



# Holy Cross EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The First Sunday of Advent  
November 30, 2025

## The Service of the Word

**Prelude:** Monika Durbin (*piano*) &  
The Holy Cross Handbell Choir

**Opening Voluntary:** “Endless Alleluia/Emmanuel”

**Opening Hymn 56:** “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”  
(Verses 1 & 2)

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
*People* ***His mercy endures forever.***

### The Collect for Purity

*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*

CHILDREN’S CHAPEL \*\*\* (Ages 4 – 10 years)  
During the following hymn, children process with the leader to the  
Chapel for a lesson and singing; they return at The Peace.

### Song of Praise: “Emmanuel”

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel;  
God with us, revealed in us;  
His name is called Emmanuel*

### The Collect of the Day - prayed by the Celebrant

### The First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning  
Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain  
of the Lord’s house shall be established as the highest  
of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall  
come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of  
the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he  
may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his  
paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and  
the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge  
between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many  
peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall  
they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us  
walk in the light of the Lord!

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

### Psalm 122 (read responsively by half verse)

1 I was glad when they said to me,  
**“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”**

2 Now our feet are standing  
**within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

3 Jerusalem is built as a city  
**that is at unity with itself;**

4 To which the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the Lord,  
**the assembly of Israel,  
to praise the Name of the Lord.**

5 For there are the thrones of judgment,  
**the thrones of the house of David.**

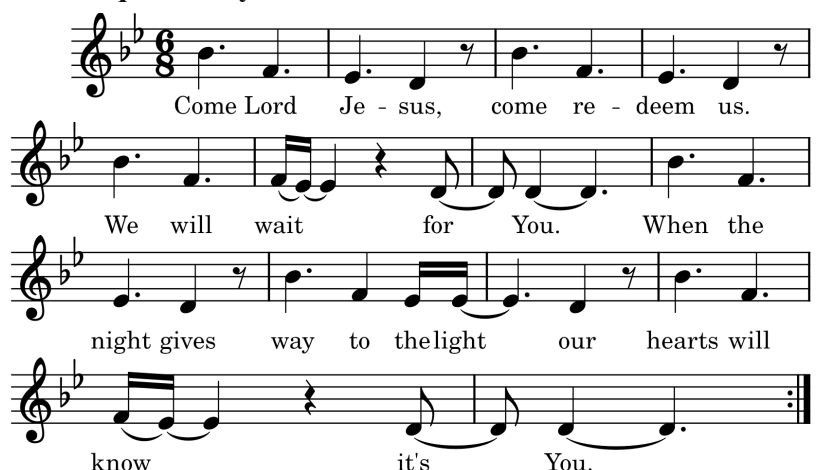
6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:  
**“May they prosper who love you.**

7 Peace be within your walls  
**and quietness within your towers.**

8 For my brethren and companions’ sake,  
**I pray for your prosperity.**

9 Because of the house of the Lord our God,  
**I will seek to do you good.”**

### Sequence Hymn: “Come, Lord Jesus”



## The Gospel Reading: *Matthew 24:36-44*

*Reader* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

*Reader* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Message:** “Doing as He Did: *A Life of Preparation*”  
*The Rev. Rob Dixon*

## The Apostles' Creed *(in unison)*

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*

*(\*catholic means universal)*

## Prayers of the People

Heavenly Father, during this season of Advent and beyond, help us to prepare ourselves for your Son.  
*That he may dwell in us and us in him, eternally.*

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

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

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

Have compassion on all who suffer from any grief or trouble; especially those among our families and friends who experience sadness and grief during the holiday season; *That they may experience your steadfast love and be filled with peace and joy.*

