Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross



Ante-Communion, Rite Two
Sunday, November 15, 2026

The Word of God

Penitential Order

OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 351)
The people standing, the Presider says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 351)

The Presider 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 Presider stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all your 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 (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)

Presider The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Presider Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

14 The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.

18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12
Remain seated.

1 Lord, you have been our refuge *
from one generation to another.
2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born, *
from age to age you are God.
3 You turn us back to the dust and say, *
"Go back, O child of earth."
4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past *
and like a watch in the night.
5 You sweep us away like a dream; *
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
7 For we consume away in your displeasure; *
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.
8 Our iniquities you have set before you, *
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
[9 When you are angry, all our days are gone; *
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
10 The span of our life is seventy years,
perhaps in strength even eighty; *
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,

for they pass away quickly and we are gone.
11 Who regards the power of your wrath? *
who rightly fears your indignation?
] 12 So teach us to number our days, *
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

The people sit.

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

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have
anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will
come like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden
destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there
will be no escape! 4 But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like
a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or
of darkness. 6 So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be
sober; 7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night.
8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and
love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has destined us not for wrath but
for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether
we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and
build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

Silence may follow.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

All stand.

Presider A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

14 [Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven will be as when] a man, going on a journey,
summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to
another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 The

one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. [17]In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. [18]But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. [19]After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20]Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' [21]His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [22]And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' [23]His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [24]Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; [25]so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' [26]But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? [27]Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28]So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29]For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30]As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

Presider The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to Godf.

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

Presider: 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 Presiders and deacons. In our Diocese of Missouri, we pray for the people and ministry of for Christ Episcopal Church in Rolla and Shug, their Rector. In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for Parroquia Ayudada La Reconciliación (Parish of the Reconciliation) in Ponce. 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.

The Presider 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.

Presider 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.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE (BCP p. 376)
The Presider says

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Presider

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.

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.

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UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Francis Asbury, 1816, and George Whitefield, 1770, Evangelists
Sunday, November 15, 2026

Margaret of Scotland, Queen, 1093
Monday, November 16, 2026

Hugh of Lincoln, Bishop, 1200
Tuesday, November 17, 2026

Hugh, 1200, and Robert Grosseteste, 1253, Bishops of Lincoln
Tuesday, November 17, 2026

Hilda of Whitby, Abbess, 680
Wednesday, November 18, 2026

Elizabeth of Hungary, Princess, 1231, or
Thursday, November 19, 2026

Edmund, King, 870
Friday, November 20, 2026

William Byrd, 1623, John Merbecke, 1585, and Thomas Tallis, 1585, Musicians
Saturday, November 21, 2026

UPCOMING AT HOLY CROSS

Wednesday, November 18
Reva Arnold Food Pantry, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, Parish Hall

Sunday, November 22
Ante-Communion

Thursday, November 26
Thanksgiving Service with Potluck Dinnrt, 11:00 AM