

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross



Fourth Sunday of Easter
The Holy Eucharist Rite Two
(without Communion)
Sunday, April 26, 2026

The Word of God

Penitential Order

ENTRANCE HYMN (BCP p. 351)

OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 351)

The people standing, the Presider says

Presider Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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 sung, all standing

High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

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, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

The people sit.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 23

Remain seated.

¹The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
²He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
³He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
⁵You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
⁶Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

The people sit.

A Reading from the First letter of Peter.

¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²²"He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN (BCP p. 357)

All stand.

GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

All stand.

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[Jesus said,] ¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

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

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 TEXT

The Prayers of the People for Easter

The Leader invites the People to prayer

In peace let us pray to God, saying “Alleluia! Amen!”

For your holy Church, in heaven and on earth, that it may be filled with the new life of the Risen Christ, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Deon, our bishop, we pray to you, O God.

Alleluia! Amen!

For our city, our nation, and our world, that Christ may bring us out of the bondage of fear and establish us in justice and in peace, we pray to you, O God.

Alleluia! Amen!

For earth and sea and sky, and all their creatures, that all the world may be renewed in the power of Christ’s resurrection, we pray to you, O God.

Alleluia! Amen!

For the sick and the suffering, for those in any need or trouble, that their pain may be redeemed and raised up to joy in the saving love of Christ, especially (*names from the prayer list may be read here*), we pray to you, O God.

Alleluia! Amen!

For those who give thanks, for those in whom healing has begun, for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries, that Christ’s joy may be in them and their joy may be complete, especially (*names and thanksgivings may be read here*), we pray to you, O God.

Alleluia! Amen!

For those who have died in the hope of the resurrection, that we may be united one with another and all with Christ in the eternal life of the world to come, especially (*names from the prayer list may be read here*), we pray to you, O God.

Alleluia! Amen!

The Presider adds the concluding collect

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light: Hear our prayers, and fill us with life to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN (BCP p. 366)

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

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

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Upcoming Commemorations

Robert Hunt: Priest and First Chaplain at Jamestown, 1607
Sunday, April 26, 2026

Christina Rossetti: Poet, 1894
Monday, April 27, 2026

Catherine of Siena, Mystic, 1380
Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Sarah Josepha Buell Hale: Editor and Prophetic Witness, 1879
Thursday, April 30, 2026

Athanasius of Alexandria, Bishop and Theologian, 373
Saturday, May 2, 2026