



Christ Church
Cathedral
Ottawa

Holy Cross Day

Sunday | September 14th | 2025

10.30 am | Choral Eucharist | BAS

Missa L'ora passa | Matthew Larkin

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ross and Charlene Sibbit

Welcome

Children are welcome to fully participate in the service
and activity sheets are available at the entrance to the Cathedral.
Sidespeople can provide headsets for those who need hearing assistance.
Please turn off or set mobile devices to silent mode.

*Our diocese was founded on the homeland of the Anishinaabe Algonquins.
May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.*

The Gathering of the Community

Prelude | *Da Jesus an dem Kreuze stund (BWV 621) | J.S. Bach*

Announcements

Hymn 386 | *When I survey the wondrous cross*

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

Almighty God,

to you all hearts are open, all desires known and from you no secrets are hidden: 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.

Gloria

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.

Collect of the Day

God of compassion, Jesus was lifted up on the cross, a sign of your steadfast love and a pledge of your will to save. Grant healing of soul and life eternal to those who look upon the cross in faith; through Jesus Christ, our peace and our salvation. **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading | *Numbers 21:4b-9*

A reading from the book of Numbers.

The people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm | *98:1-6*

Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvellous things, whose mighty hand and holy arm have won the victory. O Lord, you have made known the victory; you have openly shown your righteousness in the sight of the nations. You remember your mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen your victory, O God. Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice and sing. Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song. With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before our sovereign, the Lord.

Second Reading | *1 Corinthians 1:18-24*

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save

those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual | *God so loved the world* | John Stainer

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

Holy Gospel | *John 3:13-17*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Hymn 202 | *There is a green hill far away*

Apostles' Creed

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

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

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.

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. Amen.

Prayers

Let us pray.

Maker and Lover of all, in your kindness you have bound us to one another and called us to serve the earth and its people. We pray for Archbishop Shane, our national church, and our diocese. Grant us the gifts of deep faith, open hospitality, and fresh imagination so that we may shape your future with joy.

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Grateful for the life within us, we pray for those whose lives are diminished by illness, depression, grief, or rejection. Grant them the healing, affirmation, and care that restores. We also remember those we have loved and see no longer, may they rest in peace.

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Conscious of the peace in this place, we pray for those who live without peace because of war, violence, hunger, or despair. May the voices of victims be heard, and the work of peacemakers be blessed.

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Surrounded by the rolling beauty of the Ottawa Valley, we pray for the earth especially where it is harmed by human carelessness and greed. We remember those affected by fires in our land and all who suffer from climate disasters around the world. Teach us to cherish your creation as you do.

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Knowing that you hear us when we pray, we now offer in silence all those people and situations on our hearts this day.

Silence.

We entrust all our cares to you, gracious God, trusting in your compassionate love.
Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; God welcomes sinners and invites us to this table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence.

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 neighbours 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.

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

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

Offertory Hymn 200 | *We sing the praise of him who died*



Thank you for donating to the ministry of our Cathedral! You may also make an offering via the collection plate or tip-tap machine in the foyer, by going to <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/5519> or by e-transfer to info@ottawacathedral.ca.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Prayer Over the Gifts

Merciful God, through the death of your beloved Son you transformed an instrument of shame into a sign of hope and glory. Receive all we offer you this day, and renew in us the mystery of his love; through the same Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. He is your living Word, through whom you have created all things.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh of the Virgin Mary and shared our human nature. He lived and died as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Creator of all.

In fulfilment of your will he stretched out his hands in suffering, to bring release to those who place their hope in you; and so he won for you a holy people.

He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows, and to give up his life on the cross, that he might shatter the chains of evil and death, and banish the darkness of sin and despair. By his resurrection he brings us into the light of your presence.

Now with all creation we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name. *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.*

Holy and gracious God, accept our praise, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread and gave you thanks, saying, "Take, and eat: this is my body which is broken for you."

In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This is my blood which is shed for you. When you do this, you do it in memory of me."

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we offer you this bread and this cup, giving thanks that you have made us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of your holy Church. Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory through your Servant, Jesus Christ.

All glory and honour are yours, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church, now and for ever. **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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

"I am the bread which has come down from heaven," says the Lord.
Give us this bread for ever.

"I am the vine, you are the branches."
May we dwell in him, as he lives in us.

