Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross



Communion from the Reserved Sacrament
Sunday, November 8, 2026

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 Friends in Christ, welcome to this holy gathering. Today we share in Communion from the reserved sacrament. While this is not a new celebration of the Eucharist, it is an extension of the Eucharistic table. The bread and wine we receive were consecrated in the offering of the Eucharist at/by [_____], and they unite us fully with Christ and with the whole Church across time and place.

People Here we are nourished by Christ's Body and Blood, strengthened in faith, and joined with all who gather at table. As we receive this gift of grace, we are sent out to love and serve in his name.

Deacon In fellowship with the whole Church of God, with all who have been brought together by the Holy Spirit to worship on this day, and who have celebrated the Eucharist, let us rejoice that we are called to be part of the body of Christ.

People Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one Bread.

Silence is kept for a time

OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)

The people standing, the Deacon says

Deacon Blessed be the One, Holy and Living God.

People Glory to God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Deacon Almighty God, to you all hearts are open,

People All desires known, and from whom 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.*

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.

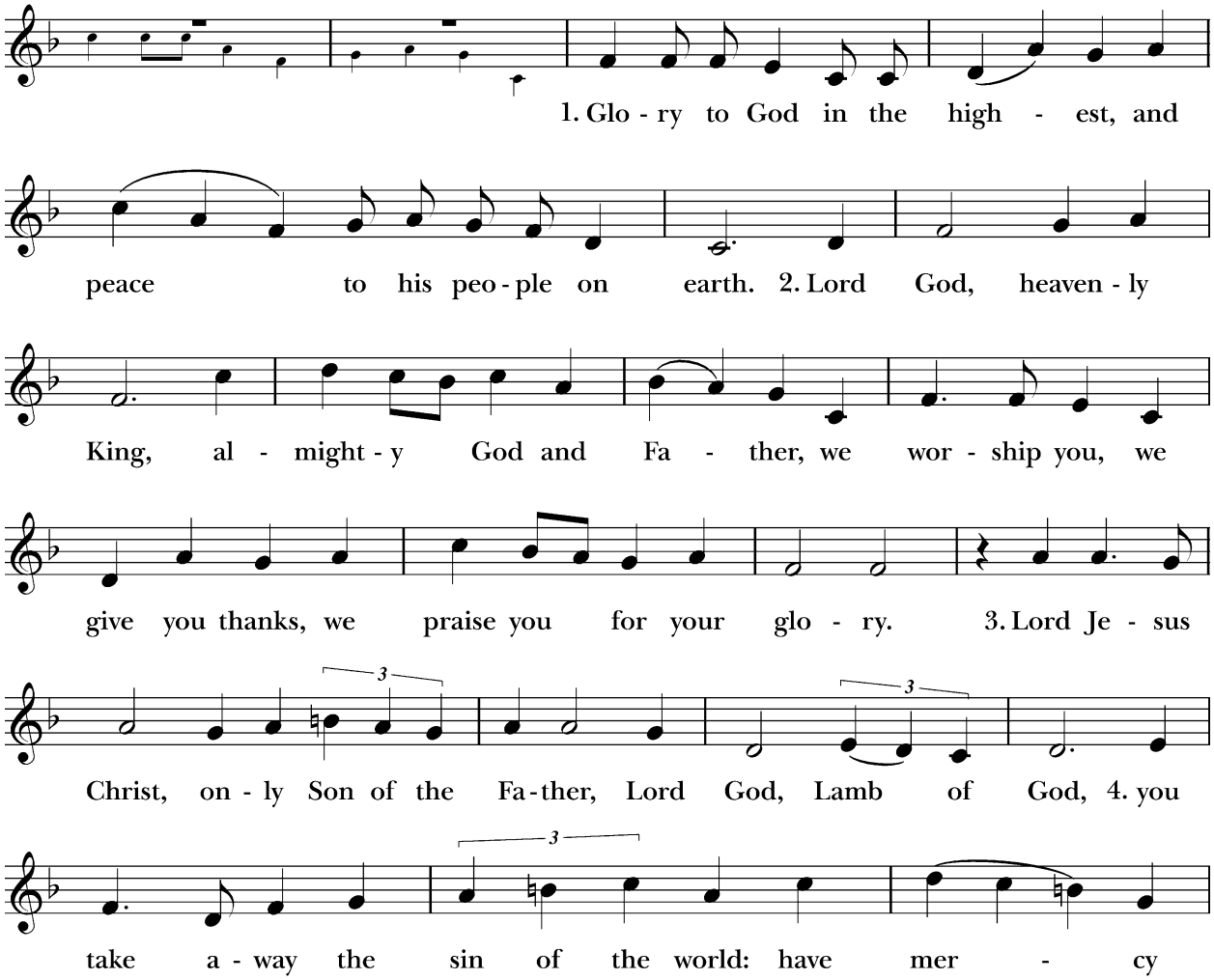
Deacon For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;

