

# CHURCH OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Grow in Faith. Live in Hope. Share God's Love.

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The Third Sunday of Advent  
December 14, 2025 + 10:30 a.m.

## The Holy Eucharist

### Preparation for Worship in God's Name

#### PRAYER OF MEDITATION

*As the people gather before the service begins,  
we invite you to use the following prayer for meditation.*

God of light and shadow, mystery and miracle: prepare our hearts to receive your precious gift of love. Infuse us with your spirit this holy season, that we may do everything in our power to improve the lives of all who are suffering and in need. Amen.

#### ORGAN VOLUNTARY

# The Liturgy of the Word

HYMN “Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes” *Standing, all who are able; everyone sings.*



1 Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior  
2 He comes, the pris - oners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - ery heart pre -  
bon - dage held; the gates of brass be -  
soul to cure; and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal



pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

—Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

Music: *Richmond*, melody Thomas Haweis (1734-1816); adapt. Samuel Webbe (1740-1816)

*During the hymn,  
Andy Brantley & Tommie Rowe place the sheep and shepherds in the creche.*

**ACCLAMATION AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH** *Remain standing.*

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living God:

People: You come to your people and set them free.

Celebrant: Jerusalem, rejoice with great rejoicing;

People: For your Savior comes to you, hallelujah.

Celebrant: Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations, the busy-ness of the holidays, and even our memories of times past, push joy to the side? Today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us.

**RESPONSE** “Magnificat”

*The choir sings the antiphon, and all repeat:*

Pro - claim the great - ness of God; re - jice in God my

Sa - vior! Re - jice in God my Sa - vior!

*The choir sings:*

1. For he has favored his lowly one, and all shall call me blessed.

The almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

*Antiphon*

2. He favors those who fear his name, in every generation;

He has shown the might and strength of his arm, and scattered the proud of heart.

*Antiphon*

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

He has filled the hungry with all good gifts and sent the rich away.

*Antiphon*

*The choir sings:* Proclaim the greatness of God! Rejoice!

—Setting: James Chepponis, para. of Luke 1:46–55.

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## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.  
People: And also with you.  
Celebrant: Let us pray.

*Remain standing; silence is kept.*

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.*

## FIRST LESSON *Seated.*

A reading from the Book of Isaiah (35:1–10).

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146:4–9 *Everyone sings.*



HYMN “O for a thousand tongues to sing” *Standing; everyone sings.*



1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my dear Re - deem - er's praise,  
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim  
3 Je - sus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease;  
4 He speaks; and, lis - tening to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive,  
5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye voice - less ones, your loos-ened tongues em - ploy;  
6 Glo - ry to God and praise and love be now and ev - er given



1 the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!  
2 and spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy Name.  
3 'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.  
4 the mourn - ful bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.  
5 ye blind, be - hold, your Sa - vior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy!  
6 by saints be - low and saints a - bove, the Church in earth and heaven.

—Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.

Music: *Azmon*, Carl Gotthilf Gläser (1784-1829);  
adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

**GOSPEL** *Remain standing.*

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (11:2–11).

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.”

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

*Children may join Ann Backus for Children’s Chapel.  
They will return at the Peace.*

**SERMON**

*A time for silent reflection follows the sermon.*

CREED *Standing, all who are able; everyone sings.*



1 We be - lieve in God Al - might - y, Au - thor of all things that be,  
2 We be - lieve that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged and scorned and cru - ci - fied;  
3 We be - lieve in God's own Spi - rit, bond - ing all the saints with - in



Mak - er of the earth and heav - ens, Keep - er of the sky and sea.  
tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied. True Life there had tru - ly died.  
one church cath - o - lic, one church ho - ly, where for - give - ness frees from sin;



We be - lieve in God's Son, Je - sus, now for us both Lord and Christ,  
We be - lieve that oon the third day, Christ was raised up from the grave,  
in the bo - dy's re - sur - rec - tion, for the break - ing of death's chain



of the Spi - rit and of Ma - ry born to bring a - bun - dant life.  
then a - scend - ed to God's right hand. He will come a - gain to save.  
gives the life that's ev - er - last - ing. This the faith that we have claimed.

—Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955–1993), alt.  
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Music: *Greensleeves*, traditional English melody, adapted

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Remain standing.*

Leader: As we yearn for the coming of Christ and the time when all of creation will be made new, let us pray, saying: You shall reign for ever, O God; you shall be our God for all generations.

Leader: We pray for the Church throughout the world, that the work of her people might be a sign of God's hope to a broken world. You shall reign for ever, O God;

People: You shall be our God for all generations.

Leader: We pray for the nation and all those who lead, that they may be guided by God's spirit of wisdom and understanding. You shall reign for ever, O God;

People: You shall be our God for all generations.

Leader: We pray for the world, that the way of the Lord might be prepared for all to follow. You shall reign for ever, O God;

People: You shall be our God for all generations.

Leader: We pray for the lowly and hungry throughout the world, that they may be assured of God's promise of mercy. You shall reign for ever, O God;

People: You shall be our God for all generations.

