



**ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA**

**HOLY CROSS DAY
(OBSERVED)**

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

ABOUT TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

Throughout the year, our Book of Common Prayer appoints numerous festival days for the Church to observe. When these days fall on a Sunday, they are often transferred to another day so that the congregation can keep a regular rhythm of seasons. On occasion, however, the rubrics of the prayer book make it permissible to keep a festival day on a Sunday by using the scripture passages and prayers appointed. This we do today as we observe Holy Cross Day, sometimes called “The Exaltation of the Holy Cross”.

Holy Cross Day recalls the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, built upon the traditional site of the crucifixion and tomb of our Lord, and calls the Church to solemn remembrance of the acts of Jesus’ cross and passion. This morning’s liturgy encompasses passages of scripture, hymnody, and prayers that seek to draw us deeper into the mystery of the Cross, our life and our salvation.

HOLY EUCHARIST

10:10AM

A prayerful silence precedes the service, beginning with the tower bells ringing the hour.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

WELCOME AND PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE WORD OF GOD


HYMN 598

Lord Christ, when first thou cam'st to earth

Mit Freuden zart

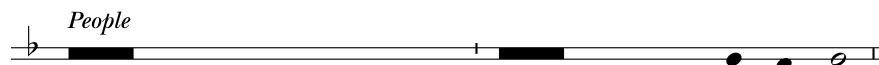
OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant



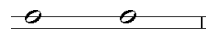
Bless-ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit.

People



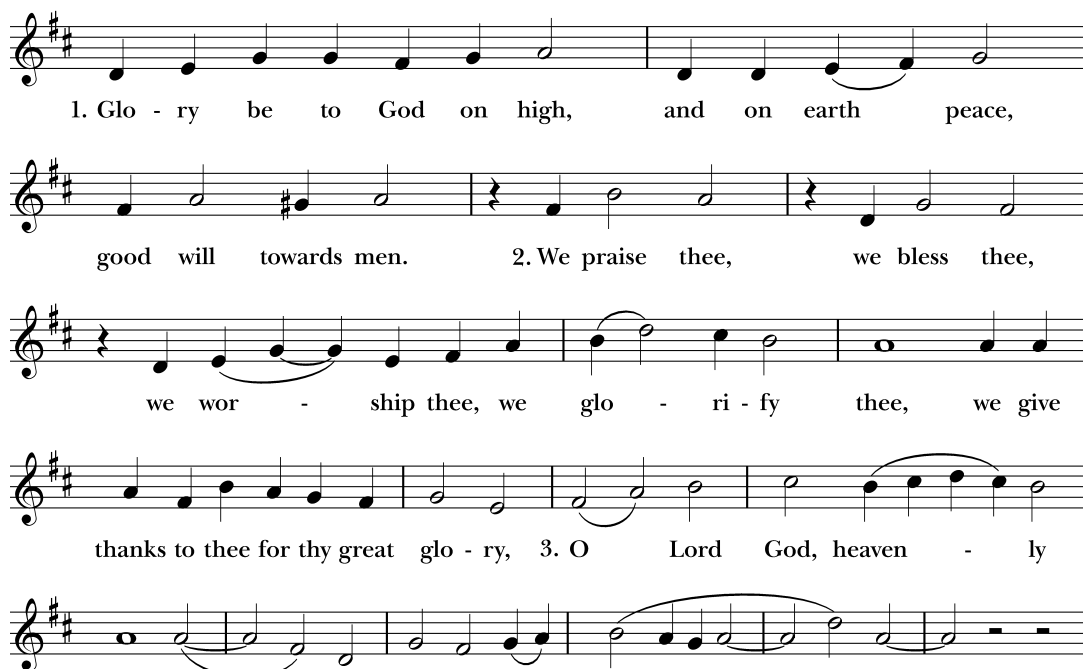
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ev - er. A - men.

