



The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025

The Service of the Word

Prelude: Monika Durbin (*piano*)

Opening Voluntary: “I wait”

Opening Hymn 56: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”
(v. 5 & 6)

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 7:1-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

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

Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Sequence Hymn: “God With Us”

All that is with-in me cries for
heart sings a brand new song. The

You a-lone; Be glo - ri - fied. Em-man - el,
debt ispaid, thesechains are gone.

God with us. My

The Gospel Reading: *Matthew 1: 18-25*

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

People **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

Message: Doing as He Did: *A Life of Preparation* (P3)
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, 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

Additional Ways to Give





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 60: “Creator of the Stars of Night”
(Refrain) Come, O Lord, and bring Your light,
O Radiant Star, our heart’s delight.
Oh, God with us, Emmanuel,
In our hearts the dark dispel

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

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.

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”

O Sav-ing Vic-tim, o-pen wide the gate of heav'n to
us be - low, our foes press on from ev'-ry side; Your
aid sup - ply, Your strength be - stow.

Communion Hymn 81: “Lo how a Rose E’er Blooming”

Communion Hymn: “Here for You” (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 56: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”
(v. 7 & 8)

The Dismissal

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: Pam Walker.
Readers: Ed Austin, Isabelle Peterson.

10:30am: DOD: Susan Bell.
Ambassador: Clay Coleman.
Acolytes: Sierra Dixon, Landree Williams.
Chalice Bearer: Camille Lukow.
Readers: Leslee Williams, Aaron Wimmers.

Home Communion Volunteers:
Trista Miller & Hunter Walker

Your Sermon Notes:

Prayer List

Requested Prayer

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

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