



**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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II**

December 21, 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..... *Pifa* (Pastoral Symphony) fr. *Messiah*..... G.F. Handel (1685-1758)

**THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

HYMN 497 ..... How brightly shines the Morning Star ..... WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET

*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 (1943-2015)

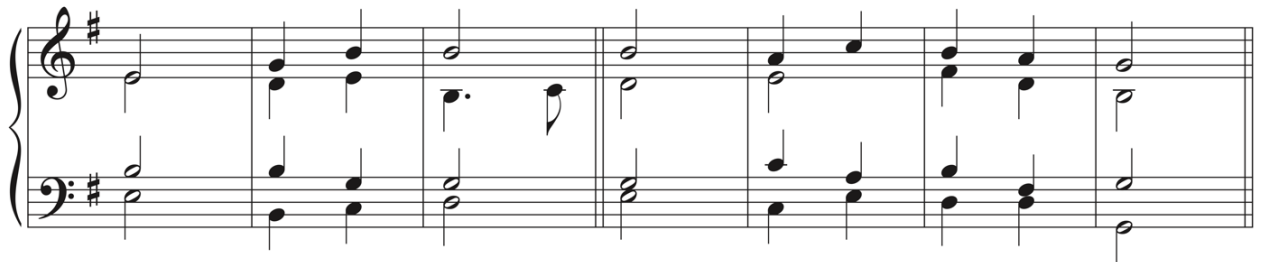
**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON.....Isaiah 7:10-16

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."

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18.....Anglican chant: B. Gessner (b. 1995), based on VENI EMMANUEL



- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading <sup>1</sup>Joseph like a <sup>1</sup>flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are en<sup>1</sup>throned up<sup>1</sup>on the <sup>1</sup>cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, <sup>1</sup>Benjamin, and Ma<sup>1</sup>nasseh, \*  
stir up your <sup>1</sup>strength and <sup>1</sup>come to <sup>1</sup>help us.
- 3 Restore us, O <sup>1</sup>God of <sup>1</sup>hosts; \*  
show the light of your <sup>1</sup>countenance, and <sup>1</sup>we shall be <sup>1</sup>saved.
- 4 O LORD <sup>1</sup>God of <sup>1</sup>hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered  
de<sup>1</sup>spite the <sup>1</sup>prayers of your <sup>1</sup>people?
- 5 You have fed them with the <sup>1</sup>bread of <sup>1</sup>tears; \*  
you have given them <sup>1</sup>bowls of <sup>1</sup>tears to <sup>1</sup>drink.
- 6 You have made us the de<sup>1</sup>rision of our <sup>1</sup>neighbors, \*  
and our <sup>1</sup>enemies <sup>1</sup>laugh us to <sup>1</sup>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 your self.**
- 17 **And so will we never turn a way 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.**

**THE EPISTLE.....Romans 1:1-7**

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**HYMN 260 .....Come now, and praise the humble saint ..... TALLIS' ORDINAL**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL .....Matthew 1:18-25**

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.

SERMON..... The Rev. Garrett Boyte

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

HYMN ..... By the Creator, Joseph was appointed .....CHRISTE SANCTORUM



1. By the Cre - a - tor, Jo - seph was ap - point - ed spouse of the  
2. Christ in whose pre - sence hosts of hell must trem - ble, Ru - ler of  
3. To God e - ter - nal be all praise and glo - ry, who to Saint



Vir - gin, guard - ian of the In - car - nate; he by his car - ing  
all things, Lord of earth and hea - ven, Mon - arch of mon - archs,  
Jo - seph gave su - per - nal hon - or; grant that we al - so



min - i - stered to Je - sus, source of sal - va - - tion.  
to his earth - ly fa - ther free - ly was sub - - ject.  
may like him be faith - ful in our o - be - - dience.

Words: Hieronimo Casanate (d. 1700), tr. *Hymnal* 1982 Music: CHRISTE SANCTORUM, melody from *Antiphoner*, 1681

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.*

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

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

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry:

I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions:

Fear not, for I will save thee:

for I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

- Isaiah 45:8; 40:1; 46:13; 44:22; 43:3 (KJV)

ANTHEM ..... 14th c. Latin carol, arr. Kirkby

*“Joseph dearest, Joseph mine, help me rock the Child divine;*

*God reward thee and all that’s thine in paradise,” so prays the mother Mary.*

*“Gladly, dear one, lady mine, I will rock this child of thine;*

*Heav’nly light on us shall shine in paradise, as prays the mother Mary.”*

*Sweet and lovely little one, princely, beauteous, God’s own Son,*

*Without thee were we all undone: our love is won by thine, O Son of Mary.*

*Heav’nly Child, thou Lord of all, meanly housed in ox’s stall,*

*Free our souls in Satan’s thrall: on thee we call, thou blessed Son of Mary.*

- German carol, late 14th or early 15th c., tr. Neville Stuart Talbot, alt.

HYMN 66 ..... Come, thou long-expected Jesus ..... STUTTGART

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

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

HYMN 56 ..... O come, O come, Emmanuel ..... VENI EMMANUEL; arr. Gessner

ORGAN POSTLUDE.....Fugue and Final on *Veni Redemptor* (H#55) .....Margareetha de Jong (b. 1961)

*This week we remember Jerry Bass, Bertha Bussia, Nelle Lilliott Butler, Mellicent Garland, Marilyn Lise Gibson-Baldwin, Marilyn Lucille Suddeth Hansen, Joseph Eaton Jameson, Billy Carl McKeever, Roy Peters, Walter Ferrell Peyton, Virginia Ann Prudhomme, Barbara Ann Stegall, Ada Compton Whittington, and Ladell Wilkerson, buried from Holy Cross.*

**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE**

**Sunday** ..... Holy Eucharist, 9:00 (Chapel) & 11:00 a.m.  
Advent devotional discussion group, 9:45 a.m. (Undercroft)  
Greening of the church immediately follows the 11:00 Mass

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

**Wednesday (Christmas Eve)** ..... Christmas Eve Vigil Mass, 5:00 p.m.  
Carol sing, 10:30 p.m.; Midnight Mass to follow (at 11:00)

**Thursday (Christmas Day)** ..... Christmas Day Mass, 9:00 a.m.

**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 Christmastide!**

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

*Kirkby arrangement of "Joseph dearest" is published by St. James Music Press and reproduced under an SJMP license.*