



CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS  
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

875 Cotton St. at Texas Ave, 71101  
Mail: P.O. Box 1627, 71165-1627

(318) 222-3325  
Email: [church@churchholycross.org](mailto:church@churchholycross.org)

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

December 14, 2025 ..... 11:00 a.m.

The Rev. Garrett Boyte, *Celebrant*

*The liturgy is found in the red Book of Common Prayer (Prayer Book).*

*Hymns and Service Music (S) are in the blue Hymnal 1982.*

ORGAN PRELUDE.....*Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen* (H#81) .....Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN 72 .....Hark, the glad sound! .....RICHMOND

*The liturgy continues on Page 355 of the Prayer Book.*

OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

KYRIE ELEISON S-88 ..... McNeil Robinson II (b. 1943)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler,  
not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.



- 4 Happy are they who have the God of<sup>1</sup>Jacob for their<sup>1</sup>help! \*  
whose<sup>1</sup>hope is in the<sup>1</sup>LORD their<sup>1</sup>God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and<sup>1</sup>all that is<sup>1</sup>in them; \*  
who<sup>1</sup>keeps his<sup>1</sup>promise for<sup>1</sup>ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to<sup>1</sup>those who are op<sup>1</sup>pressed, \*  
and<sup>1</sup>food to<sup>1</sup>those who<sup>1</sup>hunger.
- 7 The LORD sets the prisoners free;  
the LORD opens the<sup>1</sup>eyes of the<sup>1</sup>blind; \*  
the LORD lifts up<sup>1</sup>those who are<sup>1</sup>bow<sup>1</sup>ed<sup>1</sup>down;
- 8 The LORD loves the righteous;  
the LORD<sup>1</sup>cares for the<sup>1</sup>stranger; \*  
he sustains the orphan and widow,  
but<sup>1</sup>frustrates the<sup>1</sup>way of the<sup>1</sup>wicked.
- 9 The LORD shall<sup>1</sup>reign for<sup>1</sup>ever, \*  
your God, O Zion, throughout all gene<sup>1</sup>rations.<sup>1</sup>  
Halle<sup>1</sup>lujah!

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.

**HYMN 65** ..... Prepare the way, O Zion ..... BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

**THE HOLY GOSPEL** ..... Matthew 11:2-11

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.”

**SERMON**..... The Rev. Lois Maberry

**THE NICENE CREED**..... Prayer Book, p. 358

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Form V**..... Prayer Book, p. 389

**CONFESSION OF SIN** ..... Prayer Book, p. 360

**THE PEACE**

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

ANTHEM ..... Magnificat ..... Plainsong, tone VIII (Solemn tone)

*The anthem text is found on p. 65 of the Prayer Book.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING – EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B ..... Prayer Book, p. 367

SANCTUS S-130 ..... Franz Schubert (1797–1828), *Deutsche Messe*

FRACTION ANTHEM S-164 ..... Franz Schubert, *Deutsche Messe*

*All baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Eucharist in the Episcopal Church. If you are not comfortable receiving the Eucharist, you are invited to receive a blessing instead. Simply cross your arms over your chest at the altar rail to indicate that you would prefer a blessing. You are also welcome to remain seated. We encourage you to do what is most authentic to your beliefs and comfortable to your convictions.*

### AT THE ADMINISTRATION

ADVENT PROSE ..... *Rorate caeli* ..... Plainsong, mode I

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen;

that ye may know me and believe me:

I even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Savior:

and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

– Isaiah 45:8, 43:10-11, 13 (KJV)

ORGAN ..... On Jordan's bank (H#76) ..... Alec Rowley (1892–1958)

