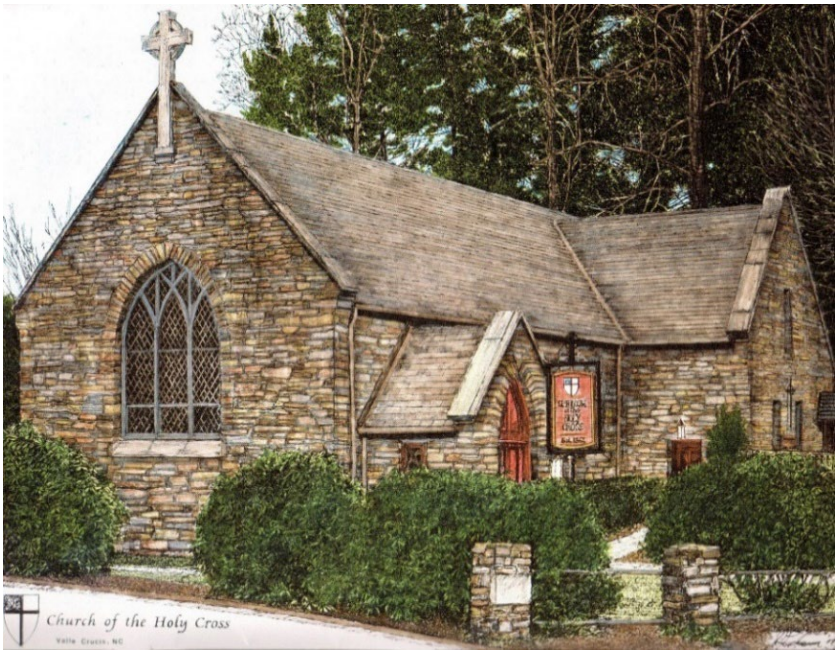
The Church of the Holy Cross
Valle Crucis, North Carolina



The Episcopal Church in the Vale of the Cross Since 1842

The Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

Holy Eucharist, Rite II
8:00 & 11:00 AM

(The Hymnody and Music noted in this leaflet is offered at the 11 AM service only.)

Welcome Home to Holy Cross!

It is our privilege to worship with you this morning! Please know that all baptized Christians regardless of Church denomination, and all who seek a deeper knowledge and love of God in Christ are most welcome to receive the bread and wine of the Holy Eucharist.

Children are most welcome and encouraged to participate in all services at Holy Cross. Rocking chairs have been provided for caregivers with infants.

If this is your first time at Holy Cross, please complete a *Visitor Card* and let us know about your visit, especially if you have a specific need or prayer request. Visitor Cards are found in the pew racks. If you would like additional information about our many ministries and activities, speak to one of our Ushers or Greeters, or stop by Skiles Hall during the fellowship hour that follows each service. We would be happy to speak with you in person.

If you would like to make a financial offering or contribution, you can do so by scanning this QR Code or via our website at www.holycrossvallecrucis.net

You can also give through online text by sending **HCGIFT** to **73256**, followed by the gift amount
Messages and data rates may apply

HCGIFT $100

It is the custom in The Episcopal Church to prepare for worship by gathering in reverent silence and prayer, and during the worship service, stand for praise, sit for instruction, and, as you are able, kneel for prayer. Please respect the devotional needs of others by turning off cellular telephones and electronic devices, and by speaking with hushed voices.

Again, Welcome Home to Holy Cross! And may God's peace enfold you.

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Kneeling Hymn: "Jesus, Remember Me" Text & Tune: Jacques Berthier, © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé, North America. Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with permission under OneLicense.net # A-718736. All rights reserved.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II
The Word of God

The Prelude: *Offered by Shane Watson*

The Announcements: *(Pages 14-16)* **The Rev. Dr. Scott A. Oxford**

The Prayer for the Care of Children: *(11:00 service only)* BCP 829

Priest: Let us pray.

People: **Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

All stand.

The Processional Hymn: #493 "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" *Azmon*

The Opening Acclamation: BCP 355

Priest: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

The Collect for Purity: BCP 355

Priest: 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.

