season of Lent; you call us into the desert, to walk with Christ in prayer, to turn from sin, and to learn again the ways of your kingdom.

*People* Glory to you for ever.

*Deacon*

You give us the gift of repentance, not as a burden but as freedom, to release what weighs us down and to find life in you.

*People* Glory to you for ever.

*Deacon*

Through fasting and self-denial you free us from false hungers, and through prayer and mercy you draw us into your heart of compassion.

*People* Glory to you for ever.

*Deacon*

You do not leave us in the wilderness, but strengthen us by your Word, renew us in your Spirit, and set before us the cross as the path to life.

*People* Glory to you for ever.

*Deacon*

Now you gather us at this table of renewal, where Christ is our bread for the journey, our strength in trial, our companion on the way.

*People* Glory to you for ever.

*Deacon*

So, with all who walk the pilgrim path of faith, with angels and archangels, and with the whole communion of saints, we pray to you, as our Savior has taught us:

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)**

*Deacon and People*

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.

## **THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

*The Deacon then moves to the table, and may pick up or gesture towards the Bread and the Cup, faces the People, and says.*

Draw near with faith: receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which was given for you, and his blood which was shed for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*There is no fraction or fraction anthem. The assembly then offers the following prayer.*

*Deacon*

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine and bring forth bread from the earth. You give us the bread of life and you refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

*People*

As we share the bread and wine, grant us the grace to receive these holy mysteries in faith and thanksgiving for Jesus' great sacrifice for us and for all people, so that he may evermore dwell in us and we in him. **Amen.**

*Holy Communion is distributed to all who desire it. Hymn(s) or anthem (s) may be sung during the distribution, according to the congregation's custom. After Communion, the Deacon clears the Altar and leads the Act of Thanksgiving:*

## **ACT OF THANKSGIVING**

*Deacon* Let us pray.

*Silence is kept for a time.*

*Deacon*

God of all creation, we gather on this first day of the week made holy by the resurrection of Christ, your Son.

*People*

In the waters of baptism we were buried with him so that we might also rise with him and so share his victory over sin and death.

*Deacon*

You have transformed our lives into the living stones that form your Church with Christ as the foundation stone.

*People*

Strengthen this community's bond of communion and peace and deepen our solidarity with your Church throughout the world. Rekindle within us this Sabbath day the vision of your kingdom so that our daily concerns and labor may find their proper perspective.

*Deacon*

Fill our homes with the spirit of the Gospel.

*People*

Give us the grace to see the true face of the people with whom we live. In a world torn by sin and division make us instruments of reconciliation and mercy. We raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving to you, O God.

*Deacon*

May we who celebrate Christ's resurrection this day share in his eternal glory where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

*People Amen.*

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)**

*After Communion, the Deacon says*

Let us pray.

*Deacon and People*

Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**POST-COMMUNION HYMN (BCP p. 366)**

**DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)**

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

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