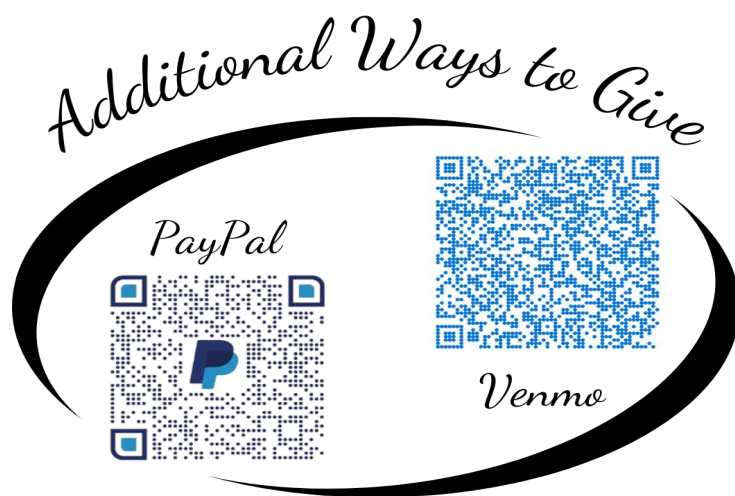
We pray for all who have died; *Silence* - lovingly receive them into your eternal kingdom. *That we may one day be reunited with them, in you.*

We pray for those on our church's prayer list, for all who are sick or lonely, for prisoners, and for the victims of crime everywhere. *That your healing presence may embrace them all.*

Let us now pray for our additional needs and those of others.

## The Confession (p. 360 BCP)

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,





# The Holy Communion

This portion of the service begins on p. 370 in the BCP however, you are encouraged to give your attention to the altar.

**The Communion.** All baptized Christians are invited and welcome to receive Communion. Anyone who does not wish to receive communion is invited come forward, cross their arms over their chest, and receive a blessing. If you would like the clergy to bring communion to someone in the pews, please notify the ushers at the door of the church. For bread only, no wine, put one arm across your chest. Gluten Free available.

**Offertory Hymn 67:** “Comfort, Comfort O my people”

**The Doxology 380:** (v. 3)

*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.*

For this portion of the service you will need your Book of Common Prayer (The red book in your pew). P. 370

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**Celebrant** The Lord be with you.

**People** *And also with you.*

**Celebrant** Lift up your hearts.

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

**Celebrant** Let us give thanks to the Lord.

**People** *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

**Sanctus S-129**

*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 Lord's Prayer** (p. 336 BCP)

*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.*

**Fraction Anthem:** “O Saving Victim”



**Communion Hymn:** “Come, Lord Jesus” (See insert)

**Communion Hymn:** “10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord/ Come Holy Ghost”

**Post Communion Prayer** (p. 365 BCP)

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**

**Closing Hymn 56:** “O Come O Come Emmanuel”  
(Verses 3 & 4)

**The Dismissal**

**Postlude:** Holy Cross Handbell Choir

## NO ONE LEAVES HUNGRY FROM JESUS' TABLE



As an important extension of our worship, the Food Pantry is made available and we have a Community Hour following our 10:30 worship. Ask an usher or priest for more information.

## Serving Today

**8:00am:** DOD: Nancy Gibbons. Readers: DeAnne Amacker, Isabelle Peterson

**10:30am:** DOD: Susan Bell. Ambassador: Clay Coleman. Chalice Bearers: Janelle Berger. Readers: Sarah Tarkus, Steve Lukow

# Your Sermon Notes:

"A \_\_\_\_\_ is an activity carried on to prepare us indirectly for some activity other than itself." (Dallas Willard)

"A \_\_\_\_\_ discipline, is an activity carried on to bring us into more effective cooperation with Christ and His Kingdom."

\_\_\_\_\_, according to Jesus, is absolutely essential to establishing and growing in a life of faith.

ABSTAINING	Solitude
	Silence
	Fasting
	Secrecy
ENGAGING	Prayer
	Study
	Worship
	Celebration

## SIX WAYS JESUS USED SOLITUDE:

1. **To focus on \_\_\_\_\_**: Luke 5:16. "But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed."
2. **To \_\_\_\_\_ for a major task**: Luke 4:1-1, 14-15. After his baptism, before Jesus began his public ministry.
3. **To \_\_\_\_\_ after hard or exhausting work**: Mark 6:30-32.