HYMN 75 ..... There's a voice in the wilderness crying ..... ASCENSION

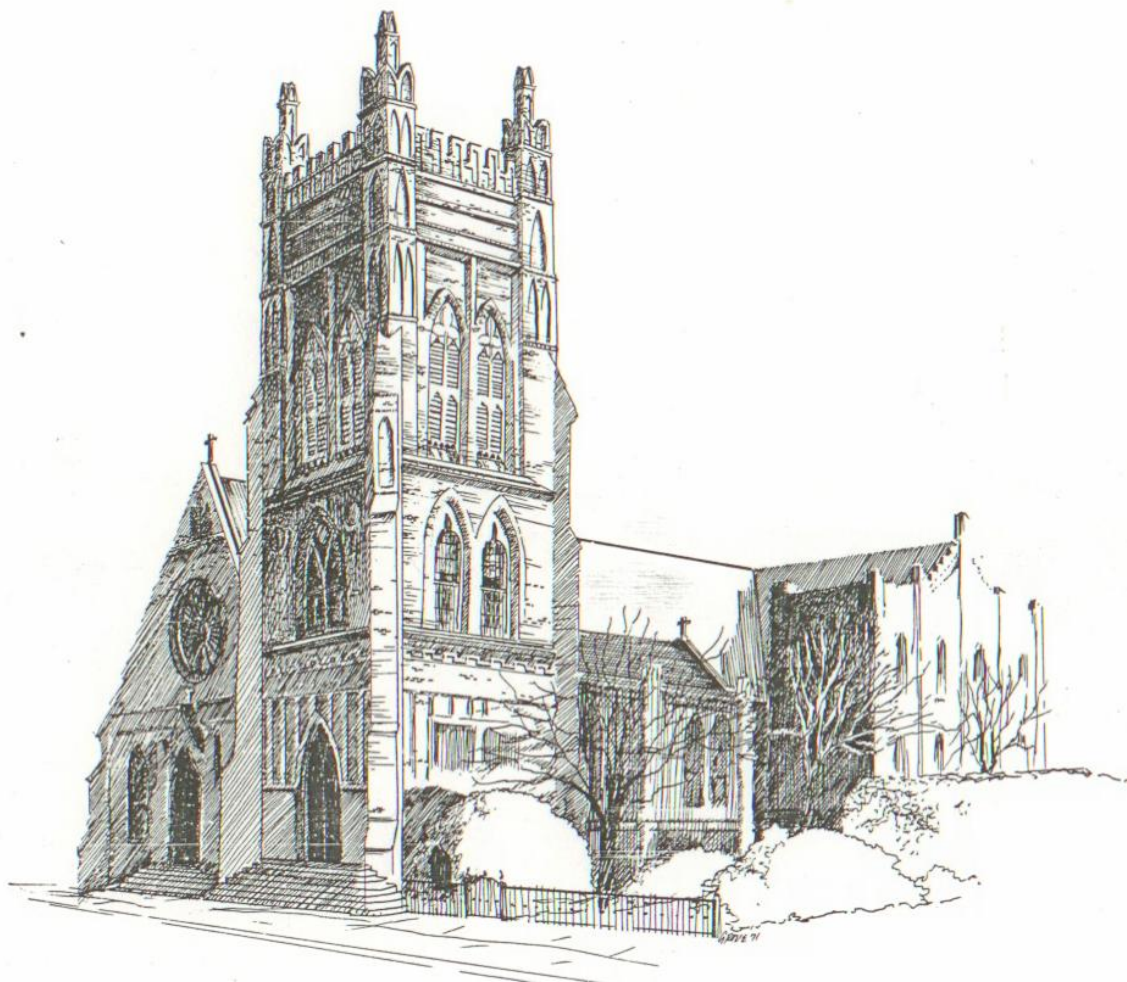
THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION ..... Prayer Book, p. 366

### THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

HYMN 462 ..... The Lord will come and not be slow ..... YORK

ORGAN POSTLUDE ..... Prelude on CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM (H#60), Op. 75, No. 1 ..... F. Peeters (1903–1986)

*This week we remember Olivia Foye Bromby, Elinor Chandler, E.L. Davenport, Eugenia Ann Dillard, Ruth Elston, Mabel Haddad, Moss Dixey McWilliams, Carl James Myers, Lemuel Charles Newton, Cornelia Munz Pawstian, and Mamie Jordan Deas Ratsburg, buried from Holy Cross.*



Please join us for holiday cheer and church family fellowship at an

**All-Church Advent Party today from 4:00-7:00 p.m.**

at The Colson Home, 10181 Thornwood Drive, Shreveport.