The Celebrant sings the Collect and the people respond,



A - men.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



1. Glo - ry be to God on high, and on earth peace,
good will towards men. 2. We praise thee, we bless thee,
we wor - ship thee, we glo - ri - fy thee, we give
thanks to thee for thy great glo - ry, 3. O Lord God, heaven - ly
King, God the Fa-ther Al - might - y.

4. O Lord, the on - ly be - got - ten Son, Je - sus Christ;

5. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, that

ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -

on us. 6. Thou that ta - kest a - way the sins of the

world, re - ceive our prayer. 7. Thou that sit - test at the

right hand of God the Fa - ther, have mer - cy up - on us.

8. For thou on - ly art ho - ly; thou on - ly art the Lord; 9. thou

on - ly, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost, art most

high in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. —

A - - - - - men.

COLLECT OF THE DAY



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

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world to himself: Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.



A - men.

Declare and present your case;
let them take counsel together!

Who told this long ago?
Who declared it of old?

Was it not I, the LORD?
There is no other god besides me,
a righteous God and a Saviour;
there is no one besides me.

Turn to me and be saved,
all the ends of the earth!
For I am God, and there is no other.

By myself I have sworn,
from my mouth has gone forth in
righteousness
a word that shall not return:

“To me every knee shall bow,
every tongue shall swear.”

Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me,
are righteousness and strength;
all who were incensed against him
shall come to him and be ashamed.
In the LORD all the offspring of Israel
shall triumph and glory.

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

THE PSALTER

Chant: Ivor Algernon Atkins

The Psalm is sung by the choir.

Psalm 98

Cantate Domino

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The LORD has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
 did not regard equality with God
 as something to be exploited,
 but emptied himself,
 taking the form of a slave,
 being born in human likeness.
 And being found in human form,
 he humbled himself
 and became obedient to the point of death—
 even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
 and gave him the name
 that is above every name,
 so that at the name of Jesus
 every knee should bend,
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
 and every tongue should confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 471

We sing the praise of him who died

Breslau

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 12:31-36a

Gospeler
People

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, “We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” Jesus said to them, “The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.”

Gospeler
People

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

A few moments of silence for reflection follow the homily. All then stand for the Creed.

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

from *Common Worship*

The Leader and People pray responsively. Each petition concludes with the Leader inviting the people to respond,

By the Saviour's cross and passion,
Lord, save us and help us.

*The Celebrant adds a concluding collect and the People respond, **Amen.***

The Celebrant bids the Confession. Silence may be kept.

**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 Celebrant pronounces the absolution and the people respond, **Amen.***

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People exchange a sign of peace.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

ANTIPHON

Tone II

By the sign of the holy Cross, defend, O Lord, thy people from all the snares of our enemies:
That the service which we render may be pleasing unto thee,
and our sacrifice acceptable in thy sight, alleluia.

MOTET—*Christe, adoramus te*

Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643)

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee,
because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.
O Lord, have mercy upon us.

OFFERTORY HYMN 413

New songs of celebration render

Rendez a Dieu

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, 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.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of

Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -

- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant continues the prayer, recalling God's activity in our salvation history, the institution of the Lord's Supper, and inviting the people to join in saying,

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

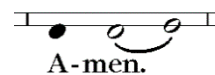
Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues, invoking the Spirit's present work, concluding the prayer, and inviting the people to join in the doxology of the prayer, saying,

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your Name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us

Save us from the time of trial,

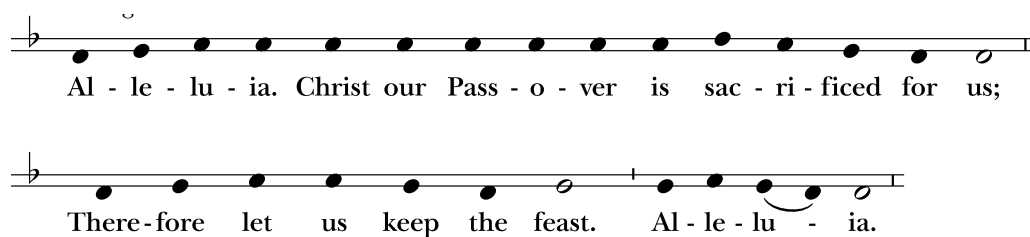
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and for ever. Amen.