4. **To work through \_\_\_\_\_**: Matthew 14:13. After learning of his cousin's murder.
5. **Before making an important \_\_\_\_\_**: Luke 6:12-13. Right before he chose his twelve disciples, Jesus spent the whole night alone.
6. **In times of \_\_\_\_\_**: Luke 22:39-44. Hours before his arrest, he went to the Mount of Olives, away from his disciples to pray.

"In his life, Jesus clearly shows us that \_\_\_\_\_ can greatly benefit us if we use it to sort out – WITH THE FATHER – whatever is on our minds and hearts."

Solitude, is simply our setting time to intentionally be where no one else \_\_\_\_\_ us, and opening our hearts and minds to the \_\_\_\_\_ and the presence of Almighty God.

## THREE THINGS ABOUT \_\_\_\_\_:

1. What we do in solitude does not need to be the \_\_\_\_\_ but should depend on what we are experiencing.
2. Whatever we do in solitude, we do it WITH \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The reason we do it is to have \_\_\_\_\_ changed by God.

## Prayer List

### Requested Prayer

Marilyn Pruitt, Melinda Turner, Barbara Coats, Marquerite Byrd, Robbie Bay, Clay Lirotte, Susan Bell, Ross Tanner, Jack Silverwood, Walter Zimmer, Becky Johnson, Theresa Donaldson, Ike Jr, Doris Pemberton, Joy Van Caster

### Military

Adam Thomas, Adam Zigler, Alexander Logan, Anthony Robbins, Asa Ramsey, Ben Boyer, Benjamin Merriweather, Cale Eggart, Chase Coleman, Christian Clark, Corbin Czeck, David Boyer, Daniel Payden, Donovan Chau, Doug Wiessman, Dylan Hoewt, Grant Hungerford, Hunter Bailey,

Jackie Neville, James Madden, Jose Hernandez, Kathryn Rubio, Kevin Kahl, Kyle McChesney, Landen Haskins, Laz Bailiff, Marc Ruiz, Mike Darrah, Nicholas Pinkston, Shaun Southall, Steven Bonello, Stephen del Risco, Taylor Knueven, Patrick Resler, Nicholas Crimauco

### Repose of the Soul

John Rollin Tomlinson, Matthew Wheeler, the victims of Hurricane Melissa, Rayden Smith, Vayden Orum, Lynn Neill, Clayton Lorette

**We would love to honor your marriage and ever lasting love with your late spouse on your anniversary. Please contact the church office if you would like to participate.**

### Clergy

The Rev. Rob Dixon, Pastor/Rector  
rdixon@holycrosspensacola.org - 850-477-8596

The Rev. Matt Dollhausen, Assistant Rector - 850-477-8596

The Rev. Roger Hungerford, Associate Rector, Emeritus

### Vestry

Ron Burk, (Sr. Warden), Warren Jerrems (Jr. Warden), Tam Lee (Jr. Warden), Britt Landrum, Steven Bell, Hunter Walker, Donovan Chau, Sarah Tarkus, Leslie Parsley, Kaki Chambers, Jean Gibson, Carla Hardin, Chip Lands

Ed Austin - Verger

### Parish Staff

Janelle Berger - Church and Ministry Director- director@holycrosspensacola.org- 850-530-3959  
Bailee Sterling - Youth and College Minister - youth@holycrosspensacola.org - 850-477-8596  
Isabelle Peterson - Minister of Music and Liturgy - musicministry@holycrosspensacola.org- 850-477-8596.  
Monika Durbin - Parish Accompanist - musicministry@holycrosspensacola.org  
D'Anna Entrekin - Family Life Minister and Newcomers Coordinator - familylife@holycrosspensacola.org -850-477-8596.  
Julie Pearson - Bookkeeper - bookkeeper@holycrosspensacola.org-850-477-8596  
Kevin Jacovino - Sexton - Custodian