

# Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross



Ante-Communion  
Sunday, September 27, 2026

# The Word of God

## 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 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 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 -  
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.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## The Lessons

### FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of Ezekiel.

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”?

<sup>3</sup>“As I live,” says the Lord GOD, “this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is unfair.’ O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways,” says the Lord GOD. “Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin.

<sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get

yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone,” says the Lord GOD. “Turn, then, and live.”

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

*Silence may follow.*

### **PSALM: Psalm 25:1-8**

*Remain seated.*

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.  
<sup>2</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.  
<sup>3</sup>Show me your ways, O LORD, \*  
and teach me your paths.  
<sup>4</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.  
<sup>5</sup>Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, \*  
for they are from everlasting.  
<sup>6</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.  
<sup>7</sup>Gracious and upright is the LORD; \*  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.  
<sup>8</sup>He guides the humble in doing right \*  
and teaches his way to the lowly.

### **SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13**

*The people sit.*

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

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

*Silence may follow.*

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32**

*All stand.*

*Presider*            A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ <sup>26</sup>But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ <sup>29</sup>He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go.

<sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.

<sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax

collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

*Priest*            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.

## CUSTOM THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The Presider invites the People to prayer*

Let us offer prayers for all our fellow pilgrims 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 Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion; for Brenda, their Rector; Chester, their Deacon; and Hope, the Rockwell House Campus Ministries Chaplain.

In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for St. Luke's Episcopal Medical Center (Centro Médico Episcopal San Lucas).. We pray for our companion community, All Saints in Farmington.

*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:* For any additional prayers and thanksgivings you'd like to name now, in silence or aloud.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Silence*

*The Presider says the concluding prayer.*

Gracious and merciful God, who is faithful and just to forgive when we repent, hear the prayers we offer this day and welcome your people into your kingdom; 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.

### **DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)**

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

### **UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**

Vincent de Paul: Religious, and Prophetic Witness, 1660  
Sunday, September 27, 2026

Thomas Traherne: Priest, 1674  
Sunday, September 27, 2026

Richard Rolle, 1349, Walter Hilton, 1396, and Margery Kempe, c. 1440, Mystics  
Monday, September 28, 2026

Jerome, Priest and Scholar, 420  
Wednesday, September 30, 2026

Remigius of Rheims, Bishop, c. 530, or  
Thursday, October 1, 2026

[John Raleigh Mott, Lay Leader and Ecumenist, 1955]  
Saturday, October 3, 2026

George Kennedy Allen Bell, Bishop of Chichester, and Ecumenist, 1958  
Saturday, October 3, 2026

### **THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS**

September 30  
Food Pantry 1:00 pm -3:00 pm, Parish Hall

October 4  
Ante-Communion. 9:30 am