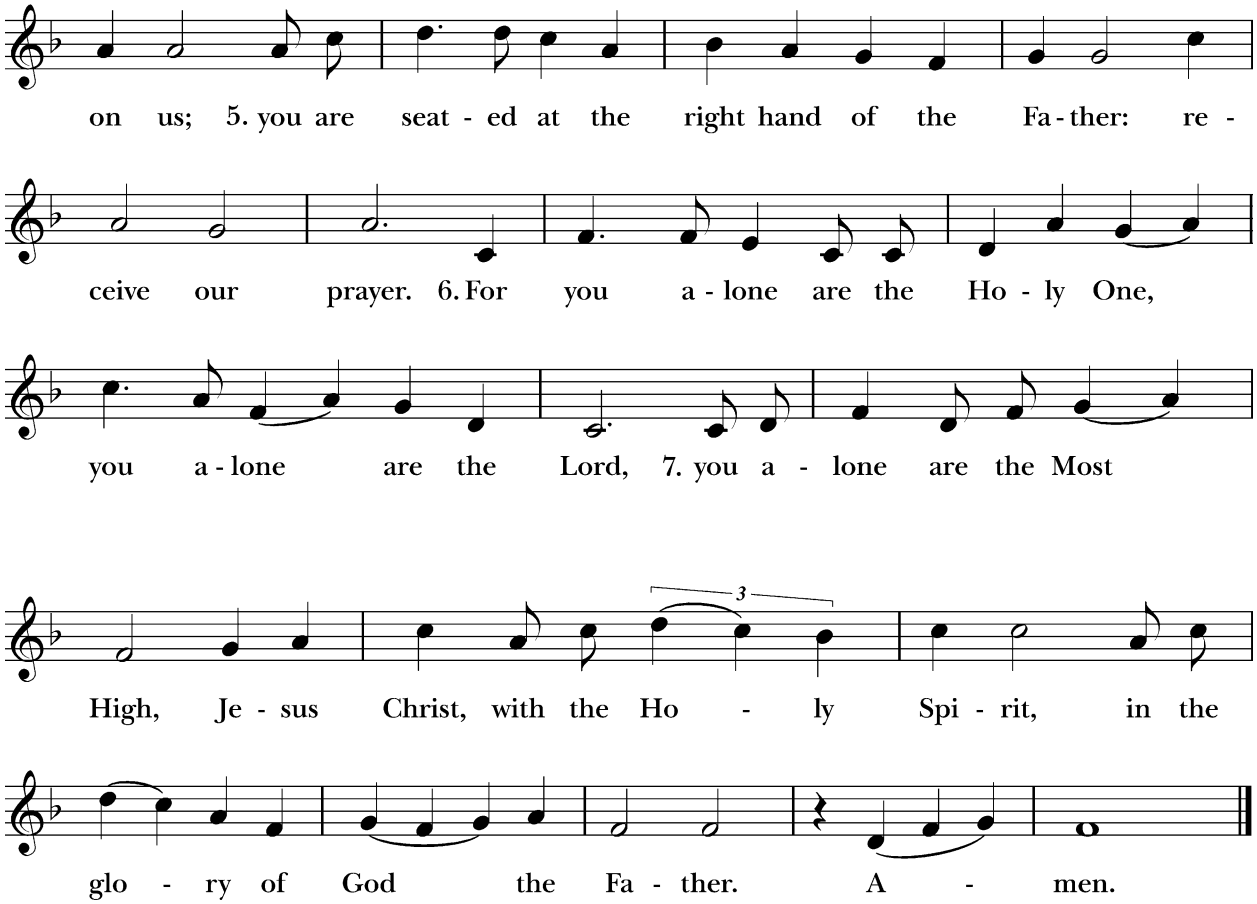
People That we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

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





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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)

Deacon God is with you.
People And also with you.
Deacon Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Wisdom 6:12-16
The people sit.

