

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross



Communion from the Reserved Sacrament
Sunday, September 20, 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

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

Deacon We give thanks to The Revs. Kathryn Sanders Allen and Paul Nancarrow, 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 CANTICLE
(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)

Deacon The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Deacon Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; 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: Exodus 16:2-15

The people sit.

Reader A Reading from the book of Exodus.

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Remain seated.

- ¹ Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- ² Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.
- ³ Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- ⁴ Search for the LORD and his strength; *
continually seek his face.
- ⁵ Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
- ⁶ O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.
- ³⁷ He led out his people with silver and gold; *
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.
- ³⁸ Egypt was glad of their going, *
because they were afraid of them.
- ³⁹ He spread out a cloud for a covering *
and a fire to give light in the night season.
- ⁴⁰ They asked, and quails appeared, *
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.
- ⁴¹ He opened the rock, and water flowed, *
so the river ran in the dry places.
- ⁴² For God remembered his holy word *
and Abraham his servant.
- ⁴³ So he led forth his people with gladness, *
his chosen with shouts of joy.
- ⁴⁴ He gave his people the lands of the nations, *
and they took the fruit of others' toil,
- ⁴⁵ That they might keep his statutes *
and observe his laws.
Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

The people sit.

Reader A Reading from Paul's letter to the Phillipians.

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

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, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.

And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

Let us offer prayers for all who labor in the vineyard of the Lord and for all in every danger and need.

Leader: For this holy gathering, and for the people of God in every place.

People: Lord, have mercy.

For the Universal Church, its members and our mission in the world; for this congregation, for our parish clergy, for our bishop, Deon, and for Sean, our Presiding Bishop. In our Diocese of Missouri, we pray for the people and ministry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church (1868) in Carondelet / St. Louis; for Jeff, their Interim Priest; and Diana, their Deacon.

In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for St. Luke the Evangelist Parish (Parroquia Ayudada San Lucas Evangelista) in Ponce. We pray for our companion community, All Saints in Farmington.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For all peoples and their leaders, for Donald our President, Mike our Governor, and Robert our Mayor, for all candidates for office, and for justice, mercy, and peace in the world.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For all who work for daily wages, and for their employers and managers. For all those seeking a just wage and full employment. For farmers and a good harvest, for abundant fruits of the earth, and for safety from violent storms.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the sick and the suffering, travelers and the victims of war, prisoners and refugees, and the dying and dead. We pray especially (*names from the prayer list may be inserted here*).

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For those who rest in Christ and for all the dead, especially (*names from the prayer list may be inserted here*).

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For any additional prayers and thanksgivings you'd like to name now, in silence or aloud.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

Silence

The Deacon says the concluding prayer.

Gracious and merciful God, who honors the last as well as the first, hear the prayers we offer this day and welcome your people into your kingdom; 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

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.
Ephesians 5:2

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.

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.

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

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Deacon Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit..

People Thanks be to God.

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UUPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

John Coleridge Patteson, Bishop and his Companions, Martyrs, 1871
Sunday, September 20, 2026

Philander Chase, Bishop, 1852
Tuesday, September 22, 2026

[Thecla of Iconium, Proto-Martyr among Women, c.70]
Wednesday, September 23, 2026

[Anna Ellison Butler Alexander, Deaconess and Teacher, 1947]
Thursday, September 24, 2026

Sergius of Radonezh, Monastic, 1392, or
Friday, September 25, 2026

Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop, 1626
Saturday, September 26, 2026

Wilson Carlile: Priest, 1942
Saturday, September 26, 2026

UPCOMING AT HOLY CROSS

September 23
Prayer Group, 11:00 am, Church Library
Reva Arnold Food Pantry 1:00 pm -3:00 pm, Parish Hall

September 24
Church Ladies Lunch 11:30 am, Casa Grande Mexican Kitchen

September 27
Ante-Communion, 9:30 am
Vestry Mtg after the service