

# Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross



Sixth Sunday of Easter  
The Holy Eucharist Rite Two  
Sunday, May 10, 2026

# The Word of God

## Entrance Rite

ENTRANCE HYMN (BCP p. 355)

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 *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 - might - y 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,  
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
 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)

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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: Acts 17:22-31

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

<sup>22</sup>Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup>Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

*Silence may follow.*

### PSALM: Psalm 66:7-18

*Remain seated.*

<sup>7</sup>Bless our God, you peoples; \*  
make the voice of his praise to be heard,

<sup>8</sup>Who holds our souls in life, \*  
and will not allow our feet to slip.

<sup>9</sup>For you, O God, have proved us; \*  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

<sup>10</sup>You brought us into the snare; \*  
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

<sup>11</sup>You let enemies ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and water; \*

but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.  
<sup>12</sup>I will enter your house with burnt-offerings  
and will pay you my vows, \*  
which I promised with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.  
<sup>13</sup>I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts  
with the smoke of rams; \*  
I will give you oxen and goats.  
<sup>14</sup>Come and listen, all you who fear God, \*  
and I will tell you what he has done for me.  
<sup>15</sup>I called out to him with my mouth, \*  
and his praise was on my tongue.  
<sup>16</sup>If I had found evil in my heart, \*  
the Lord would not have heard me;  
<sup>17</sup>But in truth God has heard me; \*  
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.  
<sup>18</sup>Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, \*  
nor withheld his love from me.

**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the First letter of Peter.

<sup>13</sup>Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

*Silence may follow.*

**SEQUENCE HYMN (BCP p. 357)**

*All stand.*

**GOSPEL: John 14:15-21**

*All stand.*

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

[Jesus said,] <sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

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

**THE SERMON (BCP p. 358)**

**THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS**

*All stand.*

*Presider* Let us renew our commitment to Christ. *Silence is kept for a time.*

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*People* ***I do.***

*Presider* Do you believe in God the Father?

*People* ***I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.***

*Presider* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People* ***I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.***

*Presider* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People* ***I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.***

*Presider* How will you connect to Christ in community?

*People* ***With God's help I will continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers.***

*Presider* How will you resist evil and turn to Christ?

*People* ***With God's help I will persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever I fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord.***

*Presider* How will you show Christ in your life?

*People* ***With God's help I will proclaim by word and example the Good News of God found in Jesus Christ.***

*Presider* How will you seek and serve Christ in your life?

*People* ***With God's help I will seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving my neighbor as myself.***

*Presider* How will you work for the reign of Christ?

*People* ***With God's help I will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.***

*Presider* How will you steward God's creation?

*People* ***With God's help I will strive to safeguard the dignity and integrity of creation, and respect, sustain, and renew the life of the Earth.***

*Presider* May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. ***Amen.***

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*The Deacon invites the People to prayer*

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

*The Leader continues*

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 Bishop 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*

**OFFERTORY HYMN (BCP p. 361)**

## 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 him 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.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of

the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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 S 125 Holy, holy, holy (Proulx) (BCP p. 367)**

*Celebrant and People*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**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,

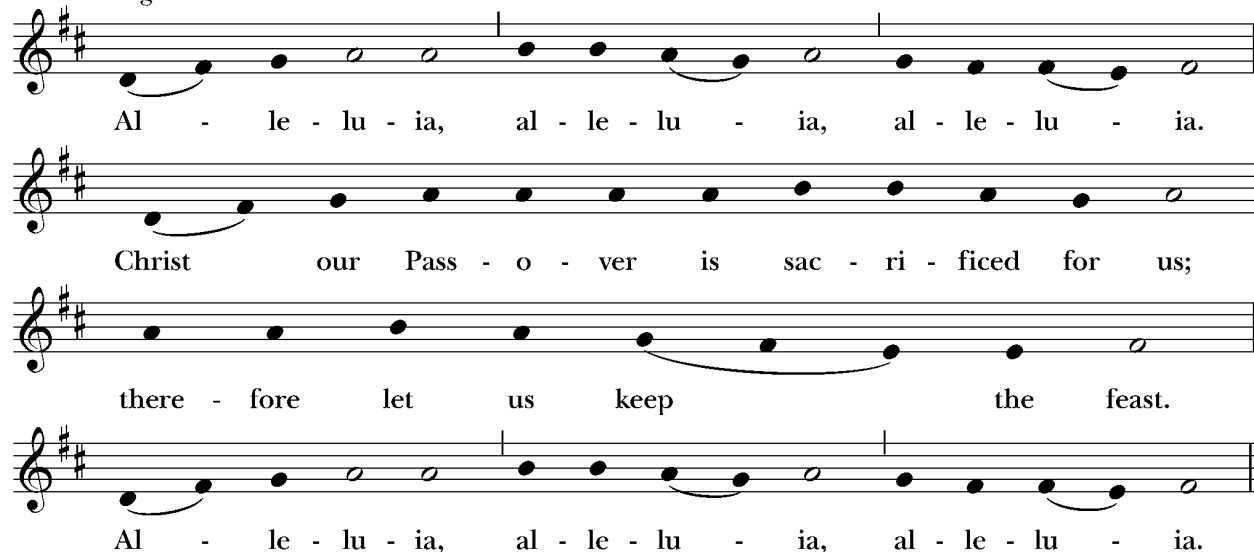
*People and Celebrant*

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 *S 154 Christ our Passover (Hurd)* (BCP p. 364)

*This setting is not used in Lent.*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;  
there - fore let us keep the feast.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## 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 Bishop blesses the people, saying*

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; 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**

**Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, Prophetic Witness, 1760  
Sunday, May 10, 2026**

**Frances Perkins, Social Reformer, 1965  
Wednesday, May 13, 2026**

**Junia and Andronicus  
Friday, May 15, 2026**

**Martyrs of Sudan  
Saturday, May 16, 2026**