



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

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**THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY  
THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II**

December 28, 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..... Prelude on DIVINUM MYSTERIUM (H#82)..... T.F. Candlyn (1892-1964)

**THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

HYMN 109 ..... The first Nowell the angel did say.....THE FIRST NOWELL; arr. Willcocks

*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**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO S-278 ..... William Mathias (1934-1992)

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

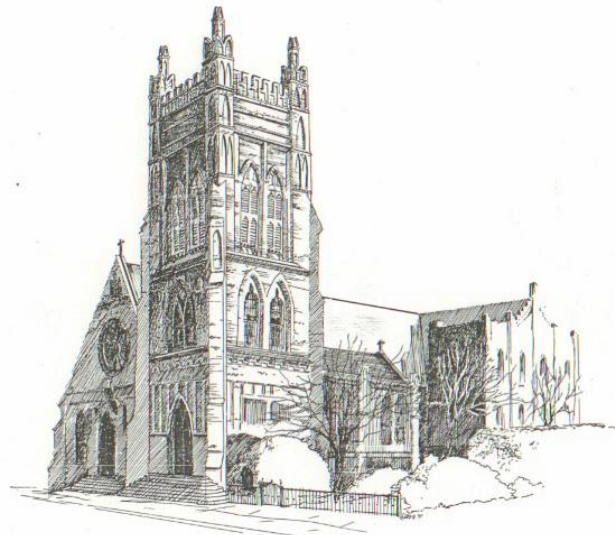
Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

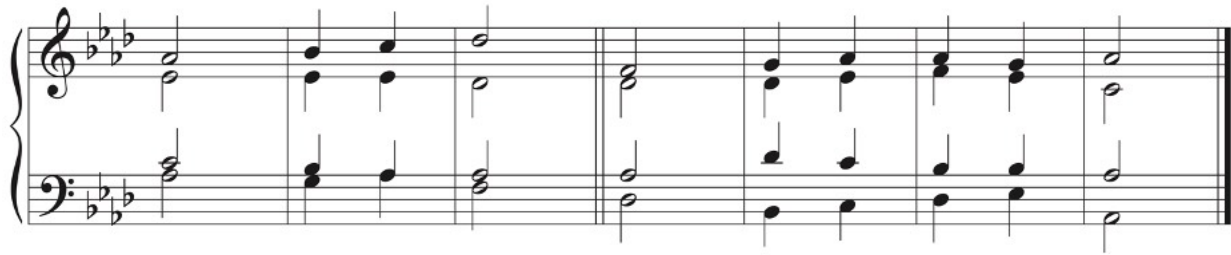
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to  
spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.





- 1 Hallelujah!  
How good it is to sing praises to our God! \*  
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!
- 2 The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; \*  
he gathers the exiles of Israel.
- 3 He heals the brokenhearted \*  
and binds up their wounds.
- 4 He counts the number of the stars \*  
and calls them all by their names.
- 5 Great is our LORD and mighty in power; \*  
there is no limit to his wisdom.
- 6 The LORD lifts up the lowly, \*  
but casts the wicked to the ground.
- 7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; \*  
make music to our God upon the harp.
- 8 He covers the heavens with clouds \*  
and prepares rain for the earth;
- †9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains \*  
and green plants to serve mankind.
- 10 He provides food for flocks and herds \*  
and for the young ravens when they cry.
- 11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; \*  
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
- †12 But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, \*  
in those who await his gracious favor.

