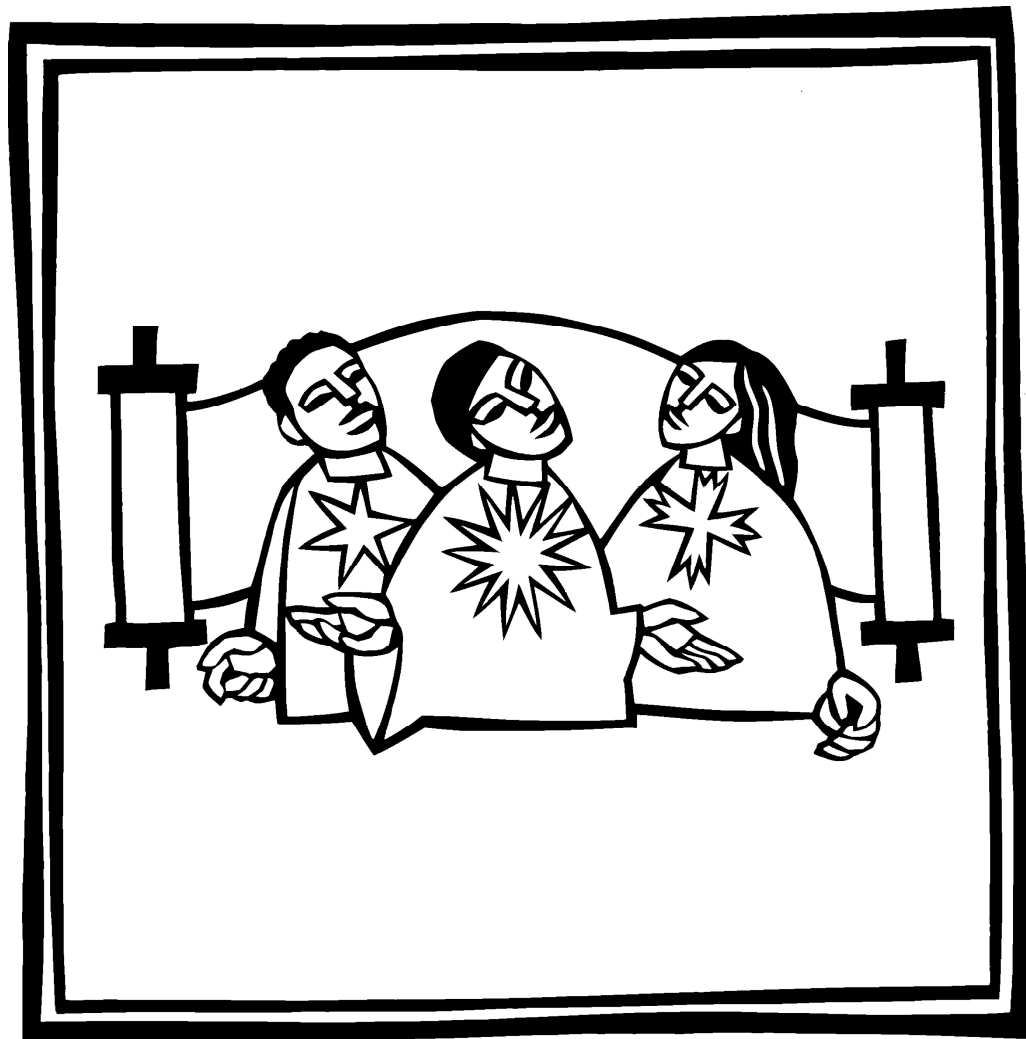


Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross



The Service of Ante-Communion
Sunday, October 25, 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