The gifts of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

Agnus Dei

Communion

All are welcome to come to the altar rail. If you wish prayers for healing before receiving Communion, please carry an Order of Service with you; to receive a blessing, cross your hands over your chest; for a gluten-free wafer, hold out one hand; for a regular wafer, hold out two hands. Please do not dip the bread in the wine.

Motet | *Crux fidelis* | *King John IV of Portugal*

*Crux fidelis, inter omnes arbor una nobilis: nulla silva talem profert, fronde, flore, germine.
Dulce lignum, dulces clavos, dulce pondus sustinet. | Faithful cross, high above all others,
noblest of trees, nothing so blessed has grown there, not branches or blossoms. Sweet wood,
sweet nails, sweet burden hanging on you. Amen.*

The Sending of the Community

Prayer after Communion

Almighty God, we give thanks that you have made us partakers of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who took our nature upon him and suffered death upon the cross for our redemption; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Pledge of Transformation

For love, which heals wounds,
we will stand.

For generosity, which opens space for hope,
we will stand.

For nurturing, which builds a culture of peace,
we will stand.

For compassion, which seeks the best for all,
we will stand.

For respect, which enables us to love with difference,
we will stand.

For humility, which allows healthy relationships with others,
we will stand.

Together for hope,
we will stand.

Commissioning of Boy Choristers

Dean

To achieve our goal of promoting excellence in sacred music, some Cathedral choristers are called to positions of leadership, working with their director to ensure high standards of musical discipline.

Associate Director of Music

Dean Bretzlaff, I present to you from the Boys Choir, Declan Grant to be commissioned as Head Chorister, Ewan Ibey as Dean's Chorister, and William Coleman as Vicar's Chorister.

Dean

Declan, Ewan, and William, do you, in the presence of this congregation, commit yourself to the responsibility entrusted to you as leaders in the Cathedral Boys Choir?

Choristers

I do, and I will faithfully uphold this ministry to which I have been called.

Dean

May God, who has given you gifts of music and leadership, bless you and give you the grace and determination to carry out the ministry to which you have been called, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing and Dismissal

May the love of the Creator, the tenderness of the Son, and the presence of the Spirit, gladden your heart, bring peace to your soul, and bless you this day and all days. **Amen.**

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 537 | *In the cross of Christ I glory*

Postlude | *Præludium in E flat (BWV 552)* | J.S. Bach

Celebrant | The Very Reverend Beth Bretzlaff
Preacher | The Reverend Canon Doug Richards
Readers | Geoffrey Ebere | Barbara Morris
Intercessor | Trudy Seliger
Duty Warden | Jane Morris

Organist | James Calkin
Director | Andrew McAnerney
Sung by | Boys | Lay Clerks

Collect: *Opening Prayers* (1997). Liturgy: *The Book of Alternative Services* ©1985, *The Psalter of The Book of Alternative Services Emended for Contemporary Liturgical Use* ©2016 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. Readings: *New Revised Standard Version Bible (NRSV)* Anglicized Edition, ©1989, 1995, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. *Pledge of Transformation* is a commitment made by *Together for Hope* partners, the sister-organisation to the Coventry *Community of the Cross of Nails*, which is open to partners of other faiths, or no faith.

Readings Next Sunday | September 21st

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost | Cross of Nails Sunday

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Psalm 79:1-9; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa

Anishinaabe aking ate awaso kikinawadjichigan | A place of prayer on Algonquin territory

The Anglican Cathedral in the Nation's Capital

Cathedral of the Canadian Forces Anglican Military Ordinariate

414 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1R 0B2

613.236.9149 | info@ottawacathedral.ca | www.ottawacathedral.ca | @ottawacathedral

Primate of All Canada and Bishop of Ottawa | The Most Reverend Dr. Shane Parker

Dean of Ottawa and Rector | The Very Reverend Beth Bretzlaff (ext. 161)

Vicar | The Reverend Canon Douglas Richards (ext. 191)

Deacon Residentiary | The Reverend Dr. Jarrett Carty

Honorary Assistants | LCol (ret'd) The Venerable Michelle Staples | Lt (N) The Reverend Katherine Walker

Lay Readers | Daniel Jerusalemiec | Ted Livingstone

Director of Music and Organist | James Calkin (ext. 201)

Associate Director of Music | Andrew McAnerney (ext. 121)

Algonquin Teacher in Residence | Albert Dumont (Oshki Nodin)

Church Wardens | Jane Morris | Katherine Spencer-Ross

Director of Operations and Development | Nicholas Galambos
