CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

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THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
THE HOLY EUCHARIST WITH CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION: RITE II

September 13, 2026 ..... **11:00 a.m.**

The Right Reverend Jacob W. Owensby, Ph.D., D.D., *Celebrant*

The liturgy is found in the red Book of Common Prayer (Prayer Book).
Hymns are in the blue Hymnal 1982, *after the Service Music (S-) section.*

ORGAN PRELUDE ..... Andante con moto in E-flat ..... Alexandre Guilmant (1837–1911)

THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN 665 ..... All my hope on God is founded ..... MICHAEL

The liturgy continues on Page 413 of the Prayer Book.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Bishop Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Bishop There is one Body and one Spirit;

People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Bishop One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People **One God and Father of all.**

Bishop The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Bishop Let us pray.

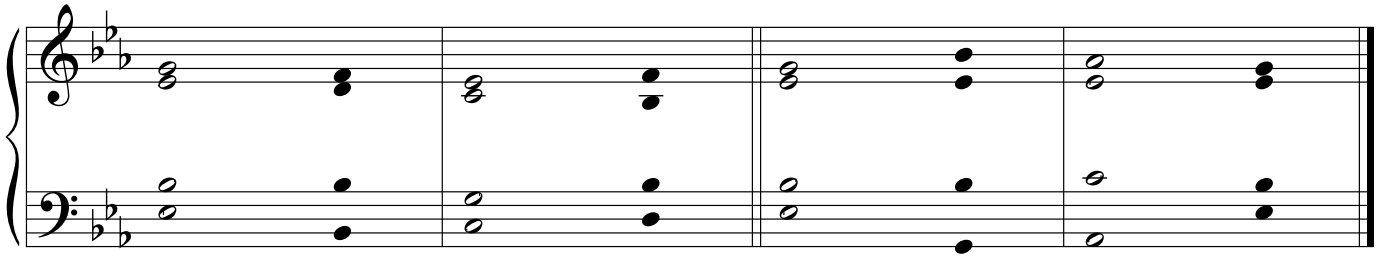
THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON ..... Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

PSALM 103:8-13.....Simplified Anglican chant: Robert Knox Kennedy (b. 1945)



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One measure of music is sung per half-verse, changing pitch at the slash mark.

8 The LORD is full of compassion and / mercy, *
slow to anger and of great / kindness.

9 He will not always ac-/cuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for / ever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our / sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our / wickedness.

11 For as the heavens are high above the / earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who / fear him.

12 As far as the east is from the / west, *
so far has he removed our / sins from us.

13 As a father cares for his / children, *
so does the LORD care for those who / fear him.

THE EPISTLE.....Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,

and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

HYMN 674 ..... "Forgive our sins as we forgive".....DETROIT

THE HOLY GOSPEL.....Matthew 18:21-35

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow

slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

SERMON.....The Rt. Rev. Jacob Owensby

PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

Confirmation: Donna and Kevin Bryan

Reception: Beth Lacour

The Bishop says

The Candidates will now be presented.

Presenter I present these persons for Confirmation.

Presenter I present this person to be received into this Communion.

The Bishop asks the candidates Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidates I do.

Bishop Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidates I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

The congregation stands as able.

After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

Answer **We will.**

The Bishop then says

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Bishop Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Bishop Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Bishop Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **I believe in the Holy Spirit,**
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Bishop Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you strive for justice and peace among all people,
and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATES

The Bishop then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

A period of silence follows.

Then the Bishop says

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of the Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Bishop lays hands upon each of the confirmands and says

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your Holy Spirit; empower *him* for your service; and sustain *him* all the days of *his* life. **Amen.**

Beth, we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve and keep you. **Amen.**

The Bishop concludes with this prayer

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace is then exchanged

Bishop The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Form IV..... Prayer Book, p. 388

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Today's undesignated offering will benefit the Bishop's Ministry Fund.

HYMN 376 ..... Joyful, joyful, we adore thee ..... HYMN TO JOY

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING – EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A ..... Prayer Book, p. 361

SANCTUS ..... Grayson Warren Brown (1948–2023), *A Mass for a Soulfull People*

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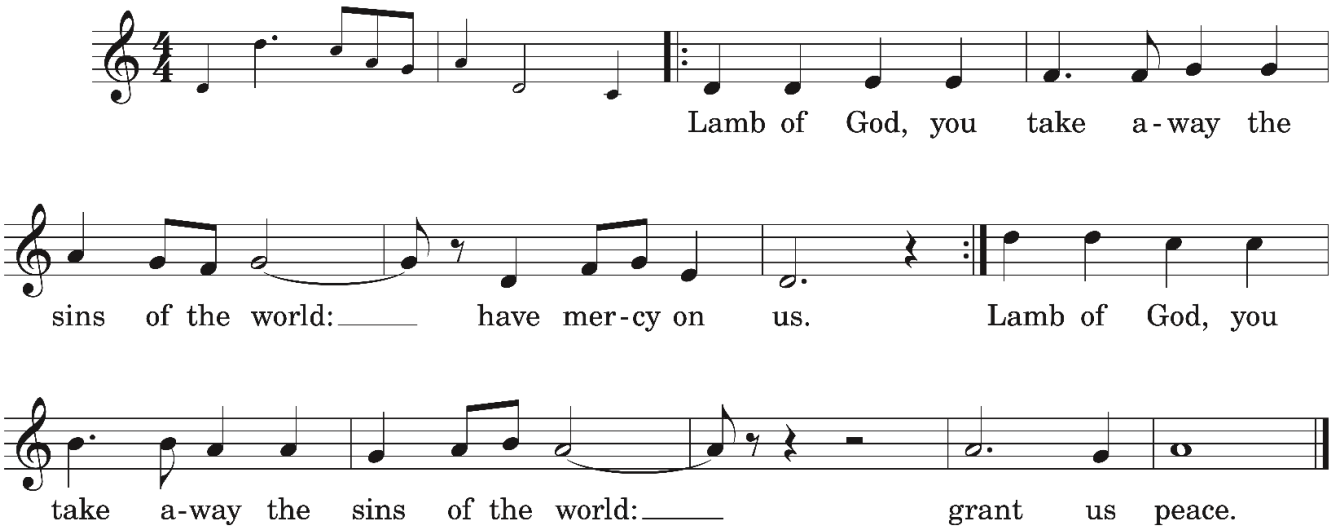
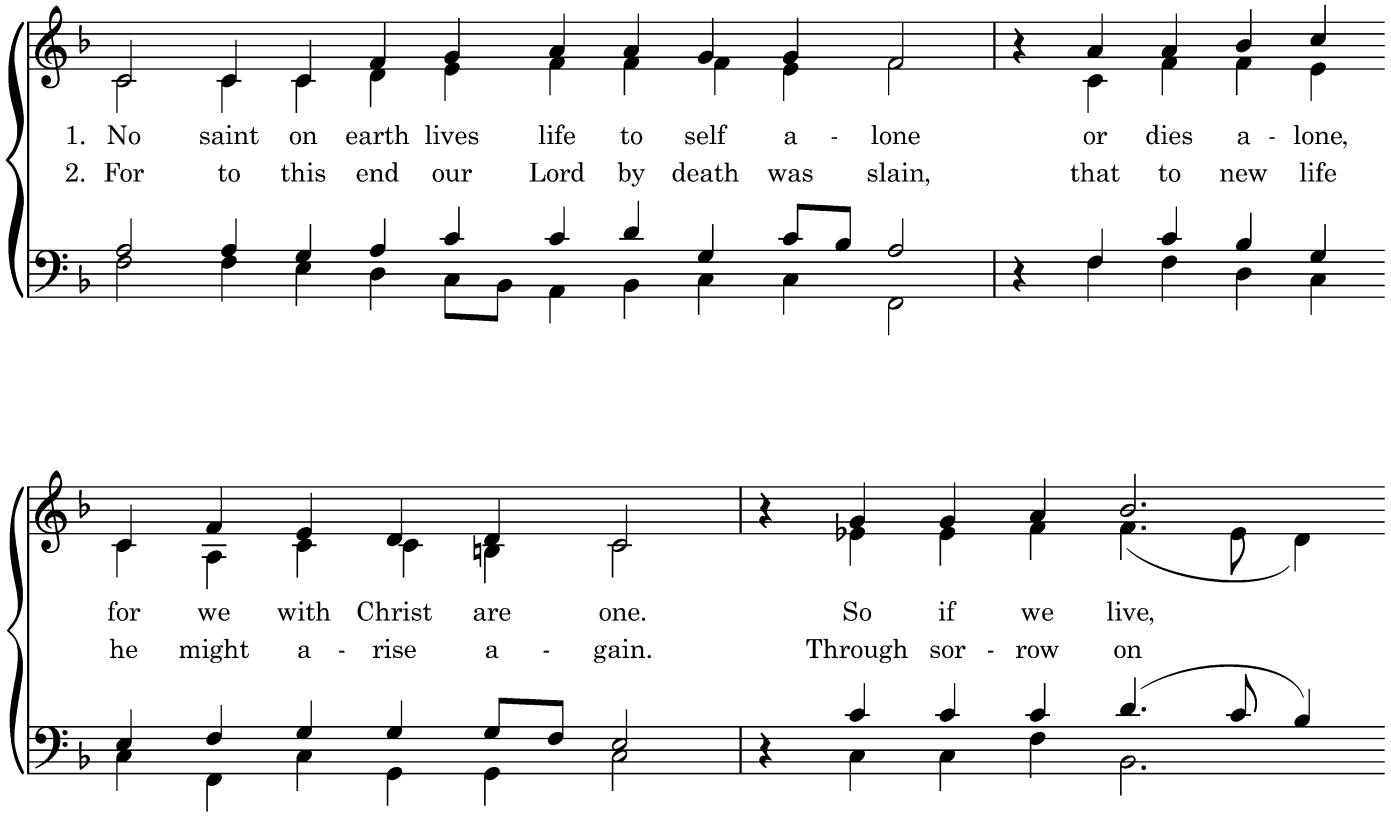
FRACTION ANTHEM ..... Peter Crisafulli (b. 1946)



All baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Eucharist in The Episcopal Church. If you are not comfortable receiving the Eucharist, you are invited to receive a blessing instead. Simply cross your arms over your chest at the altar rail to indicate that you would prefer a blessing. You are also welcome to remain seated. We encourage you to do whatever is authentic to your beliefs and comfortable to your convictions.

HYMN 577 ..... God is love, and where true love is ..... UBI CARITAS (MURRAY)

HYMN ..... No saint on earth lives life to self alone ..... SONG 1



Words: J.W. Schulte Nordholt (1920–1995); tr. Norman J. Kansfield (b. 1940); © Norman J. Kansfield
Music: SONG 1, melody and bass Orlando Gibbons (1582–1625); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958), alt., from *Hymns for Church and School* 1964; harm. © Oxford University Press

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION ..... Prayer Book, p. 366

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

1. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther, there is no
2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon and
3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear
shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove, join with cre - a - tion in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright
- pass - ions, they fail not, as thou hast been, thou for ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!
Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm (1866–1960) Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan (1870–1957)

ORGAN POSTLUDE..... Scherzo .....Alan Ridout (1934–1996)

A light reception in the Undercroft follows the service.

This week we remember Mary Helen Blume, Peggy Haynes Dew, Floyd Richardson Farrar, Miriam Davis Farrar, O.B. Hogan, Daisy Rhodes Jones, Rhoda Hunt Keith, Michael Ray Mangham, Paul D. Means, Maude Chapman Blackmer Poleman, and Reeve Lewis Snodgrass, buried from Holy Cross.

The flowers on the high altar are given to the glory of God.

Welcome to the Church of the Holy Cross! Our community is grounded in Baptism, Eucharist, prayer, and service. For it is in these things that we answer the call of our Lord to love God and love our neighbor.

This Week's Schedule

Sunday
Rector's forum, 9:45 a.m. (Undercroft)
Holy Eucharist, 11:00 a.m. (Nave)

Tuesday
Morning Prayer, 8:30 a.m. (Chapel)

Wednesday
Sung Morning Prayer, 8:30 a.m. (Quire)
Reading group, 10:00 a.m. (Library)
Holy Eucharist, Noon (Quire)
Vestry meeting, 5:30 p.m. (Library)

Thursday
Morning Prayer, 8:30 a.m. (Quire)
Morning Prayer, 9:00 a.m. (Hope House)

Friday
Morning Prayer, 8:30 a.m. (Chapel)

Monday–Saturday
Daily Office, 6:00 p.m. (Online)

The **card-writing ministry** meets every **First Thursday** of the month at **10:30** in the Library.

The **reading group** meets every **First and Third Wednesday** of the month at **10:00** in the Library.

Volunteers are needed to help the **ECW make pickles**
Wednesday, September 16 and 23, and **October 7, 14, and 21**.

The **ECW** is accepting donations of **items to sell at the Fall Bazaar, including gently used furniture**.
Please **call the office to coordinate drop-off**.
The Bazaar and furniture rummage sale will be on Saturday, November 7.

This year's **organ recital** series begins **October 4 at 1:30 p.m.!**
Flyers are available in the narthex with more information.

The **Fall Triduum** will be observed **Saturday, October 31 through Monday, November 2.**
All Hallows' Eve service will be **Saturday at 6:00 p.m.** at **Oakland Cemetery**.
All Saints' Day masses will be on **Sunday morning** at **9:00 and 11:00**.
All Souls' Day mass will be on **Monday at 5:30 p.m.** at **St. Paul's**.