

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross



Communion from the Reserved Sacrament
September 13, 2026

Today we share in Holy Communion from the reserved sacrament or by “extension”. This is not a new celebration of the Eucharist, but rather an extension of the Eucharistic feast once offered and consecrated at the altar. In this act of worship and celebration, we join with our siblings across the Church in gathering at Christ’s to be nourished in following Jesus.

In this sacrament we are nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ, who has promised to be with us always, even to the end of the age. As we receive this holy food, we share in full communion with Christ and with all who gather at his table—across time and space, throughout the Church, and in the great company of the saints.

Here at Christ’s table we find our life renewed, our hope strengthened, and our unity deepened, as we are sent forth to love and serve the Lord in the power of the Spirit.

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 We give thanks to (name of priest) who consecrated the elements of the Eucharist being distributed today.

OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)

The people standing, the Deacon says

Deacon Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. 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;

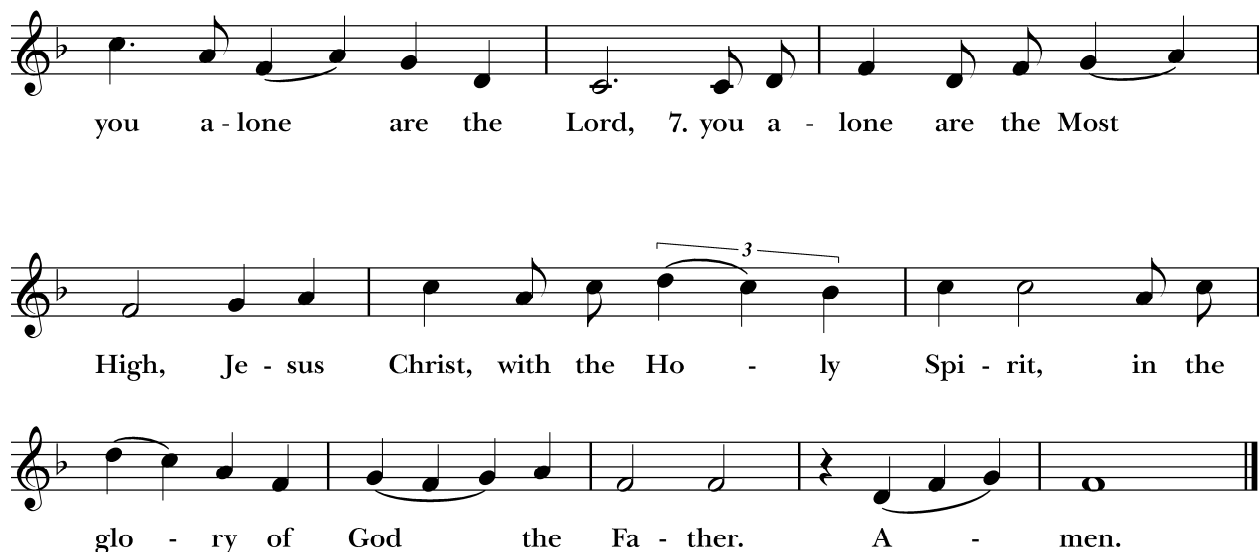
People That we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

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

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,



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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)

Deacon The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Deacon Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

The people sit.

Reader A Reading from the book of Genesis.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them. It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God

said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 103: 1-13

Remain seated.

- ¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
- ² Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits.
- ³ He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;
- ⁴ He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
- ⁵ He satisfies you with good things, *
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- ⁶ The LORD executes righteousness *
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
- ⁷ He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.
- ⁸ The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- ⁹ He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- ¹⁰ He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- ¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- ¹² As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- ¹³ As a father cares for his children, *
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

The people sit.

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

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

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.

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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 Let us reaffirm our faith, in the words of the Nicene Creed.

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

Each of us is finally accountable to God. So let us pray, saying, "Have patience with us. have patience with us.

Leader: We acknowledge that we all sin against our siblings in Christ. Forgive us even if we forgive each other. Help us to be merciful to each other in the church.

Silence

Leader: Lord, we are in need of your mercy;

People: Have patience with us.

Leader: We acknowledge that we desire to repay violence with violence. Open our hearts to forgive even those who commit evil acts towards us and those we love. Help us to live mercifully in our world.

Silence

Leader: Lord, we are in need of your mercy;

People: Have patience with us.

Leader: We acknowledge we do not always appreciate the diversity of your creation. Teach us to live in peace with each other and with your creation. Help us to live mercifully with our world.

Silence

Leader: Lord, we are in need of your mercy;

People: Have patience with us.

Leader: We acknowledge that we do not love our neighbors as you love us. Forgive us for placing ourselves as judge over others when judgment belongs to you alone. Help us to accept the great mercy you choose to show others.

Silence

Leader: Lord, we are in need of your mercy;

People: Have patience with us.

Leader: We pray for those whose lives are broken by evil. Because of your mercy we believe that whatever befalls them, they belong to you; your care for the brokenhearted. Help us to share your love with all those who are hurting. *(names from the prayer list may be inserted here).*

Silence

Leader: Lord, we are in need of your mercy;

People: Have patience with us.

Leader: We remember those who died in violence. We remember those men and women of the armed services, innocent bystanders, first responders, and even those we have called enemies. The dead belong to you, O Lord. Even as we seek your mercy for ourselves, judge all those who have died with mercy.

Silence

Leader: Lord, we are in need of your mercy;

People: Have patience with us.

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

Silence

The Deacon says the concluding prayer.

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE PEACE (BCP p. 360)

All stand.

Deacon The peace of the Lord 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)

COMMUNION BY EXTENSION

Once the receiving of the people's offering the Deacon reverently places the consecrated Sacrament on the Altar.

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 give thanks to you, O God, for all things good and beneficial to our bodies and souls.

People We thank you, O God.

Deacon For the Body and Blood of Christ set here before us;

People We thank you, O God.

Deacon That you have brought us together in this place;

People We thank you, O God.

Deacon That your eternal Word was made flesh for us;

People We thank you, O God.

Deacon For Christ's life and ministry, death and resurrection;

People We thank you, O God.

Deacon That you fill our lives with grace and grant us the gift of the Holy Spirit;

People We thank you, O God.

Deacon That through this Sacrament you grant us a pledge of our eternal inheritance;

People We thank you, O God.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)

The Deacon then leads the Assembly in the Lord's Prayer.

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:

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.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)

After Communion, the officiating deacon clears the Altar, leads the customary post communion prayer.

Deacon Let us pray.

Deacon 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.

ACT OF THANKSGIVING

Following the post communion prayer the officiating deacon leads the assembly in 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.

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 Now to the One who is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or conceive, by the power which is at work among us, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus from generation to generation for evermore.

People Thanks be to God.

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Upcoming Commemorations

UPCOMING AT HOLY CROSS