

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross



Seventh Sunday of Easter: Sunday after
Ascension Day
The Holy Eucharist Rite Two
Sunday, May 17, 2026

The Word of God

Entrance Rite

OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

COLLECT FOR PURITY (BCP p. 355)

The Celebrant may say

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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.*

OPENING ANTHEM OR SONG OF PRAISE (BCP p. 356)

The following is said, all standing

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Acts 1:6-14

The people sit.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

⁶When [the apostles] had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36

Remain seated.

¹Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; *
let those who hate him flee before him.

²Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; *
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

³But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; *

let them also be merry and joyful.
⁴Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;
 exalt him who rides upon the heavens; *
 YAHWEH is his name, rejoice before him!
⁵Father of orphans, defender of widows, *
 God in his holy habitation!
⁶God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; *
 but the rebels shall live in dry places.
⁷O God, when you went forth before your people, *
 when you marched through the wilderness,
⁸The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,
 at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, *
 at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
⁹You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; *
 you refreshed the land when it was weary.
¹⁰Your people found their home in it; *
 in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.
³³Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; *
 sing praises to the Lord.
³⁴He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; *
 he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.
³⁵Ascribe power to God; *
 his majesty is over Israel;
 his strength is in the skies.
³⁶How wonderful is God in his holy places! *
 the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!
 Blessed be God!

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

The people sit.

A Reading from the First letter of Peter.

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6}Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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

Silence may follow.

GOSPEL: John 17:1-11

All stand.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹[Jesus] looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you,²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

Deacon 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 Sean, 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 Celebrant 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.

CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 359)

The Deacon or Celebrant 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 Priest stands and says

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

THE PEACE (BCP p. 360)

All stand.

Celebrant 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.

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE (BCP p. 376)

The Celebrant says

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.
Psalm 50:14

The Great Thanksgiving

SURSUM CORDA (BCP p. 367)

The People remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE (BCP p. 367)

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord. After his glorious resurrection he openly appeared to his disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven, to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS (BCP p. 367)

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (BCP p. 368)

The People stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

EPICLESIS (BCP p. 369)

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of

your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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 Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM (BCP p. 364)

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

INVITATION (BCP p. 364)

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

DISTRIBUTION (BCP p. 365)

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. [*Amen.*]

COMMUNION HYMN (BCP p. 365)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING (BCP p. 366)

The Priest blesses the people, saying

May the risen Christ who has passed into the heavens clothe you with power from on high; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. *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

**Thurgood Marshall, Public Servant, 1993
Sunday, May 17, 2026**

**William Hobart Hare: Bishop of Niobrara, and of South Dakota, 1909
Sunday, May 17, 2026**

**Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, 988
Tuesday, May 19, 2026**

**Alcuin of York, Deacon and Abbot, 804
Wednesday, May 20, 2026**

**John Eliot: Missionary among the Algonquin, 1690
Thursday, May 21, 2026**

**Nicolaus Copernicus and Johannes Kepler: Astronomers
Saturday, May 23, 2026**

**John Cassian, Abbot at Marseilles, 433
Saturday, May 23, 2026**