Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross



Communion from the Reserved Sacrament
The Feast of Christ the King
Sunday, November 22, 2026

The Word of God

Entrance Rite

ENTRANCE HYMN (BCP p. 355)

Before the Opening Acclamation, the deacon briefly welcomes the assembly including the following:

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 at/by [_____], 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

OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)
The people standing, the Deacon says

Deacon Blessed be the One, Holy and Living God.
People Glory to God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Deacon Almighty God, to you all hearts are open,
People All desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

CONFESSION OF SIN
Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

A period of Silence may be kept

Deacon 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.

People 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.

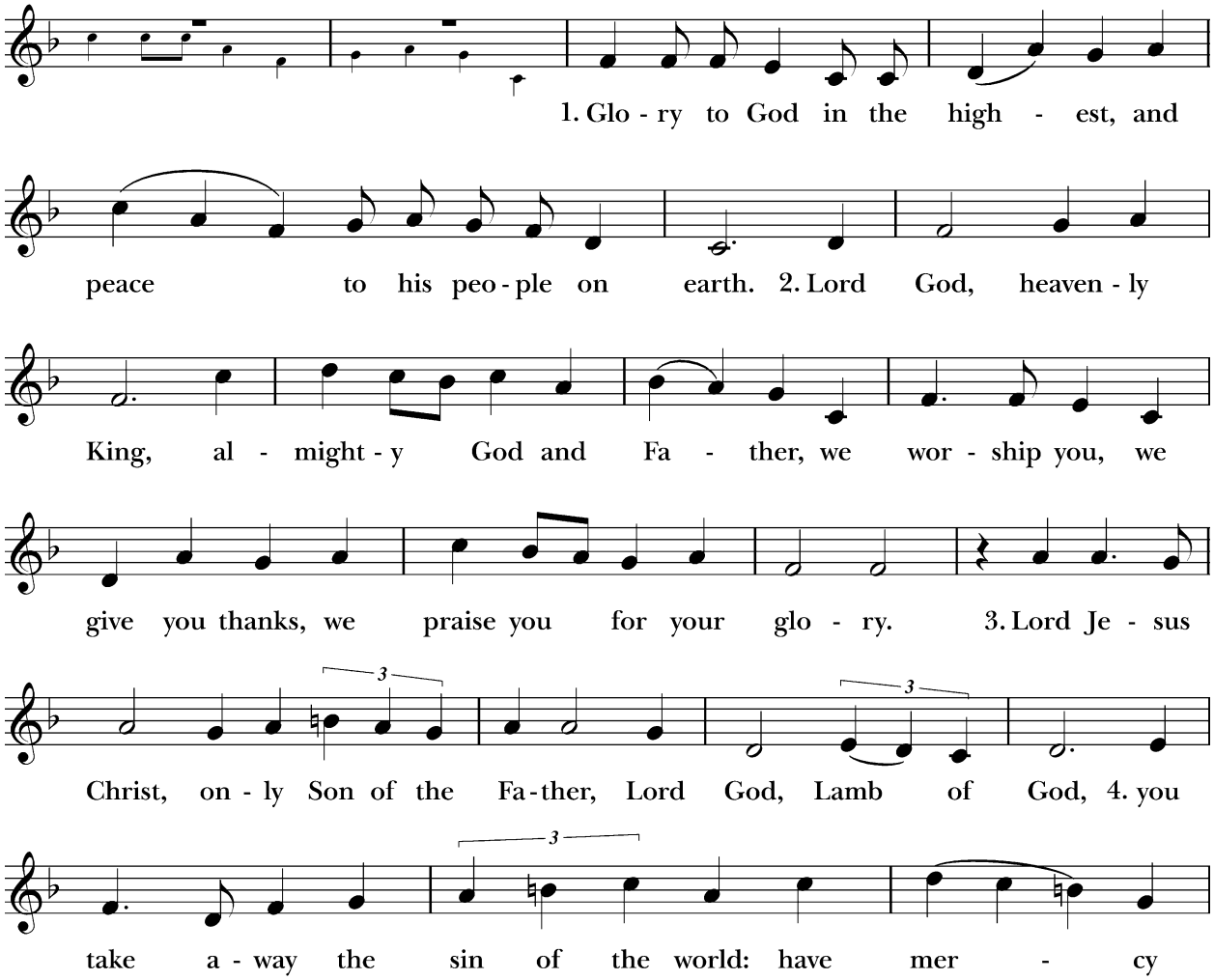
Deacon For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;

