

# Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross



Communion from the Reserved Sacrament  
Sunday, July 12, 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

#### 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 *Glory to God (Canticle 20)* (BCP p. 356)**

*The following is sung, 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.

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; 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 25:19-34**

*The people sit.*

*Reader* A Reading from the book of the Genesis.

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her,

“Two nations are in your womb,  
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;  
the one shall be stronger than the other,  
the elder shall serve the younger.”

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau’s heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, “Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!” (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, “First sell me your birthright.” Esau said, “I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?” Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

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

*Silence may follow.*

**PSALM: Psalm 119:105-112**

*Remain seated.*

- <sup>105</sup> Your word is a lantern to my feet \*  
and a light upon my path.  
<sup>106</sup> I have sworn and am determined \*  
to keep your righteous judgments.  
<sup>107</sup> I am deeply troubled; \*  
preserve my life, O LORD, according to your word.  
<sup>108</sup> Accept, O LORD, the willing tribute of my lips, \*  
and teach me your judgments.  
<sup>109</sup> My life is always in my hand, \*  
yet I do not forget your law.  
<sup>110</sup> The wicked have set a trap for me, \*  
but I have not strayed from your commandments.  
<sup>111</sup> Your decrees are my inheritance for ever; \*  
truly, they are the joy of my heart.  
<sup>112</sup> I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes \*  
for ever and to the end.

**SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11**

*The people sit.*

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

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

*Silence may follow.*

**GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9,18-23**

*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 went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and

when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

*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 pray for the church and for the world saying, 'Hear our prayer'.

*Leader:* We give you thanks, O Lord, for your presence in this your Church. Bless its members here in this congregation and throughout the world. Guide us in carrying out the mission you have entrusted to us.

*People:* Hear our prayer.

We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop and Deon, our bishop, for our parish clergy, for all bishops, priests, and deacons, and for all the baptized who minister in your Name. In our Diocese of Missouri, we pray for the people and ministry of St. John's Episcopal Church in Eolia and for Deb, their Priest-in-Charge. In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for St. Matthew the Apostle Mission (Misión San Mateo, Apóstol) in Penuelas. We pray for our companion community, All Saints in Farmington. For all your holy people.

*People:* Hear our prayer.

*Leader:* We bless your name, O Lord, for the freedoms which we enjoy in this, our nation. Make us worthy of the abundance you have granted us. Help us to remember the lessons and sharing with those less fortunate than we are that you heard. Let us remember our duty to help bring in your Kingdom on earth.

*People:* Hear our prayer.

*Leader:* We thank you, O God, for our friends around the world. Help us to learn to love all our neighbors. Shield your people from persecution.

*People:* Hear our prayer.

*Leader:* We bless you, O Lord, for this our community of Poplar Bluff. Make us willing to live peacefully with all those who are part of this city. Let us walk together in your name.

*People:* Hear our prayer.

*Leader:* We ask your healing and comfort, O Lord for all our fellow human beings who suffer in any way. Bring your healing power upon them. Strengthen their trust in your love for those whom you have created. We especially pray for *(names from the prayer list may be inserted here)*.

*People:* Hear our prayer.

*Leader:* We remember, O Lord, with thanksgiving all those who have died, especially *(names from the prayer list may be inserted here)*. We ask you to comfort those mourning the loss of a loved one. Help us to wait patiently for a joyful reunion with them.

*People:* Hear our prayer.

*Leader:* Let us pray for our own needs and those of others, silently or aloud.

*Silence. The People may add their own petitions.*

*The Deacon says the concluding prayer.*

Abide with us, O Lord. We need your loving presence. Abide with us and give us a lasting sense of peace. *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*

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT**

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

### **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.

*Deacon* We pray, therefore, in the words our Savior Christ 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 in the name of Christ.

*People* Thanks be to God.

From [riteplanning.com](http://riteplanning.com).

Copyright © 2026 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved.

## **Upcoming Commemorations**

Nathan Söderblom: Archbishop of Uppsala and Ecumenist, 1931  
Sunday, July 12, 2026

Conrad Weiser: Witness to Peace and Reconciliation, 1760  
Monday, July 13, 2026

Samson Occom: Witness to the faith in New England, 1792  
Tuesday, July 14, 2026

"The Righteous Gentiles"  
Thursday, July 16, 2026

William White, Bishop, 1836  
Friday, July 17, 2026

Bartolomé de las Casas: Friar and Missionary to the Indies, 1566  
Saturday, July 18, 2026

## **UPCOMING AT HOLY CROSS**

Wednesday, July 15  
Reba Arnold Food Pantry 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Sunday, July 19  
Service of Ante-Communion 9:30 AM