Leader: We pray for those in our community marking celebrations, especially birthdays and anniversaries; for the special needs and concerns of this congregation: for those in the military, especially those who have been deployed; for the wider community of our families and friends; and for our parishioners who have asked our prayers; that the gift of this community may sustain us all. We pray for:

ED Archer

BEVERLY Guiler

ERIN Sangster

CHIP Beets

BRONWYN Hogan

RARA Schlitt

CHRISTINE Bell

MARGE Hudson

THE SCHOCH FAMILY

MEGAN Brown

FRANCIS Lloyd

THE STAPLETON FAMILY

BEVERLY Burns

LISA Martin

DENISE Tibedo

DAVID & NANCY Cazalet

NATALIE McNutt

IDALEE Vogel-Jackson

MARY Davis

PAT Pagni

SUE Wager

RON Dearolf

KENT Parish

ALICE Wegmann

DANA Downey

ALLAN Philp

MICHELE Welsh

DOUG Emblar

MARILYN Randall

and

JOYCE Grubb

JANE Reed

GRADY Williams

Leader: You shall reign for ever, O God;

People: You shall be our God for all generations.

Leader: We pray for all those who already rest in the eternal light of Christ, that we may one day join them in that place where the wolf and the lamb lie down together. You shall reign for ever, O God;

People: You shall be our God for all generations.

*Silence is kept for a space.*

Celebrant: Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*All kneel. Silence is kept for a space.*

All: 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.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

PEACE *Standing, all who are able.*

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

*Greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS *Seated.*

## Holy Communion

### OFFERTORY

All that we are and all that we have comes from God. Let us offer our best to God in thanksgiving, remembering that God loves a cheerful giver. (*2 Corinthians 9:7*)

ANTHEM *Sung by the Choir.*

Come Quickly, Lord Jesus

O come now Lord Jesus, our Dayspring, our Cheer,  
And lift up our spirits by your Advent here.  
The herald is calling, his cry we obey,  
In deserts and valleys, "Prepare God a way."

O come, Root of Jesse, O come now and free  
Your people, Your children, from death's tyranny.  
The poor and the needy who suffer great wrong  
Give strength and give justice and bid them be strong.

O come Key of David, our hearts open wide.  
Our path, guard with safety and lead us on high.  
Make straight what was crooked and rough places plain,  
Make hard hearts be humble for God's holy reign.

Come quickly Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,  
Creator, Redeemer, the people's true light,  
Let all things on earth and in heaven adore,  
And own you as Savior and King evermore.

—Words and Music: Mark Schweizer (b. 1956),  
Text based on the Advent "O" *Antiphons*

HYMN "New advent of the love of Christ" *Standing, all who are able; everyone sings.*

New ad - vent of the love of Christ, shall we a - gain re -  
fuse thee, till in the night of hate and war we per - ish as we  
lose thee? From old un - faith our souls re - lease to seek the king - dom  
of thy peace by which a - lone we choose thee.

—Words: Walter Russell Bowie (1882–1969), alt..  
Music: *Mit Freuden zart*, melody from "Une Pastourelle genille," 1529

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Remain standing.*

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 our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant: We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

*Everyone sings:*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and God of might,  
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

—Setting: *Missa Emmanuel*, Richard Proulx, based on *Veni Emmanuel*  
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*The people stand or kneel.*

Celebrant: Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

All: AMEN.

*Silence is kept as the ministers bow in thanksgiving.*

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: 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.

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. Everyone sings:*

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

—Setting: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797–1828); arr. Richard Proulx (1937–2010)

## INVITATION

Celebrant: This is the table not of the righteous, but of the poor in spirit. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom our Savior identified. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which our Lord became incarnate. This is the table of Jesus Christ. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often, and you who have not been for a while or ever before; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and all of us who have failed. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. It is Christ who invites you to be known and loved and fed here.

## DURING COMMUNION

HYMN “Isaiah the prophet has written of old” *Everyone sings.*

*Unison*



1 I - sai - ah the proph - et has writ - ten of old how  
2 Yet na - tions still prey on the meek of the world, and



God's new cre - a - tion shall come. In - stead of the thorn tree the  
con - flict turns par - ent from child. Your peo - ple de - spoil all the



fir tree shall grow; the wolf shall lie down with the lamb. The  
sweet - ness of earth; the bri - ar and thorn tree grow wild. God,



moun - tains and hills shall burst forth in - to song, the peo - ples be  
bring to fru - i - tion your will for the earth, that no one shall



led forth in peace; for the earth shall be filled with the  
hurt or de - stroy, that wis - dom and jus - tice shall



know - ledge of God as the wa - ters — cov - er the seas.  
reign in the land and your peo - ple shall go forth in joy.

—Words: Joy F. Patterson (b. 1931)  
Music: *Samantra*, from *Southern Harmony*, 1835

## ADVENT DOXOLOGY “All praise, eternal Son, to thee”

*Standing, all who are able; everyone sings.*

All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose ad - vent doth thy peo - ple  
free, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, whom with the Fa - ther we a -  
dore, and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - - ia!

—Words: Charles Coffin (1676–1749); tr. C.W. Douglas (1867–1944), after John Chandler, (1806–1876); alt.  
Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang*, 1623.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND MISSION *Remain standing.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

**SENDING OF THE EUCHARISTIC VISITOR** *Remain standing.*

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body,

People: Because we all share one bread, one cup.

**BLESSING** *Remain standing.*

Celebrant: May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. *Amen.*

May he whose Second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. *Amen.*

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

HYMN “Prepare the way, O Zion” *Everyone sings.*



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!  
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.  
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

—Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999)  
Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697;  
harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY





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**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN**  
425 North Cedar Bluff Road  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37923  
(865) 693-9591 — [www.goodsamknox.org](http://www.goodsamknox.org)