No need to bring anything, truly! But if it sparks your holiday spirit, feel free to contribute to the feast!

For more information, contact Cheryl at (318) 471-1941 or Christy at (318) 469-0082.

**Vestry nominations close tomorrow.**

To submit a nomination or inquire about eligibility requirements, speak to Fr. Garrett.

Forms for **Christmas Poinsettia dedications** are on the **narthex table**.

Please return completed forms to the office by **this Tuesday**.

This year's **Angel Tree** is now in the narthex. Volunteers are needed to

**shop for gifts** for the 18 children housed through Hope House this year and **bring them wrapped to the church**. Tags on the tree will have children's ages, interests, and clothing sizes.

**Distribution of gifts will be next Sunday, December 21.** For more information, speak to Deacon Lois or Cheryl.

**Greening of the church** will follow the 11:00 service **next Sunday**.

### THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

**Sunday** ..... Holy Eucharist, 9:00 (Chapel) & 11:00 a.m.  
Advent devotional discussion group, 9:45 a.m. (Undercroft)

**Tuesday** ..... Morning Prayer, 10:00 a.m. (Chapel)

**Wednesday**..... Reading group, 10:00 a.m. (Library)  
ECW Advent Soup Day, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (Undercroft), \$8.00  
Holy Eucharist, Noon (Quire)

**Thursday** ..... Morning Prayer, 9:00 a.m. (Hope House)

**Monday-Saturday** ..... Daily Office, 6:00 p.m. (Online)

Welcome to the Church of the Holy Cross! Our community is grounded in Baptism, Eucharist, prayer, and service. For it is in these things that we answer the call of our Lord to love God and love our neighbor.

**Make plans to join us at Holy Cross for Advent and Christmastide!**

- Sundays ..... Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. (Chapel) & 11:00 a.m.
- Tuesdays..... Morning Prayer, 10:00 a.m. (Chapel)
- Wednesdays ..... Holy Eucharist, Noon (Quire)
- Thursdays (except December 25 and January 1)..... Morning Prayer, 9:00 a.m. (Hope House)
- Sunday, December 14 and 21 ..... Advent devotional discussion group, 9:45 a.m. (Undercroft)
- Sunday, December 14..... All-Church Advent Party, 4:00–7:00 p.m. (10181 Thornwood Dr.)
- Wednesday, December 17 ..... ECW Advent Soup Day, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. (Undercroft), \$8.00
- Wednesday, December 24 ..... Christmas Eve Vigil Mass, 5:00 p.m.  
Carol sing, 10:30 p.m.; Midnight Mass to follow (at 11:00)
- Thursday, December 25 ..... Christmas Day Mass, 9:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, January 6..... Epiphany Mass, 10:00 a.m.

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS ..... SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA**

The Most Reverend Sean Rowe, Ph.D., D.D.

PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Right Reverend Jacob W. Owensby, Ph.D., D.D.

IV BISHOP OF WESTERN LOUISIANA

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| The Reverend J. Garrett Boyte, M.Div.....RECTOR    | Marie Boudreaux ..... VIDEOGRAPHER |
| The Reverend Mary B. Richard..... RECTOR EMERITA   | Brian Jackson ..... SEXTON         |
| The Reverend Donald Heacock ..... PRIEST ASSOCIATE | Donna Earnest ..... HOPE HOUSE     |
| The Reverend Lois Maberry ..... DEACON             | Joy Porter ..... HOPE HOUSE        |
| Benjamin Gessner, M.M.....ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER     | Larry Murff.....HOPE HOUSE         |
| Jacob Donaldson, M.B.A.....PARISH ADMINISTRATOR    | Jason Goetz .....HOPE HOUSE        |
| Ryan Eubanks ..... MULTIMEDIA MANAGER              |                                    |