- 13 Worship the LORD, O Je<sup>1</sup>rusalem; \*  
—<sup>1</sup>praise your<sup>1</sup> God, O<sup>1</sup> Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the<sup>1</sup> bars of your<sup>1</sup> gates; \*  
he has<sup>1</sup> blessed your<sup>1</sup> children with<sup>1</sup>in you.
- 15 He has established<sup>1</sup> peace on your<sup>1</sup> borders; \*  
he satisfies you<sup>1</sup> with the<sup>1</sup> finest<sup>1</sup> wheat.
- 16 He sends out his com<sup>1</sup>mand to the<sup>1</sup> earth, \*  
and his<sup>1</sup> word runs<sup>1</sup> very<sup>1</sup> swiftly.
- 17 He gives<sup>1</sup> snow like<sup>1</sup> wool; \*  
he<sup>1</sup> scatters<sup>1</sup> hoarfrost like<sup>1</sup> ashes.
- 18 He scatters his<sup>1</sup> hail like<sup>1</sup> bread crumbs; \*  
who can<sup>1</sup> stand a<sup>1</sup>gainst his<sup>1</sup> cold?
- †19 He sends forth his<sup>1</sup> word and<sup>1</sup> melts them; \*  
he blows with his<sup>1</sup> wind, and the<sup>1</sup> waters<sup>1</sup> flow.
- 20 He declares his<sup>1</sup> word to<sup>1</sup> Jacob, \*  
his<sup>1</sup> statutes and his<sup>1</sup> judgments to<sup>1</sup> Israel.
- 21 He has not done so to<sup>1</sup> any other<sup>1</sup> nation; \*  
to them he has not revealed his<sup>1</sup> judgments.<sup>1</sup>  
Halle<sup>1</sup>lujah!

THE EPISTLE.....Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

HYMN 82 .....Of the Father’s love begotten ..... DIVINUM MYSTERIUM;

v. 3 arr. Callahan

**THE HOLY GOSPEL** ..... John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**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 ..... O Savior of our fallen race ..... DEUS TUORUM MILITUM

1. O Sa - vior of our fal - len race,  
 2. O Je - sus, ve - ry Light of Light,  
 3. Re - mem - ber, Lord of life and grace  
 4. To - day, as year by year its light  
 5. For from the Fa - ther's throne you came,  
 6. O Christ, Re - deem - er vir - gin - born,

1. O Bright - ness of the Fa - ther's face,  
 2. our con - stant star in sin's deep night,  
 3. how once, to save our fall - en race,  
 4. bathes all the world in ra - diance bright,  
 5. his ban - ished chil - dren to re - claim;  
 6. let songs of praise your Name a - dorn,

1. O Son who shared the Fa - ther's might  
 2. now hear the prayers your peo - ple pray  
 3. you put our hu - man vest - ure on  
 4. one pre - cious truth out - shines the sun:  
 5. and earth and sea and sky re - vere  
 6. whom with the Fa - ther we a - dore

1. be - fore the world knew day or night,  
 2. through - out the world this ho - ly day.  
 3. and came to us as Ma - ry's son.  
 4. sal - va - tion comes from you a - lone.  
 5. the love of him who sent you here.  
 6. and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Latin, 6th c.; tr. Gilbert E. Doan (1930–2024)

Music: DEUS TUORUM MILITUM, from *Antiphoner*, 1753; adapt. *The English Hymnal*, 1906, alt.

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**

HYMN 81 ..... Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming..... ES IST EIN ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN

HYMN 104 ..... A stable lamp is lighted ..... ANDUJÁR

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

**THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

HYMN 96 ..... Angels we have heard on high..... GLORIA (FRENCH)

ORGAN POSTLUDE..... Paean on DIVINUM MYSTERIUM (H#82) ..... John Cook (1918–1984)

*This week we remember Lucy Mercer Argo, Helen W. Black, Cornelia Compton Cummings, Rutledge Holmes Deas Sr., Isabelle Furman, Luna Martha Holcomb, Josephine Chatham Means, Clara Palmer, Ladye Quinn, and Lynn Fisher Snoddy, buried from Holy Cross.*

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.

### THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sunday..... Holy Eucharist, 9:00 (Chapel) & 11:00 a.m.  
Tuesday..... Morning Prayer, 10:00 a.m. (Chapel)  
Wednesday..... Holy Eucharist, Noon (Quire)  
Monday-Saturday..... Daily Office, 6:00 p.m. (Online)

The church office will be closed on Thursday, and there will be no service at Hope House.

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