Reader A Reading from the book of Wisdom.

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those who love her,
and is found by those who seek her.
She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,
for she will be found sitting at the gate.
To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,
and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,
because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them in their paths,
and meets them in every thought.

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

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 70
Remain seated.

[1] Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; *
O LORD, make haste to help me.
[2] Let those who seek my life be ashamed
and altogether dismayed; *
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune
draw back and be disgraced.
[3] Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, *
because they are ashamed.
[4] Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; *
let those who love your salvation say for ever,
"Great is the LORD!"
[5] But as for me, I am poor and needy; *
come to me speedily, O God.
[6] You are my helper and my deliverer; *
O LORD, do not tarry.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The people sit.

Reader A Reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

Silence may follow.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

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, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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 We affirm our faith in the One, Holy and Living God.

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

Alleluia! Let us join the countless throngs who sing God's praises, praying, "We bless you, O Lord; your praise is ever in our mouth."

Leader: God of the pilgrim Church, you love us and call us your children: give your Church a hunger and a thirst for righteousness. Continue to nurture us by the example and fellowship of those saints who have journeyed before us.

Silence

Leader: We bless you, O Lord;

People: Your praise is ever in our mouths.

Leader: God of all people, you love us and call us your children: In a world of violence and war, you bless the peacemakers. We pray for Sean, our presiding bishop, Deon our bishop and all priests and deacons. In our Diocese of Missouri, we pray for the people and ministry of for Christ Episcopal Church (1876) in Cape Girardeau and for Carol, their Deacon-in-Charge. In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for Centro de Salud Conductual (Center of Behavioral Health). Make us instruments of healing and peace.

Silence

Leader: We bless you, O Lord;

People: Your praise is ever in our mouths.

Leader: God of creation, you love us and call us your children: you have given this earth to the meek. May our steps be gentle and leave a small footprint on our earth. As it has been handed on to us, may we carefully preserve this creation for future generations.

Silence

Leader: We bless you, O Lord;

People: Your praise is ever in our mouths.

Leader: God of the city, you love us and call us your children: bless the poor with good things. Visit our impoverished neighborhoods with hope, mercy, and relief. Give us hearts for the poor in our region.

Silence

Leader: We bless you, O Lord;

People: Your praise is ever in our mouths.

Leader: God of the mournful and suffering, you love us and call us your children: comfort and heal those in need. Hear them in their affliction and save them from their troubles. We pray especially for *(names from the prayer list may be inserted here)*.

Silence

Leader: We bless you, O Lord;

People: Your praise is ever in our mouths.

Leader: God of the Church at rest, you love us and call us your children: we praise you for the faith and witness of all the saints. May their prayers and presence continue to strengthen us. It is with their triumphant voices that we join our own prayers and praises. Alleluia!

Silence

Leader: We bless you, O Lord;

People: Your praise is ever in our mouths.

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

Silence

Leader: We bless you, O Lord;

People: Your praise is ever in our mouths.

Deacon says the concluding prayer.

Almighty God, whose gifts of blessing and grace have no end, write in our hearts your joy and zeal to tell the story of our faith by our words, by our deeds, and by offering all that you have given us: our lives, our gifts, our resources. Grant us also a portion of your never-ending generosity, that we may proclaim your love and mercy to the world around us through our parish community; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. *Amen.*

THE PEACE (BCP p. 360)
All stand.

Deacon	The Peace of Christ 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)

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.

ACT OF THANKSGIVING

After Communion, the officiating deacon clears the Altar and leads 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.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)

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 Our worship is ended. Our service in the world begins. Go into the world to love what God loves. Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

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UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, 604
Sunday, November 8, 2026

Leo of Rome, Bishop, 461
Tuesday, November 10, 2026

Martin of Tours, Bishop, 397
Wednesday, November 11, 2026

Charles Simeon, Priest, 1836
Thursday, November 12, 2026

The Consecration of Samuel Seabury, 1784
Saturday, November 14, 2026

UPCOMING AT HOLY CROSS

Wednesday, November 11
Prayer Group,11:00 AM – Noon, Library
Reva Arnold Food Pantry, 1:00 – 3:00 PM, Parish Hall

Sunday, November 15
Ante-Communion, 9:3o AM