



**Episcopal Church of the Cross
9:30 AM; September 10, 2023
Feast of the Holy Cross
Bee Cave Elementary School
Ecclaketravis.org
512-695-2803**

The mission of the Episcopal Church of the Cross is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, and soul, and strength, and mind, and our neighbors as ourselves. We are the ECC: Loving God and our Neighbors.

Welcome to Church of the Cross!

If you would like to learn more about the life and future of Church of the Cross, please scan the code below and we'll be in touch later this week. Thank you!



Opening Prayer:

All: 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Presider: Blessed be God! Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

People: And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and for ever! Amen!

Opening Song: See, What a Morning

See, what a morning, gloriously bright, with the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
Folded the grave-clothes, tomb filled with light, as the angels announce, "Christ is risen!"
See God's salvation plan, wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,
Fulfilled in Christ, the man,
For he lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

See Mary weeping, "Where is he laid?" As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name; it's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!
The voice that spans the years, speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us,
Will sound till he appears,
For he lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

One with the Father, Ancient of Days, through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty.
Honor and blessing, glory and praise to the King crowned with power and authority!
And we are raised with him, death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered;
And we shall reign with him,
For he lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

Presider: Lord, have mercy;
People: **Christ, have mercy;**
Presider: Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that all might be received into your healing embrace. So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may share the greatness of your love, and be sent forth into the world in peace; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

The First Reading: I Corinthians 15:3-11

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Reader: The word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual: Gather Us In

Here in this place, new light is streaming, now is the darkness, vanished away,
see, in this space, our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery; we are the old, who yearn for your face,
we have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat, the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven light years away,
but here in this space, the new light is shining, now is the kingdom, now is the day.

Gather us in, and hold us forever; gather us in, and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The Gospel: John 12:31-36

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

Jesus said, "Now is the judgement 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 for ever. 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."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Message

The Baptismal Covenant

Presider: Let us join with our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world, and renew the promises and vows of our baptism, by which we once renounced the powers of evil, and promised to serve God faithfully. Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People: **I do.**

Presider: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Presider: 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.**

Presider: Do you believe in 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.**

Presider: 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.**

Presider: 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.**

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

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

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

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

Presider: 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.**

Presider: May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who grants new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

The Prayers of the Community

Prayer Leader: Good morning, Lord. We are your people, gathered in prayer; and we love you. We pray for your Church, near and far. Increase in us, we pray, love of you and our neighbor. Hear us, Lord;

People: **For your mercy is great.**

Prayer Leader: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Bring us your peace. Gather us in. With special intention, we pray for peace in Ukraine. Hear us, Lord;

People: **For your mercy is great.**

Prayer Leader: Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may steward its resources wisely to your honor and in relief of the world's sorrows. Hear us, Lord;

People: **For your mercy is great.**

Prayer Leader: Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Hear us, Lord;

People: **For your mercy is great.**

Prayer Leader: We pray for the students, parents, teachers, staff, and administrators of the Bee Cave Elementary School. Hear us, Lord;

People: **For your mercy is great.**

Prayer Leader: Comfort and strengthen all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles. Bring us, we pray, your healing. And now, either silently or aloud, we place before you those for whom you have called us to pray...

An open space for people to offer their own prayers.

Hear us, Lord;

People: **For your mercy is great.**

Prayer Leader: We commend to your mercy all who have died that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Hear us, Lord;

People: **For your mercy is great.**

Prayer Leader: Now we confess to you, Merciful Lord, our sins and offenses:

All: **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 our Savior 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.**

Presider: Almighty God has mercy on you, forgives you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthens you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keeps you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace:

Presider: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

The Offering:

Offerings made by check or in cash may be placed in the offering basket near the back of the worship service. Offerings can also be made by texting ECCLAKETRAVIS with your amount to 73256.

Song of Offering: Shall We Gather at the River

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod;
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day.
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God

Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease,
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right give God thanks and praise.**

Presider: It is right to give you thanks and praise, Loving God, at all times and in all places, but especially at this table, through Jesus Christ our Lord. We thank you for how always you are revealing yourself: in Creation; in the scriptures; in your people, gathered and sent; and fully in your Son, Jesus, who at the cross made us right with you, one another, and in our very selves; and who in being raised on the third day made all things new and brought hope to all the world.

And so with grateful hearts we join the saints and angels proclaiming your glory as we say,

All: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Presider: Loving Lord, we bring you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

With those throughout the ages who have loved you, and sought you, and followed you, we pray this ancient story: On the night he was betrayed, Jesus 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."

Father, we now celebrate the memorial of your Son. By means of this holy bread and cup, we show forth the sacrifice of his death, and proclaim his resurrection, until he comes again.

Gather us by this Holy Communion into one body in your Son Jesus Christ. Make us a living sacrifice of praise.

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.

All: **AMEN!**

The Lord's Prayer:

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.

Presider: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us!

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia!**

Presider: 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.

Please come forward to receive communion as you are led to do so.

Songs during Communion: At the Cross

We stand before your throne; in Christ we stand as one
Some are weak, and some are strong; still, in Christ we stand as one.

As the world begins to fade, and the cross comes into view
Our restless hearts find peace again, as the cross comes into view

At the cross we are forgiven
At the cross we are healed
At the cross new life is given
At the cross, God's love is revealed

Oh Gracious Light

Oh Gracious Light; so pure and bright
Dispel the darkness of our hearts
That by your brightness we may know the light
Incarnate word, grant that the light
Deep and kindled in our hearts
May shine forth and give us divine life

Dayspring of life; to light from light
Pour into every broken heart
Peace and virtue blinded by the light
Oh Jesus Christ, holy and blessed
We sing thy praises in our hearts
God of heaven, giver of all life

Bring your peace, hope and love; bring your peace, Gracious one

Oh Gracious Light; so pure and bright
Dispel the darkness of our hearts
That by your brightness we may know the light

Prayer of Sending:

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Closing Song: Joyful, Joyful

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
Praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Blooming meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,
Call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother:
All who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

The Episcopal Church of the Cross

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The People of Church of the Cross, Ministers of the Gospel

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