

# Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
The Holy Eucharist Rite Two  
Sunday, February 1, 2026

# The Word of God

## Entrance Rite

ENTRANCE HYMN (BCP p. 355)

### OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Presider* Arise, shine, for Christ's light has come.

*People* God's glory is revealed among us and within us.

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.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; 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: Micah 6:1-8**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the LORD says:

“Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth;  
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.”

<sup>3</sup>“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup>O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

<sup>6</sup>“With what shall I come before the LORD,  
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

<sup>8</sup>He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

*Silence may follow.*

**PSALM: Psalm 15**

*Remain seated.*

<sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? \*  
who may abide upon your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, \*

who speaks the truth from his heart.  
<sup>3</sup>There is no guile upon his tongue;  
he does no evil to his friend; \*  
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.  
<sup>4</sup>In his sight the wicked is rejected, \*  
but he honors those who fear the LORD.  
<sup>5</sup>He has sworn to do no wrong \*  
and does not take back his word.  
<sup>6</sup>He does not give his money in hope of gain, \*  
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.  
<sup>7</sup>Whoever does these things \*  
shall never be overthrown.

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from Paul's First letter to the Church in Corinth.

<sup>18</sup>The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup>Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

*Silence may follow.*

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

*All stand.*

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12**

*All stand.*

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

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

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

## **THE CREED (BCP p. 358)**

*All stand.*

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

When a deacon is present, the Presider addresses the deacon, saying:

Loretta, Deacon in the Church of God, what cares and concerns of the world do you bring before us to be held up in prayer

*Deacon* People of God, I bid your prayers for...

*Deacon* People of God, I bid your remembrance for...

*Leader* You who by the leading of a star guided the Magi to the brightness of the Holy Child of Bethlehem; lead us by the guiding of Jesus our Savior to the light of revelation, that we may value and honor the varied gifts of our sisters and brothers and together present the offering of our life's labor at the feet of our Savior.  
Christ be our light.

*People* **Shine in our hearts.**

*Leader* You who framed the brightness of the first light in creation; dispel the arrogance, animosity and anger that shatters the unity of your holy Church. Fill your faithful people with the radiant light of truth, that we may be made one in faith, hope and love.  
Christ be our light.

*People* **Shine in our hearts.**

*Leader* You who delivered your people from the misery of bondage in slavery to the land of promise; set us free us from enslavement to division, disunity and distrust in

our public life and labor. Illumine those in authority with the light of vision, that they may lead the peoples of the nations to greater unity and concord.

Christ be our light.

*People* **Shine in our hearts.**

*Leader* You who patterned the stars and called the sun in to being, who appointed the moon and chartered the cosmos. Pattern the hearts of people everywhere to see in each other the beauty of the universe and the splendor of creation, that divisions of race, class, gender and ethnicity may dissolve into one common humanity.

Christ be our light.

*People* **Shine in our hearts.**

*Leader* You who shower comfort and hope to the lowest, the lost and the least; shower the light of compassion on the sick, the sorrowful and the suffering, especially those we have named. Help us to be your compassion and hope in the world.

Christ be our light.

*People* **Shine in our hearts.**

*Leader* You who welcome into the brilliant light of eternity the souls of those who have died; welcome those whose lives have been cut short by violence, warfare and strife. Shine the light of hope on our faithful dead, especially those we have named.

Christ be our light.

*People* **Shine in our hearts.**

*Leader* You who delight in the complexity of creation and the splendor of each creature; help us to delight in the diversity of the earth our island home. Inspire your people to care for the earth and its creatures and repent and return when we abuse, misuse and neglect our fellow creatures.

Christ be our light.

*People* **Shine in our hearts.**

*Presider* May Christ, the Morning-Star who knows no setting, find us ever burning with the light of love, the spirit of truth and the wellspring of hope; that following the way of Jesus and filled with the flame of the Holy Spirit, we may be a holy people whose lives and living inspire, incite and inflame your world with compassion and care. Through Jesus the Christ the light of the world. ***Amen.***

## **THE CONFESSION OF SIN**

*The Deacon 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 Priest 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.*

<i>Celebrant</i>	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
<i>People</i>	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.  
*Psalms 50:14*

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

# The Great Thanksgiving

## **SURSUM CORDA (BCP p. 367)**

*The People remain standing.*

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.

<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	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.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### 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**

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; 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)**

*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**

**Brigid of Kildare, Monastic, c.523  
Sunday, February 1, 2026**

**Anskar, Bishop and Missionary, 865  
Tuesday, February 3, 2026**

**The Dorchester Chaplains: Lieutenant George Fox, Lieutenant Alexander D. Goode,  
Lieutenant Clark V. Poling, and Lieutenant John P. Washington, 1943  
Tuesday, February 3, 2026**

**Cornelius the Centurion  
Wednesday, February 4, 2026**

**Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg, Missionary to Denmark and Sweden, 865  
Wednesday, February 4, 2026**

**The Martyrs of Japan, 1597  
Thursday, February 5, 2026**

**Roger Williams, 1683, and Anne Hutchinson, 1643, Prophetic Witnesses  
Thursday, February 5, 2026**

**The Martyrs of Japan, 1597  
Friday, February 6, 2026**