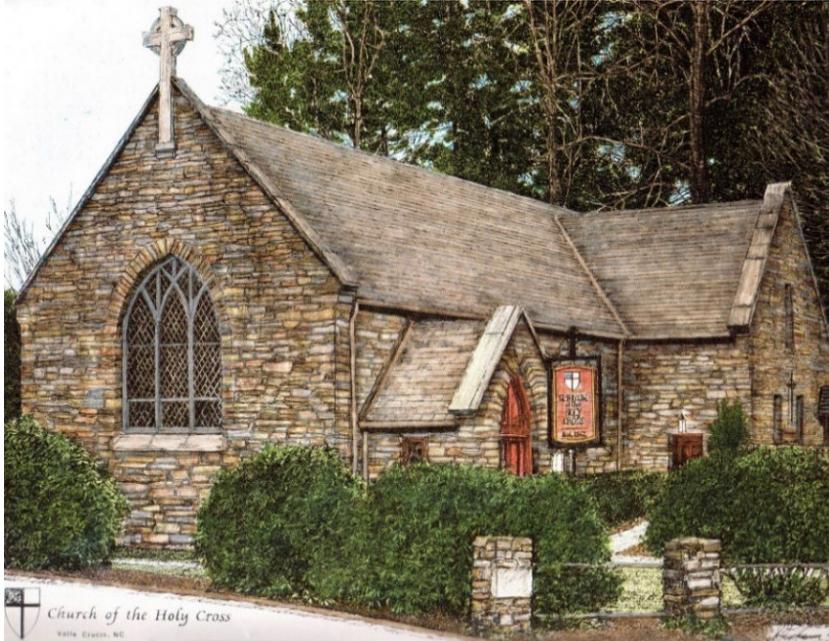


# The Church of the Holy Cross Valle Crucis, North Carolina



The Episcopal Church in the Vale of the Cross Since 1842

*The Third Sunday After the Epiphany*

**January 25, 2026**

**11:00 AM**

## **The Word of God**

### **The Opening Acclamation:**

BCP 355

Blessed be God: (†) Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

### **The Collect for Purity:**

BCP 355

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.**

### **The 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 praise,  
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.**

## **A Prayer for Holy Cross:**

Let us pray.

**Almighty and ever living God, look favorably upon Holy Cross parish during this time of transition as we search for a new rector.**

**We pray for the life of our parish, that we may continue to be guided by your love and strengthened in our mission to serve you.**

**We pray for the Discernment Committee, the Vestry, and for hearts and minds open to your spirit.**

**We pray for the priest whose name is known to you alone, that he or she be open to your call. Give us grace to follow where you would lead us and grant us your peace. Amen.**

## **The Collect of the Day:**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## **The First Lesson:**

**Isaiah 9:1-4**

There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness -- on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

## The Response:

Psalm 27:1, 5-13

- 1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? \*  
the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?
- 5 **One thing have I asked of the LORD;  
one thing I seek; \*  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;**
- 6 To behold the fair beauty of the LORD \*  
and to seek him in his temple.
- 7 **For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; \*  
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock.**
- 8 Even now he lifts up my head \*  
above my enemies round about me.
- 9 **Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation  
with sounds of great gladness; \*  
I will sing and make music to the LORD.**
- 10 Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; \*  
have mercy on me and answer me.
- 11 **You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." \*  
Your face, LORD, will I seek.**
- 12 Hide not your face from me, \*  
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
- 13 **You have been my helper;  
cast me not away; \*  
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.**

## The Second Lesson:

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For 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.

### **The Holy Gospel:**

**Matthew 4:12-23**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea — for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

### **The Nicene Creed:**

BCP 358

**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

Form III

BCP 387

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all our elected officials; and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

We pray for those who are in harm's way, for those who have asked for prayers, for those who are sick, in sorrow, need, or any adversity, and whom we name aloud at this time.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to all the departed eternal rest.  
**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

I invite your prayers of intercession either silently or aloud.

*The Concluding Collect:*

BCP 395

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**The Confession of Sin:**

BCP 360

**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 Absolution:**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive (†) you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep you in eternal life.

**Amen.**

**The Peace:**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

**The Birthday and Anniversary Prayer:**

**Watch over your child(ren) O Lord, as *their* days increase.**

**Bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand.**

**Comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful. Raise *them* up if *they* fall.**

**And in *their* heart(s) may your peace which passes understanding,  
abide with *them* all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

*Eucharistic Prayer B*

BCP 367

**The Sursum Corda:**

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 God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

**The Sanctus:**

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

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,  
we proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit (†) upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified (†) by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Mother Mary, Brother Skiles, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

**People: AMEN.**

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

**The Lord's Prayer:**

*Traditional Version*

BCP 364

**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 Fraction)

*The Priest breaks the consecrated bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

**The Fraction Anthem:**

**#S-164**

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:  
give us your peace, give us your peace.**

**Kneeling Hymn:           “Let There Be Peace on Earth”**

Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God our Creator, beloved Community,  
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:  
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.

