



Holy Cross EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025

The Service of the Word

Prelude: Monika Durbin (*piano*)

Opening Voluntary 324: “Let All Mortal Flesh”

Opening Hymn 66: “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

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: James 5: 7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

Canticle: 15

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:

**the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,

he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,

for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers,

to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.**

Sequence Hymn: “Open”

I leave my heart o - pen o - pen to You.
I'm hold-ing back noth-ing, no - thing from You.
Take my life and let it be a ho - ly of - fer - ing,
Here I am Lord, all of me, Isur-ren-derev - 'ry thing.

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 11: 2-11

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

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing,
he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the
one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus
answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and
see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers

are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

Message: “Pending Arrival”

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.*

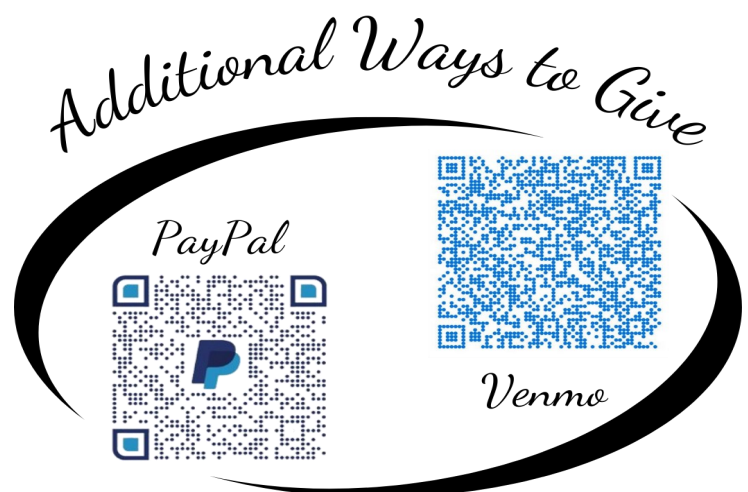
We pray for those on our church’s prayer list, for all who are sick or lonely, for prisoners, and for the victims of crime everywhere. *That your healing presence may embrace them all.*

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, 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 Peace: Welcome & Announcements





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 seeking God through Jesus 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: “Song of Mary” (See insert)

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.*

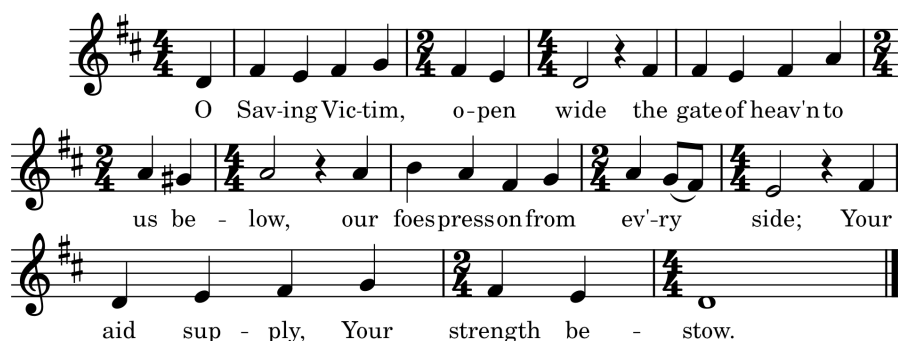
Sanctus S-129

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 73: “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”

Communion Hymn: “Anchor” (See insert)

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 58: “Lo He Comes”

The Dismissal

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: Mary Shontz. Readers: Hunter Walker, Isabelle Peterson. Chalice Bearer: Kathy Bleeker

10:30am: DOD: Greer Mims. Ambassador: Clay Coleman. Acolytes: Grace Andrew, Andrew Momany. Chalice Bearers: Miya May, Laurie White. Readers: Stephen Bell, Lucy Brabham

Home Communion Volunteers:
Roslyn Guyette & Luke Umbreit

Your Sermon Notes:

Prayer List

Requested Prayer

Marilyn Pruitt, Melinda Turner, Barbara Coats, Marquerite Byrd, Robbie Bay, Susan Bell, Becky Johnson, Theresa Donaldson, Ike Jr, Doris Pemberton, Joy Van Caster, Tracy, Todd Ackerman

Military

Adam Thomas, Adam Zigler, Alexander Logan, Anthony Robbins, Asa Ramsey, Ben Boyer, Bruce Gough, Cale Eggart, Chase Coleman, Christian Clark, Corbin Czeck,

Daniel Payden, Donovan Chau, Doug Wiessman, Dylan Hoewt, Grant Hungerford, Hunter Bailey, Jackie Neville, James Madden, Jessica Parker, Jose Hernandez, Kevin Kahl, Kyle McChesney, Landen Haskins, Laz Bailiff, Marc Ruiz, Mike Darrah, Nicholas Pinkston, Shaun Southall, Stephen del Risco, Taylor Knueven, Steven Bonello, David Boyer, Nicholas Crimaudo, Donald Gibbons

Repose of the Soul

Lynn Neill, Clayton Lorette, Linda Ravn

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
rog.hungerford@gmail.com - 757-639-5610

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

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Evan Stoker - Sexton - Custodian