People: **Amen.**

The Gloria: *(spoken at 8:00; sung at 11:00 as #S-280)*

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:

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

All are now seated for the readings from Scripture.

The First Lesson: **Acts 2:14a, 22-32**

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know — this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

"Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.' This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

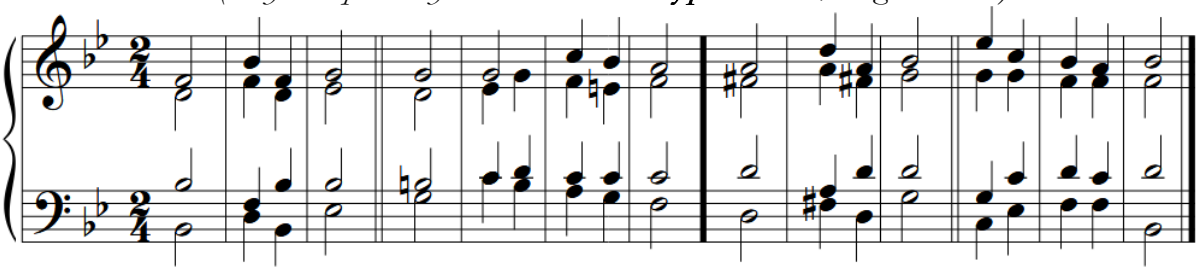
Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

A time for silent reflection follows.

The Response: **Psalm 16**

(Prayed responsively as noted in ***bold type*** *at 8:00; sung at 11:00)*



1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *
I have said to the LORD, "You are my LORD,
my good above all other."

2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, *
upon those who are noble among the people.

3 But those who run after other gods *
shall have their troubles multiplied.

4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, *
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.

5 O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; *
it is you who uphold my lot.

6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

7 I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; *
my heart teaches me, night after night.

8 I have set the LORD always before me; *
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.

† 9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; *
my body also shall rest in hope.

10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, *
nor let your holy one see the Pit.

11 You will show me the path of life; *
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

A time for silent reflection follows.

The Second Lesson: **1 Peter 1:3-9**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith -- being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire -- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

The Gradual Hymn: #661 **"They Cast Their Nets in Galilee"** *Georgetown*

The Holy Gospel: **John 20:19-31**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

The Sermon: **The Rev. Dr. Scott A. Oxford**

A time of silence follows the Sermon. Please remain seated until the Altar Ministers stand.

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.

Continued…

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.

All stand or kneel for the prayers as they are able.

The Prayers of the People: Form IV BCP 388

(The Leader and People pray responsively)

Leader: Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

A time of silence is kept.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,
People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

A time of silence is kept.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,
People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

A time of silence is kept.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,
People: **Hear our 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.

A time of silence is kept.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,
People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation, especially those whom we name aloud at this time:

The people speak the names of those on their hearts.

When you arrived at the service, you received a stick with a name on it. That is the name of someone who has requested our prayers. Please call out the name of the person on that stick as well as anyone else on your heart, and keep them in your daily prayers through the coming week.

At the Offertory, simply drop the sticks in the offering plate. This is a wonderful way for all of us to share in the prayer ministry of our Parish.

The Leader concludes saying,

Lord, in your mercy,
People: **Hear our 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.

A time of silence is kept.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,
People: **Hear our prayer.**

The Priest offers a concluding Collect saying, BCP 395

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

All stand as they are able.

The Peace:

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: **And also with you.**

All greet one another in the Name of the Lord.

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.

Concerning The Holy Communion

A reminder that all present are welcome to the Communion regardless of Christian denomination. We consider it an honor and privilege to commune with all present as one united body of Christ.

To receive the bread, extend your hands towards the priest. To receive the wine, guide the bottom of the chalice with both hands. To receive the bread and wine together via intinction, place your right hand over your left shoulder. To receive a blessing instead of the bread and wine, cross your arms across your chest. If you have a gluten allergy, simply inform the priest when you come to the rail.

When at the Altar Rail, move toward either wall so that those in the center will kneel last. Please wait to be dismissed; those in the center depart first.