FRACTION ANTHEM

After breaking the consecrated bread, the Celebrant sings,



MINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians, regardless of denomination, are welcome to receive Communion in the Episcopal Church. If you have not been baptized, we would love to talk to you about baptism. To receive the sacrament, extend your hands so that the priest may place the bread in the palm of your outstretched hands. Gluten free wafers are available. For those who desire to receive the wine that follows, guide the chalice toward your lips to drink from the cup. We kindly ask that you no intinct (dip) the bread into the chalice. If for any reason, you don't want to receive Communion, you are still invited to come forward, kneel, and cross your arms over your chest to signify this to the priest who will offer a blessing.

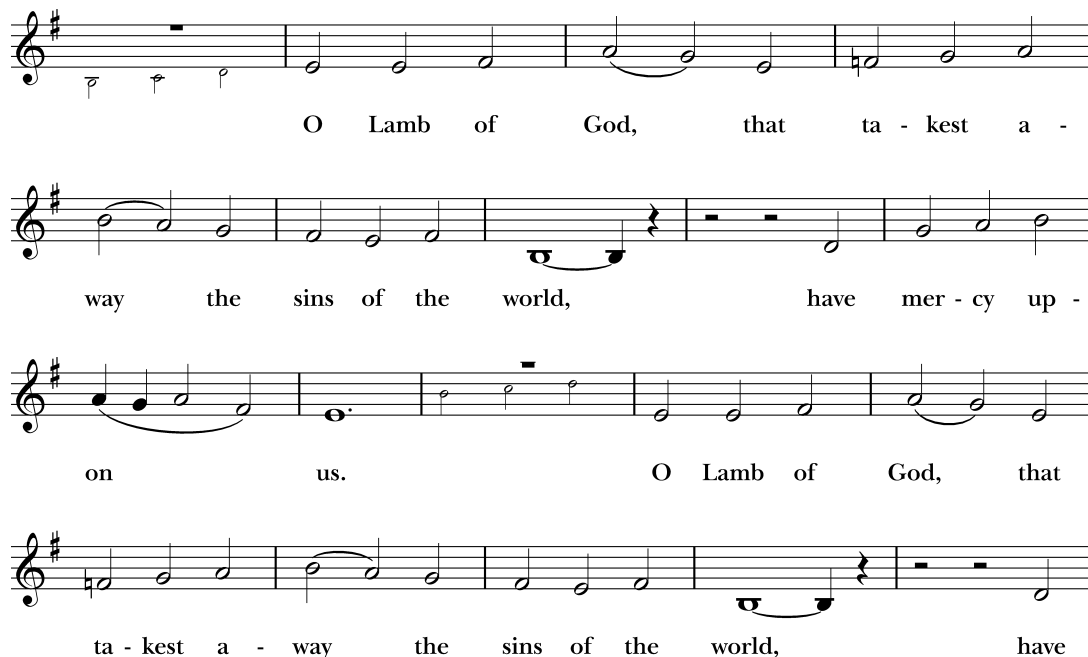
MUSIC AT THE COMMUNION

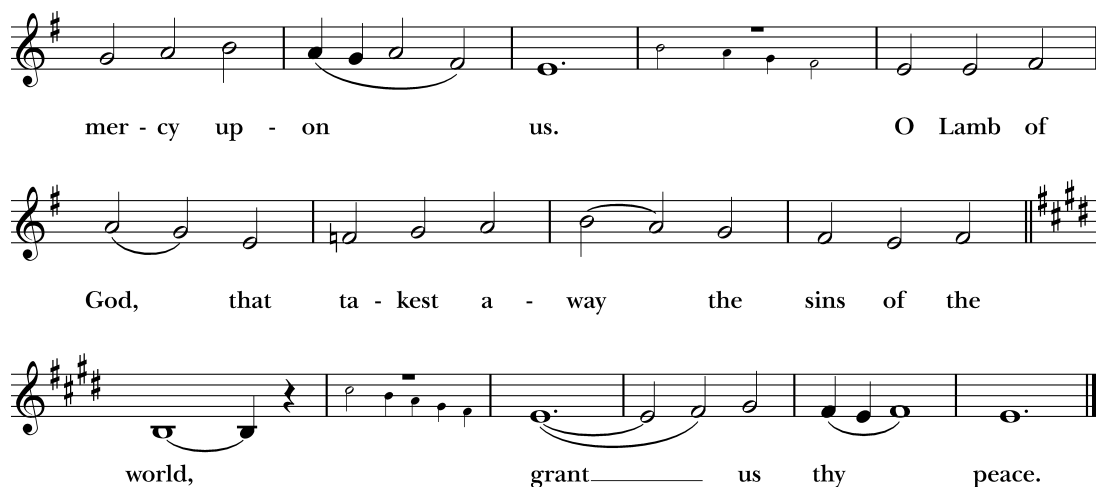
ANTIPHON

Tone I

By the sign of the Cross deliver us from our enemies;
O Lord our God.

AGNUS DEI





MOTET—*Ave verum corpus*

William Byrd (1540-1623)

Hail, true body, born of the Virgin Mary,
 Who truly suffered and was sacrificed on the cross for mankind,
 From whose pierced side flowed water and blood,
 Be for us a foretaste in the test of death.
 O sweet, O kind, O Jesus, son of Mary, have mercy on me.

HYMN 160

Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow

Cross of Jesus

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

The Celebrant and people say together,

**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.**

THE BLESSING

