

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross



Ante-Communion
Sunday, October 4, 2026

The Word of God

Penitential Order

ENTRANCE HYMN (BCP p. 351)

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and forever. Amen

CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 351)

The Presider says

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

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.

The Presider stands and says

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

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

The following is sung, 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 - 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



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.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

²He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard

that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
⁶I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 80:7-14

Remain seated.

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
⁸You have brought a vine out of Egypt; *
you cast out the nations and planted it.
⁹You prepared the ground for it; *
it took root and filled the land.
¹⁰The mountains were covered by its shadow *
and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.
¹¹You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea *
and its branches to the River.
¹²Why have you broken down its wall, *
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?
¹³The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, *

and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.
¹⁴Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;
behold and tend this vine; *
preserve what your right hand has planted.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

The people sit.

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

^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN (BCP p. 357)

All stand.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

All stand.

Presider A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

[Jesus said,] ³³“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way.

³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

Let us offer prayers for all our fellow builders in this world and for all in every danger and need.

Leader: For this holy gathering, and for the people of God in every place.

People: Lord, have mercy.

For the Universal Church, its members and our mission in the world; for this congregation, for our parish clergy, for our bishop, Deon, and for Sean, our Presiding Bishop. In our Diocese of Missouri, we pray for the people and ministry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Ironton; for Richard, their Vicar; and Bob, their Deacon.

In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for Holy Trinity (Parroquia Ayudada La Santísima Trinidad) in Ponce.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For all peoples and their leaders, for Donald our President, Mike our Governor, and Robert our Mayor, for all candidates for office, and for justice, mercy, and peace in the world.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For all who have done wrong to their fellow human beings and yet have repented and sought to make amends.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the sick and the suffering, travelers and the victims of war, prisoners and refugees, and the dying and dead. We pray especially (*names from the prayer list may be inserted here*).

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For those who rest in Christ and for all the dead, especially (*names from the prayer list may be inserted here*).

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: I invite any other prayers of thanksgiving or petition, either aloud or silently.

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

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

Psalm 50:14

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.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN (BCP p. 366)

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

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Upcoming Commemorations

Francis of Assisi, Friar and Deacon, 1226
Sunday, October 4, 2026

William Tyndale, Priest, 1536
Tuesday, October 6, 2026

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg: Lutheran Pastor in North America, 1787
Wednesday, October 7, 2026

William Dwight Porter Bliss, Priest, 1926, and Richard Theodore Ely, Economist, 1943
Thursday, October 8, 2026

Robert Grosseteste, Bishop, 1253
Friday, October 9, 2026

Wilfred Thomason Grenfell: Medical Missionary, 1940
Friday, October 9, 2026

Vida Dutton Scudder, Educator, 1954
Saturday, October 10, 2026

This Week at Holy Cross

Wednesday, October 7
Prayer Group, 11:00 AM, Library
Reva Arnold Food Pantry, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM