

HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Of Hayward and Castro Valley

*You've got questions? We've got questions!
Let's go on a journey together.*



Ascension Sunday, Year A
8:30 A.M., May 17, 2026

RECTOR: The Very Rev. Jeffrey Dodge-Hogarth, Email: rector@holycrosscv.org
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Dylan Snodgrass
RECTOR'S WARDEN: Roy Nunes PEOPLE'S WARDEN: Tina Baggott
TREASURER: Cathy Gould BOOKKEEPERS: Bill Harven & Emily Nepveux
NURSERY: Julianna Fencsik YOUTH GROUP: Fletcher Nunes
OFFICE MANAGER: Bonnie Pikul, office hours: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Mon. – Fri

Holy Eucharist

8:30 a.m.

*W*elcome to Holy Cross Episcopal Church. We are glad you are here and hope you enjoy your time with us. Please join us for community time and refreshments in Turner Hall after the service so we may get acquainted with you. If you are here for the first time please take a moment to fill out a “Welcome to Our Guests” card, and place it in the offering basin or hand it to Rev. Jeff. We would love to get to know you better! The octagon shaped Information Center out on the upper patio beside the church contains brochures and various forms of printed information about Holy Cross. We invite you to stop by after our worship today and pick up anything that looks interesting.

A special note to parents with young children: Relax! Your children are most welcome and encouraged to share our worship time! We expect children to make noise and behave as God has created them—as children!

❖ *There are two toy boxes located at the back of the church by the rocker in the left corner of the church (the rocker is for parents and babes in arms), both are full of soft toys and books for the children’s use during the service. Please see that the toys are returned after the service for use next Sunday.*

❖ *Children’s Worship Bulletins: KidsWord and Little KidsWord for the pre-schoolers are available on clipboards at the back table of the church. Please encourage children to pick one up as they enter the church and return the clipboards to the entrance table before they leave.*

About Today’s Worship

During the Easter Season, we will be using Eucharistic Prayer C from The Book of Common Prayer. This rite pays special attention to the glory of God’s gifts to us in creation. It is also the most interactive form we have with the congregation taking a more participatory role. We will return to using the Traditional Lord’s Prayer. Prayer C will also be used at the 10:15 service during Eastertide, with the Contemporary Lord’s Prayer, music, and choir.

Again, we are delighted that you are here to worship with us.

The Gathering Rite

Please stand as able as the altar party enters.

Presider Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The Word of God

THE LESSON

Please sit.

ACTS 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?"

This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 93

Said by all in unison.

1 The LORD is King;

**he has put on splendid apparel; *
the LORD has put on his apparel
and girded himself with strength.**

**2 He has made the whole world so sure *
that it cannot be moved;**

**3 Ever since the world began, your throne has been established; *
you are from ever-lasting.**

**4 The waters have lifted up, O LORD,
the waters have lifted up their voice; *
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.**

**5 Mightier than the sound of many waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea, *
mightier is the LORD who dwells on high.**

**6 Your testimonies are very sure, *
and holiness adorns your house, O LORD,
for ever and for ever-more.**

THE EPISTLE:

EPHESIANS 1:15-23

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the

immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

The People stand as able.

LUKE 24:44-53

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you-- that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The People may be seated.

Following the homily, we will take a brief moment for silent reflection.

NEW ZEALAND PRAYER BOOK: OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,

Said together, standing, if able.

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You created our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
Good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.**

You are our God. We worship you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Standing, kneeling or sitting, the people pray responsively.

Ascended Christ, we thank you for all the ways you watch over and guide us in our daily lives.

We pray for the welfare of the world and the whole creation, especially for all who work to preserve our resources and to fight the cause of climate change.

Ascended Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all the leaders of the world that they may govern with wisdom and compassion to create a world of reconciliation, justice and peace.

Ascended Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are persecuted, who are discriminated against, who are attacked because of their race, gender, or faith that we may have grace to work for justice for their sakes.

Ascended Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church, for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Austin, our Bishop, for our clergy Jeff, and the whole Holy Cross community, that we may continue to care for each other and for those in need.

Ascended Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who suffer, especially the sick and the mentally ill, the poor and the unhoused, for all children and the elderly, for victims of war, gun violence, hunger and abuse, for all refugees and all who feel alienated, distressed and the lonely.

Ascended Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died, and for those who mourn or those whose lives have been touched by tragedy. May they know Your consoling presence through all those who reach out to comfort them.

Ascended Christ, **hear our prayer.**

Praise and glory to you, God of space and time, humble savior, king of love. You have ascended to your royal throne and are exalted to draw us all to your love. May we, whom you have redeemed and called to be guests at your table, receive and put to use the gifts you have given us to serve others. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The People Stand.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People

And also with you.

WELCOME AND HIGHLIGHTS

THE PRAYER OF THE COMMUNITY

Almighty and gracious God, giver of every good and perfect gift, we give you thanks for your servants as they celebrate a special milestone or anticipate a time of travel. Watch over them and protect them. Bless and guide them wherever they go and surround them with your loving care on every side. Grant them wisdom in the living of their lives, and grace to keep the vows and promises they have made. And may your peace, which passes all understanding, abide in their hearts all the days of their lives, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY *While the table is being set a collection will be taken for the work of the church. The ushers then bring the offerings to the Presider who says:*

Presider All things come from you, O God,
People **And of your own have we given you.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The people remain standing. The Presider says:

People The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

**By his blood, he reconciled us.
By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Presider and People:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people remain standing, kneel or sit. Then the Presider continues:

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, of Miriam and Deborah, of Mary the Mother of Jesus, and Mary Magdalene, first witness of the resurrection: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal.

Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**



And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Said by all standing

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.
A period of silence is kept.*

Presider Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMMUNION

If you are unable to come forward to receive Communion or a prayer of blessing, please notify an usher and Eucharistic Ministers will come to you.

After receiving Communion or a prayer of blessing, those desiring prayer for healing or personal concerns may go to the kneeler at the left side of the sanctuary for prayer with members of the Healing Team.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

The people stand if able.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

If a Eucharistic Visitor will be sent out to share communion this morning, the congregation is invited to send them forth with following rite.

Presider In the Name of God, we send you forth to share
 communion with those who are absent from this table.
People **As you have been fed, now feed others.**
Presider Our prayers are with you, go in peace.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE EASTER BLESSING

Be at peace, because Christ our Redeemer has triumphed over Sin and Death. **Amen.**

He has brought us through water from Death to new Life. **Amen.**

He has fed us with the nourishment of his body and blood to continue our work in the world, that we promise in our covenant together. **Amen.**

And now, the blessing of God: Creator, Covenant-Maker, and Spirit of Life, remain with you and keep you, from this time forth and forever more!
Amen.

The people are dismissed with these words.

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

PRESIDING & PREACHING: The Very Rev. Jeffrey Dodge Hogarth
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Terry Miller
LECTORS: Clyde Fralick & Lydia McCloskey
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WRITTEN BY: The Rev. Pamela Cranston
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Bob Harley
BREAD BAKER: Lynne Lange
GREETER: Bob Harley
HEALING TEAM: Alissa Fencsik
PASCHAL CANDLE ARTIST: Roy Nunes
ALLELUIA BANNER: Debra Collins, Tina & Glenda Vieira, Mary Padilla,
Wendy Jacobsen & Emile Nepveux
ALTAR FLOWERS: Joan Hawley
OFFERTORY COUNTERS: Georgia Brown & Josie Ramos
COFFEE HOUR: Bonnie Sloan