*The Celebrant offers a blessing over the assembly, and the people respond, **Amen.***

HYMN 477

All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine

Engelberg

THE DISMISSAL

*The Celebrant says the dismissal, and the people respond, **Thanks be to God.***

The setting of the Ordinary of the Mass (*Gloria, Sanctus/Benedictus, Agnus Dei*)
is from *Missa de sancta Maria Magdalena* by Healey Willan (1880-1968).

LEADING IN WORSHIP

The Rev'd Andrew J. Hege
Celebrant & Preacher

Michelle Curry
Vergers

Leslie Billingsley, Helene Harper
Eucharistic Ministers

Hannah Reule
Crucifer

Lucca Patterson
Thurifer

Giulio Patterson, Nicolina Patterson
Torchbearers

Darlene Van Dyke, Renee Lyons, Peter Purcell
Lectors

James Bumgardner, D.M.A.
Organist and Choirmaster

Kate Haycraft
Cantor

ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sunday Worship Schedule

Holy Eucharist	8:00AM
Holy Eucharist (w/choir)	10:10AM

Worship during the Week

Morning Prayer	Monday-Friday	8:30AM
Holy Eucharist	Wednesday	12:00PM

Holy Days, as announced

Parish Staff

The Rev'd Andrew J. Hege	Rector
The Rev'd Samuel V. Tallman	Priest Associate
The Right Rev'd J. Gary Gloster	Assisting Clergy
Dr. James Bumgardner	Organist/Choirmaster
Michael Marshall	Director of Administration & Finance
Bill Devereux	Director of Facilities & Hospitality

Parish Vestry

Mike Austell, Sr. Warden	Lynn Searfoss	Bob Amos
Michelle Curry	Jim Snow	Mike Matthews, Jr. Warden
Burt Mulford	Jill Storelli	Bob Rhoads
Sue Sweeting		Luba Skibo

Amanda White, Treasurer

St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church

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