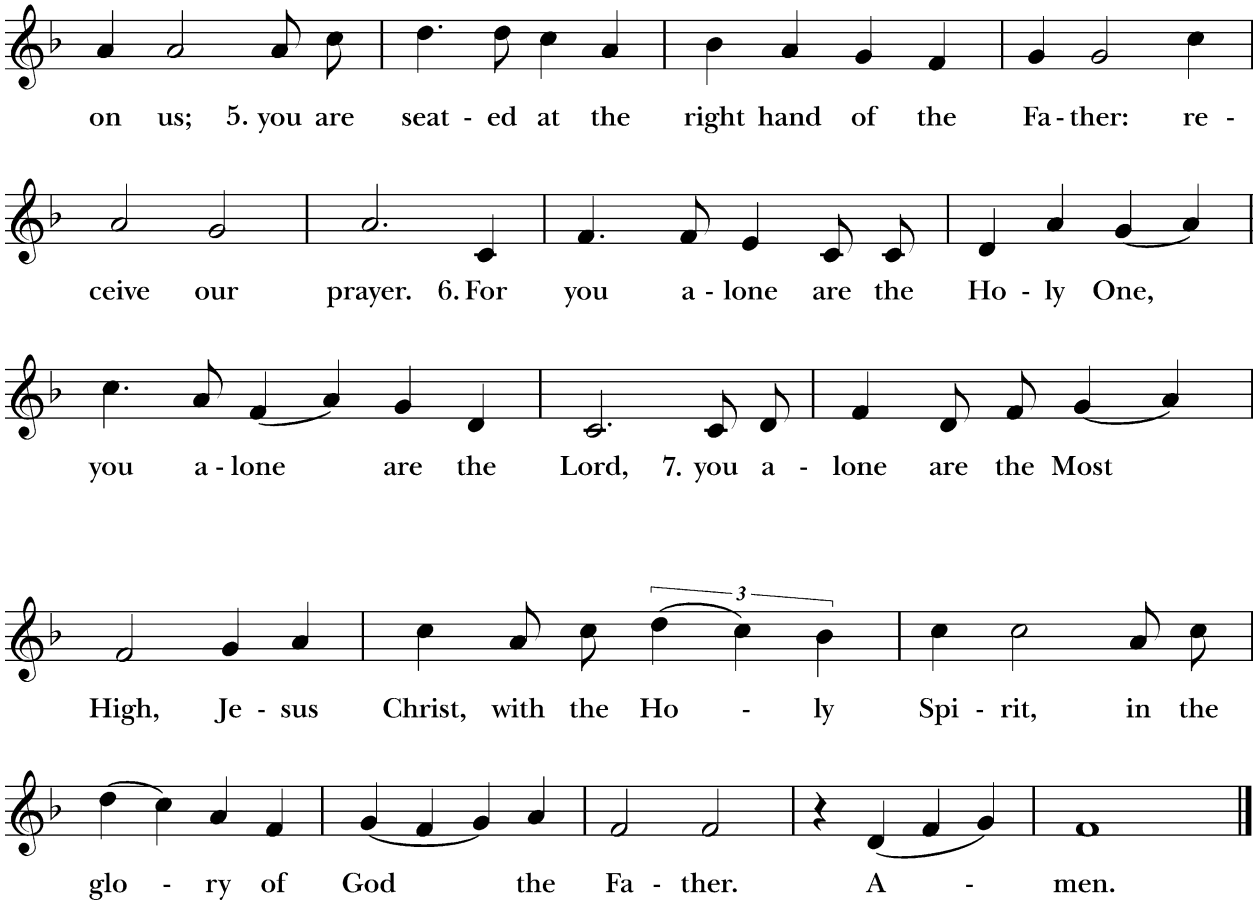
People That we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

Deacon 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





Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)

Deacon God is with you.
People And also with you.
Deacon Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
The people sit.

Reader A Reading from the book of Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

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

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 100
Remain seated.

1 Be joyful in the LORD, all you lands; *
serve the LORD with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

2 Know this: The LORD himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

4 For the LORD is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

The people sit.

Reader A Reading from Paul's first letter to the Ephesians.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

Silence may follow.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

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.

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry

and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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 We affirm our faith in the One, Holy and Living God.

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 Deacon invites the People to prayer

Serve the Lord with gladness and come before God's presence with a song. Let us pray together, saying, "We give you thanks, O Lord; and call upon your Name."

Leader: Christ the King, you have been made head over all things for the Church: may we worthily live as your body in our world. Work your great power in and through us.

Silence

Leader: We give you thanks, O Lord;

People: And call upon your Name.