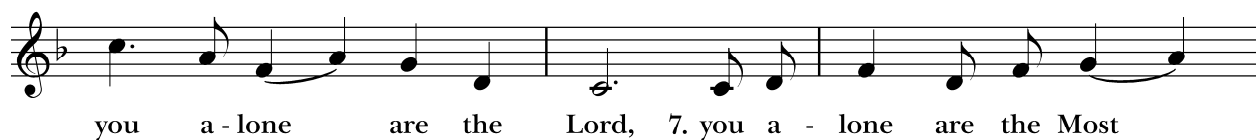
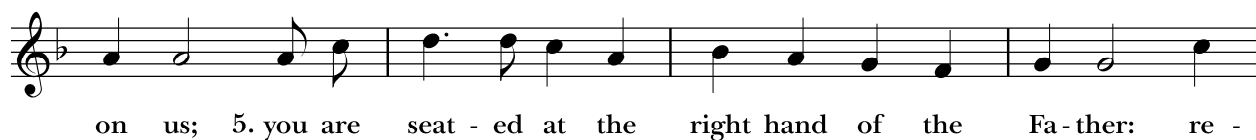
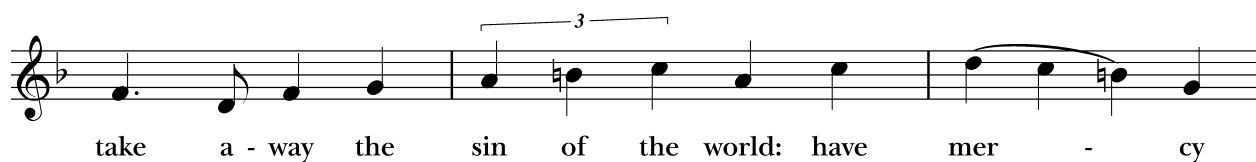
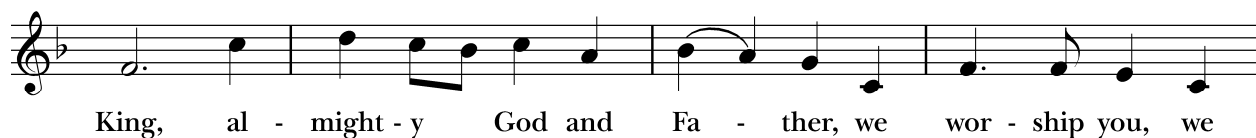
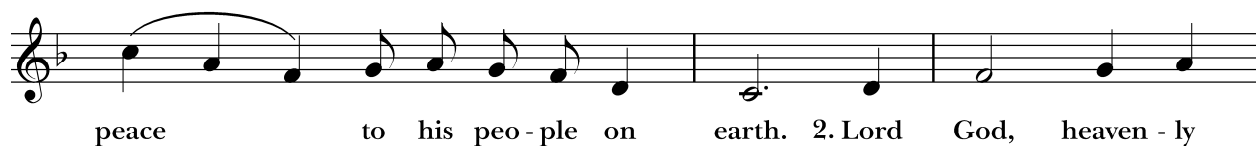
Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son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





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, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of Leviticus.

¹The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

²Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

¹⁵You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

¹⁷You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 1

Remain seated.

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
²Their delight is in the law of the LORD, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.
³They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.
⁴It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
⁶For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

The people sit.

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

¹You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, ²but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. ³For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; ⁶nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:34-46

All stand.

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

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷He said to him, ““You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment.

³⁹And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

⁴¹Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴²“What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴‘The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet”’?

⁴⁵If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

The Presider invites the People to prayer

Brothers and sisters, beloved by God: Grace to you and peace. Let us pray to the Holy One, saying, "Be gracious to us, O God; show us your mercy."

Leader: We always give thanks to you, O God, for the Church, constantly remembering before you its work of faith, labor of love, and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. Inspire us by the Holy Spirit.

Silence.

Leader: Be gracious to us, O God;

People: Show us your mercy.

Leader: Almighty God, make us more like your Son, Jesus, who did not regard people with partiality. May we love justice. May we be gracious with all people. For this congregation, for our bishop, Deon, and for Sean, our Presiding Bishop. In our Diocese of Missouri, we pray for St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Ladue and for David, their Rector; Nathan, their Associate Rector; Zack, their Youth and Young Adult Minister; Luke, Jay & Susie, their Assisting Clergy; and Valerie, their Deacon.

In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for Salud en el Hogar y Hospicio San Lucas (St. Luke's Home Health and Hospice).

Silence

Leader: Be gracious to us, O God;

People: Show us your mercy.

Leader: God our King, the earth shakes in your presence. All that is belongs not to us, but to you. May we be good stewards of all you have created.

Silence

Leader: Be gracious to us, O God;

People: Show us your mercy.

Leader: Holy One, you answer those who call upon you. Hear the voices of the weak and wronged. May this city know and experience your presence.

Silence

Leader: Be gracious to us, O God;

People: Show us your mercy.

Leader: Great Lord, give your people rest. Cover the sick and sorrowful with your healing hand. May the lonely and forgotten find favor in your sight. We pray especially for *(names from the prayer list may be inserted here)*.

Silence

Leader: Be gracious to us, O God;

People: Show us your mercy.

Leader: Living God, you have rescued the dying and dead from the coming wrath through the death and resurrection of your Christ. May our voices blend with theirs as they proclaim your greatness and worship around your throne forever. We pray especially for *(names from the prayer list may be inserted here)*.

Silence

Leader: Be gracious to us, O God;

People: Show us your mercy.

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

Silence

The Presider says the concluding prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. *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)

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

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Alfred, King, 899
Monday, October 26, 2026

James Hannington, Bishop, and his Companions, Martyrs, 1885, or
Thursday, October 29, 2026

John Wyclif: Priest and Prophetic Witness, 1384
Friday, October 30, 2026

Paul Shinji Sasaki, Bishop of Mid-Japan, and of Tokyo, 1946, and Philip Lindel Tsen, Bishop of Honan,
China, 1954
Saturday, October 31, 2026

UPCOMING AT HOLY CROSS

Wednesday, October 28
Prayer Group, 11:00 AM, Library
Reva Arnold Food Pantry, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, Parish Hall

Sunday, November 1
Ante-Communion

Saturday, November 7
HOLY CROSS CRAFT FAIR
8:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Parish Hall