**The Post-communion Prayer:**

BCP 365

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:**

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.**

Go into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted. Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Honor all persons. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

For life is short, my friends, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us.

So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind; and the blessing (†) of God, who made us, who loves us and who travels with us be with you now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**The Dismissal:**

Let us go forth in peace to love God, love our neighbor, and change the world.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### *An Update from the Discernment Committee*

The Discernment Committee is happy to say that we have brought to the Vestry a short list of candidates for our Rector position. So now, everyone: pray for them and the discernment they need as they read, pray, consider, interview, discuss, pray, and pray some more, then for the discernment to issue a call if this is what the Spirit is leading them to do. This part of the discernment process will take some weeks, as there are many steps to carefully make and many things to carefully and prayerfully consider.

The Discernment Committee is grateful for your patience and for your prayers for over the past year. Please offer the same to the Vestry as they take this last important step for Holy Cross.

*--Jane Blackburn, Discernment Committee Chair*

### ***TODAY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026***

#### ***The Third Sunday After the Epiphany***

- 8:00 am** Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross (*quiet service with no music*)
- 9:15 am** Fellowship time in Skiles Hall
- 10:00 am** **Coffee & Conversation** in Skiles Hall
- 11:00 am** Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross (*with music and Children's Moment*)  
(*Nursery and Sunday School are available during this service*)  
(*This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel*)
- 12:15 pm** Fellowship time in Skiles Hall

## *Eucharistic Visitors Needed*

All parishioners interested in serving as a **Eucharistic Visitor** (taking the reserved Sacrament of Holy Eucharist to those homebound or hospitalized) are invited to an organizational meeting **Sunday, February 1st at 10:00 am in Skiles Hall**. We will discuss the need of this vital ministry and the process of education and practice we will use at Holy Cross.

### *NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026 The Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany*

- 8:00 am** Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross (*quiet service with no music*)  
**9:15 am** Fellowship time in Skiles Hall  
**10:00 am** **Eucharistic Visitor Meeting** in Skiles Hall  
**11:00 am** Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross (*with music and Children's Moment*)  
(*Nursery and Sunday School are available during this service*)  
(*This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel*)  
**12:15 pm** Fellowship time in Skiles Hall

### *SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026 Valentine's Day Tea*

You've heard of Men's Night out but have you ever wanted a Women's Day out? We will hold a pure social event for all the women of Holy Cross and our Methodist friends. You can also bring a friend not associated with these two groups.

When? Where? What Time? **Saturday, February 14th at 10 am in Skiles Hall**. We will have tea, make Valentine's Day Cards, and figure if this is something we would want to have on an ongoing basis.

**NO COOKING REQUIRED** unless you want to provide some goodies for the tea. Please RSVP to Andrea McDonough at [amacd1962@gmail.com](mailto:amacd1962@gmail.com) if interested.



**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026**  
***Ash Wednesday Services***

- 12:00 pm** Ash Wednesday Liturgy with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion
- 7:00 pm** Solemn Liturgy for Ash Wednesday with Imposition of Ashes, Holy Communion, and Hymnody  
*(This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel)*

**The Parish Prayer List: January 25, 2026**

***Please keep the following in your prayers this week:***

**For Healing:** Our injured and disabled military personnel, our veterans, all civilians harmed in conflict, and for Dayton C., Wendell S., Noyes L., Marilyn W., Gerry P., Rebecca M., Sam, Bill B., Julia M., Randy M., Shane B., Claire M., Sara P., Tav G., Andrea M., Charles III, Kate M., Floyd T., Ray L., Leslie S., Suzie L., Pam C., Ann G., Rosalie G., Stuart T., Michael H., Laura B., Mike L., Ann I., Mike M., Susan M., Jacque M., Arthur L., Joel W., Coleman B., James C., Dylan C., David, Michael T., Nicole B.,  
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**For those in Harm's Way:** All who serve with the armed forces at home & abroad, all who serve in the Peace Corps, and all health & relief workers throughout the world.

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# **The Church of the Holy Cross**

PO Box 645, Hwy 194, Valle Crucis, NC 28691

Phone: (828) 963-4609

Email: holy\_cross@skybest.com

Website: www.holycrossvallecrucis.net

## **Diocese of Western North Carolina**

The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, Bishop

### **Clergy & Staff**

The Rev. Dr. Scott A. Oxford, Interim Priest-in-Charge

Shane Watson, Director of Music

Ahren Koenig, Parish Administrator

### **Vestry**

Nina-Jo Moore (2028), Senior Warden

Randy McDonough (2028), Junior Warden

Doris Boulton (2026)

Catherine Morton (2026 – completing term)

Angela Williams (2026)

Radie Armstrong (2027)

Derek Eggers (2027)

Sis Kinney (2027)

John Goodrich (2028)

### **Officers**

Jan Skopecek, Treasurer

Dedy Traver, Clerk

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