Leader: Christ the King, it is from your hand that all are fed: inspire righteousness in all people that the hungry may be fed and the thirsty given clean water to drink.

Silence

Leader: We give you thanks, O Lord;

People: And call upon your Name.

Leader: Christ the King, you love us and call us your children. We pray for Sean, our presiding bishop, Deon our bishop and all priests and deacons. In our Diocese of Missouri, we pray for the people and ministry of for St. Stephen's & The Vine (1886) in Ferguson and Teresa, their Transitional Priest-in-Charge. In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for Seminario Diocesano San Pedro y San Pablo (Diocesan Seminary of St. Peter and St. Paul).

Silence

Leader: We give you thanks, O Lord;

People: And call upon your Name.

Leader: Christ the King, you care for those in prison: give us hearts for all those who are incarcerated. Where there is crime and violence in our city, offer your peace.

Silence

Leader: We give you thanks, O Lord;

People: And call upon your Name.

Leader: Christ the King, you are good: we pray you seek the lost, bind up the injured, and strengthen the weak. We pray especially for *(names from the prayer list may be inserted here)*.

Silence

Leader: We give you thanks, O Lord;

People: And call upon your Name.

Leader: Christ the King, your faithfulness endures from age to age: may all your saints, at work and at rest, know the hope to which you have called us and the riches of your glorious inheritance.

Silence

Leader: We give you thanks, O Lord;

People: And call upon your Name.

Leader: Christ the King, grant to all those departed from this world an eternal home in the loving household of God. We pray especially for *(names from the prayer list may be inserted here)*.

Silence

Leader: We give you thanks, O Lord;

People: And call upon your Name.

Christ the King, your faithfulness endures from age to age: may all your saints, at work and at rest, know the hope to which you have called us and the riches of your glorious inheritance. *Amen.*

Silence

Leader: We give you thanks, O Lord;

People: And call upon your Name.

Leader: I invite any other prayers of thanksgiving or petition, either aloud or silently.
Deacon says the concluding prayer.

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and advocate.

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.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE (BCP p. 376)
The Deacon says

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.
Psalm 96:8

OFFERTORY HYMN (BCP p. 361)

THE LITANY OF THE CONSECRATED GIFTS
The deacon 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 growth; you give us time to learn the ways of Christ, to walk in his footsteps, and to bear fruit in your world.
People Glory to you for ever.

Deacon You scatter seeds of your kingdom in every heart, and in patience and hope we wait for the harvest.
People Glory to you for ever.

Deacon In your creation we see the mystery of your life; the earth yields its bounty, the rivers sing your praise, and the heavens declare your glory.
People Glory to you for ever.

Deacon You call us to live as Christ's body, to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, until all creation is renewed in your love.
People Glory to you for ever.

Deacon Now you gather us at this table of thanksgiving, where Christ feeds us with the bread of life, and strengthens us for service in the world.
People Glory to you for ever.

Deacon So, with all who labor for your kingdom, with angels and archangels, and with the saints in every age, we pray to you, as our Savior has taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)
People and Deacon

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 officiating deacon then walks to the table, picks up the Bread and the Cup, faces the Assembly, and says:

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may, not because you are strong, but because you are weak. Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come, but because you need mercy and help. Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love God more. Come, because Christ loved you and gave himself for you. Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body.

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 by the lay Eucharistic Ministers and officiating deacon. Hymn(s) or anthem (s) may be sung during the distribution, according to the congregation's custom.

ACT OF THANKSGIVING
After Communion, the officiating deacon clears the Altar and leads the 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.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)

Deacon God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people.

People Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN (BCP p. 366)

The officiating deacon then dismisses the people. No blessing is given.

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Deacon Our worship is ended. Our service in the world begins. Go into the world to love what God loves. Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

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UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Clive Staples Lewis, Apologist and Spiritual Writer, 1963
Sunday, November 22, 2026

Cecilia: Martyr at Rome, c. 280
Sunday, November 22, 2026

Clement of Rome, Bishop, c.100
Monday, November 23, 2026

James Otis Sargent Huntington, Monastic and Priest, 1935
Wednesday, November 25, 2026

Isaac Watts: Hymnwriter, 1748
Thursday, November 26, 2026

Kamehameha and Emma of Hawaii, King and Queen, 1864 and 1885
Saturday, November 28, 2026

UPCOMING AT HOLY CROSS

Thursday, November 26
Morning Prayer, 11:00 AM
Thanksgiving Fellowship & Dinner following

Wednesday, December 2
Master Gardeners, 6:00 PM, Parish Hall