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem: "Sitting in the Stern of a Boat" William MacLeod

The Presentation Hymn: #380 **"The Doxology"** *Old 100th*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C BCP 369

The Sursum Corda:

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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

People: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Priest: 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.

People: **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Priest: 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.

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

Priest: 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.

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

Priest: 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:

The Sanctus: ***#S-125***

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.

(All kneel or stand as they are able)

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."

Continued…

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,

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

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, and Jacob and Leah and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: 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.
People: **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.
People: AMEN.

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

The Lord's Prayer: *Traditional Version* *BCP 364*

The Breaking of the Bread: (The Fraction)

The Priest breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

The Fraction Anthem: *#S-169*

The Invitation: *The Priest invites the people to Communion saying,*

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.

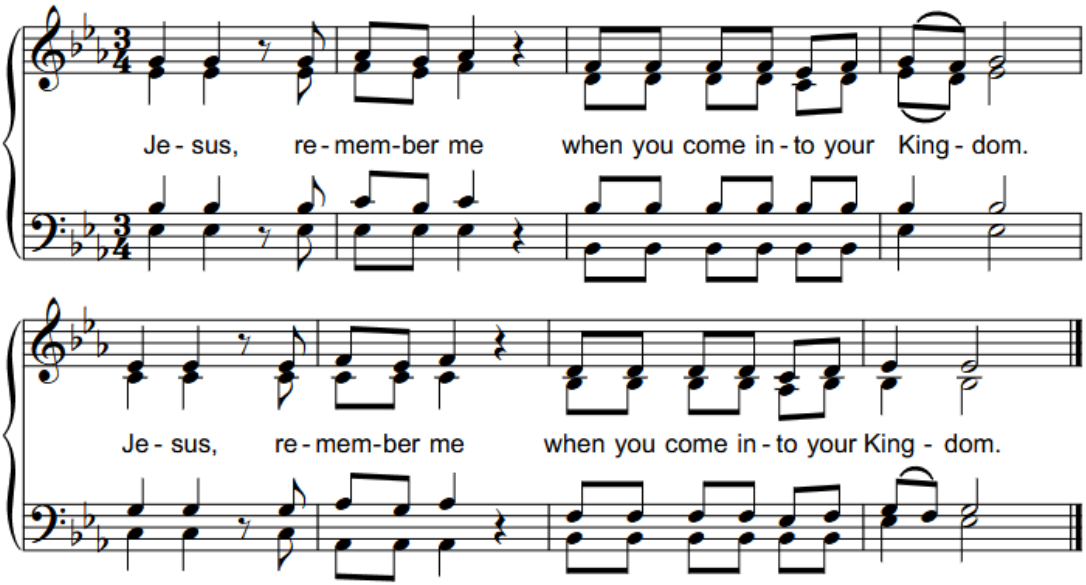
Hymns during the Communion:

#307 "Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor"
#306 "Come, Risen Lord, and Deign to be Our Guest"

An extended time for silent prayer and reflection precedes and follows each communion hymn. When all have communed, the hymn on the following page is sung.

Kneeling Hymn: **"Jesus, Remember Me"** *Taizé Song #152*

(sung two times)



An additional time for silent prayer and reflection precedes the following prayer.

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.

All stand as they are able.

The Blessing for Eastertide:

Priest: May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his grace;

And the blessing of God Almighty, (†) the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

People: **Amen.**

The Closing Hymn: #199 "Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain" *St. Kevin*

The Dismissal:

Priest: Alleluia, alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

The Postlude: *Offered by Shane Watson*

We thank those who served this morning

	8:00 am	*11:00 am*
Musician:		Shane Watson
Greeters & Ushers:	Ed & Beth Beck	Tav Gauss & Randy McDonough
Lectors & Prayers:	Jane Blackburn	Jennifer Koenig
Chalice Bearers:	Sis Kinney	Paul Bernhardy & Karla Prudhomme
Acolytes:	Sis Kinney	Paul Bernhardy
Healing Ministers:		The Daughters of the King
Linen Fairy:		Radie Armstrong

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members & Friends of Holy Cross Photo Wall Update

In anticipation of Father Jonathan Chesney's arrival on June 1, we will be updating the members and friends of Holy Cross, posted in Skiles Hall and in the Church Directory. Stacey Bulmer has volunteered to help out with this project, and she will be using her skills as a professional photographer to make everyone look their best! If you want your photo to be updated, please come by the Church Office after either of the Sunday services and let Ahren or Stacey know! ***This will help our new Rector learn the names and faces of the folks he is coming to the High Country to serve!***

Thanks from ECW!

Thank you for contributing to our "March for Diapers"! We collected over 1200 baby/children's diapers, 570 wipes, and 216 adult diapers. We will be donating these to *The* ***Hunger and Health Coalition*** and the ***Watauga County Children's Council.***

Thank you also, **from the bottom of our hearts**, to all who helped set up, decorate, cook, clean up, and make Easter treat bags for the kids. You made this year's Easter a joyous community celebration! Our next ECW meeting is **Sunday, April 12** after the 11:00 service in Skiles Hall. Hope you can join us!

TODAY, SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026
The Second Sunday of Easter

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross *(quiet service with no music)*
8:45 am Fellowship time in Skiles Hall
9:00 am Valle Crucis United Methodist Church Service
10:00 am Fellowship time in Skiles Hall
11:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross *(with music and Children's Prayer)*
(Sunday School is available during this service)
(This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel)
12:15 pm Fellowship time in Skiles Hall

Will you help with this year's Valle Country Fair?

We are searching for someone to lead hanging roadside banners for the Fair. Can you help? This role does not take much time and requires some physical activity. Two to three volunteers can make easy work of it. This role involves putting up banners and signs along roadways 3-4 weeks before the Fair then taking them down the Sunday after the Fair. This job takes 3-4 hours at the most and goes faster with more people. This work is somewhat physical but requires no heavy lifting. Bob Gates has all the information on exactly where the signs go, and the Gates will train you. Easy peasy. Please contact Tracey Heiss or Julie Gates by emailing them at vcf.chairs@gmail.com or by calling directly. Thank you for your consideration!

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026
The Third Sunday of Easter

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross *(quiet service with no music)*
8:45 am Fellowship time in Skiles Hall
9:00 am Valle Crucis United Methodist Church Service
10:00 am Fellowship time in Skiles Hall
11:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross *(with music and Children's Prayer)*
(Sunday School is available during this service)
(This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel)
12:15 pm Fellowship time in Skiles Hall
12:45 pm **VCF Leadership Meeting** in Skiles Hall

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026
Men's Night Out in Sugar Grove

The dynamic duo -- and Valle Crucis neighbors -- of Paul Bernhardy and Jim Reed are co-hosting our next **Men's Night Out** gathering from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21 at the Bernhardy/Owens home (thank you, Susan!) located at 646 Valle Meadows Trail in Sugar Grove, NC 28679. While there is room for parking, carpooling is always encouraged.

The menu includes chicken tetrazzini with appropriate side dishes, a green salad, and homemade brownies for dessert at a suggested contribution of $10 per person. So that our hosts may provide enough food for everyone in attendance (ahem... don't arrive late, gentlemen), please RSVP by 5:30 p.m on Sunday, April 19 to KeithTMartin@gmail.com and kindly let us know of any food allergies or preferences. As always, remember to bring your favorite beverage to enjoy... and share.

MNO is a monthly opportunity for brethren from within our parishes and throughout our community to enjoy an evening of fellowship together. Remember to bring your beverage of choice, but PLEASE RSVP by the due date. If you do not drive at night, need a ride to and/or from MNO, or are without reliable transportation for whatever reason, please let us know. We have participants from all over the High Country who would welcome your company and be happy to pick you up and deliver you safely home. **Come join us!**

The Parish Prayer List: April 12, 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 Y., Bill B., Julia M., Randy M., Shane B., Claire M., 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., Linda B., Mike L., Ann I., Mike M., Susan M., Jacquie M., Arthur L., Coleman B., James C., Dylan C., David Y., Michael T., Steve S., Wayne W., Scott W., Fred W., _____.

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.